

GRS 775  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 251709Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3118 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN, KINGSTON, PORT OF SPAIN AND UKMIS NEW YORK

GRENADA

1. DAM TOLD MR LUCE TODAY THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE OECS A FORCE DRAWN FROM THOSE COUNTRIES, BARBADOS, JAMAICA AND THE US HAD LANDED IN GRENADA THIS MORNING AND SECURED THE TWO AIRFIELDS. SOME RESISTANCE HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERED. THE US INTENTION WAS THAT THE FORCE SHOULD REMAIN ON THE ISLAND FOR AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL HAD POWER UNDER THE CONSTITUTION (WHICH IN THE US VIEW WAS STILL IN FORCE) TO APPOINT SUCH A GOVERNMENT.
2. MR LUCE SAID THAT OUR ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN THAT FOREIGN NATIONALS WERE AT NO IMMEDIATE RISK: WE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REFERENCE TO THE DANGER TO US CITIZENS. DAM SAID THAT FOREIGN NATIONALS HAD HAD NO MEANS OF LEAVING GRENADA, THERE WAS CONTINUING DISORDER AND NO OBVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND THAT IF THE OPERATION HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL FOREIGN NATIONALS WERE ATTACKED OR KILLED THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST. THE SAFETY OF ALL FOREIGN NATIONALS WAS A PRIME US CONCERN WHICH THEY HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED TO THE CUBANS AND RUSSIANS.
3. WHEN MR LUCE DREW ATTENTION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, AND TO THE PROBABLE INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS, ESPECIALLY AT THE UN, DAM SAID THAT THE OECS HAD ALREADY REQUESTED A DEBATE IN THE OAS AND WERE CONFIDENT OF SUPPORT THERE. THERE WOULD NO DOUBT BE A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM FROM SOME AT THE UN. IT WAS FOR THE OECS THEMSELVES TO INTERPRET THEIR OWN TREATY. THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA HAD HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO ASK FOR OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. HE ADDED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF HIGH RANKING CUBANS HAD ARRIVED IN GRENADA YESTERDAY.
4. DAM MENTIONED THAT THE US INTENDED TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN GRENADA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
5. THE SAME POINTS WERE MADE IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL HOWE. HOWE GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS (REPORTED SEPARATELY). THE AMERICANS WOULD SHORTLY BE FLYING THE EAST CARIBBEAN TROOPS INTO GRENADA. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HOUSE HAD BEEN REACHED, BUT HE WAS NOT THERE. THE GRENADIANS, SO FAR HAD NOT BEEN PUTTING UP MUCH RESISTANCE: BUT THE CUBANS HAD BEEN FIGHTING HARD AT SALINAS AIRPORT. THERE WAS ALSO FIGHTING AROUND THE PRISON. THE LARGEST COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN CONTINGENT WOULD COME FROM JAMAICA. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEY WOULD TAKE OVER. US FORCES WOULD BE THERE TO ASSIST THEM AND WOULD WITHDRAW AS SOON AS THE SITUATION HAD BEEN SECURED. (THE EAST CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BRING IN PEOPLE TO HELP MAINTAIN GOVERNMENTAL CONTINUITY. THERE

A. J. C. 26/10

h-a.

CONFIDENTIAL

/WOULD

WOULD BE A CALL FOR FREE ELECTIONS. THE AMERICANS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO KEEP THE EAST CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS OUT IN FRONT). THERE WOULD BE STRONG POLITICAL CRITICISM EG AT THE UN. THE AMERICANS HAD INFORMED THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS OF THE ACTION THEY WERE TAKING. THERE WOULD ALSO BE ACTION IN THE OAS. IN INTERNATIONAL FORA THEY WOULD BE HOPING FOR SUPPORT FROM THEIR ALLIES.

6. MR LUCE SAID THAT, AS ADMIRAL HOWE KNEW, WE HAD THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN. HOWE SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR BY ME TO HIM AND TO EAGLEBURGER YESTERDAY. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO SENT A MESSAGE.

7. MR LUCE SAID THAT WE WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL. HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO US HIS ANXIETY THAT IF HE WERE CAUGHT UP IN EVENTS OF THIS KIND, HE MIGHT BE KILLED. IT WAS A VERY NASTY REGIME. BUT WE WERE NOT IN A SITUATION IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA HAD ASKED FOR INTERVENTION. THIS HAD SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS, NEXT WORD UNDERLINED, INTER ALIA, FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS.

8. ADMIRAL HOWE SAID THAT THE JUNTA HAD COME TO POWER BY SHOOTING THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEY HAD BEEN MAKING SOOTHING NOISES IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL INTERVENTION. BUT THIS COULD HARDLY BE REGARDED AS A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. WHAT THE AMERICANS WERE RESPONDING TO WAS THE EAST CARIBBEAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. THEY WERE OF COURSE ALSO CONCERNED NOT TO PERMIT THE CUBANS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR HOLD ON GRENADA. THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE CLEAR HIS VIEWS ON THIS IN HIS BROADCAST SOME TIME AGO ABOUT THE AIRPORT THE CUBANS WERE BUILDING IN GRENADA. THERE WAS AN INCREASINGLY STRONG SOVIET/ CUBAN CONNECTION. PRIME MINISTER ADAMS AND THE OTHER PRIME MINISTERS OF THE EAST CARIBBEAN STATES CONSIDERED THAT THIS POSED A THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY AS WELL. BISHOP HAD BEEN MAKING TENTATIVE STEPS TOWARDS SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH THE AMERICANS WHEN HE HAD BEEN KILLED. THE AMERICANS WOULD BE PLACING THE MAIN EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF THE EAST CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS: AND THAT IT WOULD BE FOR THESE GOVERNMENTS TO ORGANISE THE FUTURE POLICING OF FREE ELECTIONS IN GRENADA.

WRIGHT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

GRENADA LIMITED

EMERGENCY UNIT

NAD  
S AM D  
MCAD  
UND  
PUSD  
DEFENCE D  
NEWS D  
INFO D  
PROTOCOL D  
ECDs  
CCD  
CONSULAR D  
SOV D

RESEARCH D  
LEGAL ADVS  
PLANNING STAFF  
PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR WHITNEY  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR URE  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR HANNAY  
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:

SIR P MOORE  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
MOD (DI 4)

2  
CONFIDENTIAL