

UNCLASSIFIED
 FM WASHINGTON 252319Z OCT 83
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 3130 OF 25 OCTOBER

TOP COPY

<i>UCWR 014/2</i>		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 41		
26 OCT 1983		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

GRENADA: SECRETARY SHULTZ'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SHULTZ GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1900Z TODAY. HE SAID THE US HAD TAKEN ACTION FOR TWO REASONS: TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF US CITIZENS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENT UNCERTAINTY ON THE ISLAND; AND BECAUSE OF THE URGENT REQUEST FROM THE OECS STATES. IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING HE SAID THAT CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, OR A US DESIRE TO GIVE A SIGNAL TO OTHER NATIONS WERE NOT REASONS FOR THE US DECISION: THE REASONS WERE AS STATED. THE US HAD NO (NO) INFORMATION THAT CUBA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERTHROW OF BISHOP: ALTHOUGH THE OECS STATES BELIEVED THAT TO BE THE CASE.

2. SHULTZ SAID US OBJECTIVES WERE TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF US AND FOREIGN CITIZENS ON THE ISLAND AND TO HELP THE OECS STATES TO ESTABLISH LAW AND ORDER, WITH GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIVE TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

3. SHULTZ DESCRIBED THE CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE US DECISION. HE SAID A MEETING LATE ON 20 OCTOBER UNDER VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S CHAIRMANSHIP, HAD REVIEWED THE GRAVE TURN OF EVENTS AND DECIDED TO DIVERT US NAVAL SHIPS TO THE AREA AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. THE REQUEST OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES FOR INTERVENTION HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY SHULTZ IN AUGUSTA IN A CABLE FROM BRIDGETOWN AT 2.45 AM ON SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER, AND CONSIDERED LATER THAT DAY AT A MEETING IN WASHINGTON UNDER BUSH'S CHAIRMANSHIP. ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER THEY HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED BY THE LEBANON BOMBINGS, BUT LATER ON SUNDAY THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE A TENTATIVE DECISION THAT THE U S MIGHT RESPOND TO THE OECS REQUEST. MILITARY PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER, AND, FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ENDING AT 3.30 PM, THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE A SEMI-FINAL DECISION TO COMMIT US FORCES. THE DIRECTIVE TO DO SO HAD BEEN SIGNED AT 6.30 PM ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER.

4. SHULTZ SAID THERE WERE STILL POCKETS OF RESISTANCE IN THE ST GEORGE'S AREA, BUT OTHERWISE ADDED NOTHING ON THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION.

5. QUESTIONS CONCENTRATED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY. SHULTZ DENIED THERE WAS ANY VIOLATION OF THE OAS CHARTER SINCE THE OECS STATES WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE RIO TREATY. THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION CERTAINLY APPLIED TO GRENADA, WHOSE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN EXECUTED, AND WHERE A SHOOT ON SIGHT CURFEW WAS THE ONLY REMNANT OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.

5. SHULTZ WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO QUESTIONS AND YOUR STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY. WHY HAD THE US DISREGARDED BRITISH ADVICE: AND DID THE FACT THAT THEY HAD DONE SO MEAN THAT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL COULD PLAY NO CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE IN FUTURE? SHULTZ RECOGNISED BRITISH TIES WITH THE CARIBBEAN, BUT SAID THAT THE US ALSO HAD ITS OWN LEGITIMATE AFFINITY FOR THE AREA. EACH STATE HAD TO TAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS AND THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED FOR THE US, ON THE GROUNDS OF THE URGENT REQUEST FROM STATES IN THE AREA. THE US WAS ALWAYS IMPRESSED WITH THE VIEWS OF HMG AND MRS THATCHER, BUT DID NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO AGREE WITH THEM.

7. SHULTZ SAID THEY HAD INFORMED THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIET UNION OF THEIR ACTION AS IT GOT UNDER WAY, AND UNDERTAKEN TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR NATIONALS. WHILE HE WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAILS, THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS HAD STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED. ALL THE RUSSIANS ON THE ISLAND HAD BEEN SAFELY TAKEN CARE OF. A NUMBER OF THE CUBANS WERE RESISTING.

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)