

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 260800Z

FM WASHINGTON 260430Z OCTOBER 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3134 OF 26 OCT

INFO BRIDGETOWN, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTTAWA, MODUK, PORT OF SPAIN, HAVANA.

GRENADA: DEBATE IN THE HOUSE.

1. IN VARIOUS TELEGRAMS I HAVE KEPT YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE SEQUENCE OF DECISION-TAKING HERE AND WITH SITREPS OF THE COURSE OF EVENTS ON THE GROUND IN GRENADA. BUT YOU WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO HAVE IN MIND THE MOOD IN WASHINGTON AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF WHICH THE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.

2. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, TO JUDGE FROM SHULTZ'S CALM ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON TV THIS AFTERNOON, WILL NOT TAKE IT AMISS IF WE SAY, WHICH IS TRUE, THAT OUR JUDGEMENT OF WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE DIFFERED FROM THIERS. THEY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND IT IF WE PUBLICLY CRITICISE THEIR ACTIONS WHILE THEIR TROOPS ARE STILL ENGAGED. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, TIP O'NEILL, ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE GENERAL MOOD WHEN HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE TIME TO CRITISE THE ADMINISTRATION WHILE AMERICAN BOYS WERE FIGHTING. THIS MOOD WILL BE REINFORCED WHEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC LEARNS THAT THEIR TROOPS ARE FACING CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT ODDS THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED, WITH AN ESTIMATED 1500 CUBAN TROOPS FIGHTING AGAINST THEM. THE EMBASSY HAS MOREOVER BEEN RECEIVING A NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CALLS SAYING IN EFFECT: QUOTE WE SUPPORTED YOU OVER THE FALKLANDS: WHY AREN'T YOU SUPPORTING US NOW UNQUOTE. MY POINT IS NOT WHETHER THE CALLERS ARE RIGHT OR WRONG BUT THAT THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE SAYING. THIS FEELING IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION. 77

3. NOW THAT INTERVENTION IS UNDER WAY, IT IS, OF COURSE, BY SUCCESS OR FAILURE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS LIKELY TO BE JUDGED. IN MY VIEW, IT IS HARDLY LIKELY THAT SUCCESS WILL BE DENIED HIM, EVEN IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE MESSIER THAN HE WOULD HAVE WISHED. THAT BEING SO, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL JUDGE THAT A SWIFT AMERICAN SUCCESS, SINCE THAT IS WHAT WILL MOST LIKELY ACHIEVE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES - THE SAFEGUARDING OF BRITISH LIVES AND THE RETURN OF THE ISLAND TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE IS ALSO A MAJOR BRITISH INTEREST AT THIS TIME AND THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO SAY SO IN THE DEBATE. THE FACT THAT IS WILL ALSO HAVE CLEANED OUT A NEST OF CUBANS - PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN WE HAD ALL REALISED - WILL BE AN UNCOVENANTED BONUS. SUCH A STATEMENT, BESIDES BEING TRUE, IS MOST LIKELY TO KEEP SENTIMENT ON THE RAILS HERE AND, MORE IMPORTANT, KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR BEING ABLE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE FUTURE, WHETHER CONSTITUTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE ON GRENADA ITSELF, AND MORE WIDELY IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH.

4. IF AS I HOPE, YOU WILL AGREE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE, I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO FEEL ABLE TO TELL ME SO IN ADVANCE SO THAT I CAN PRIVATELY TELL THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THAT IS YOUR INTENTION. NOTHING THAT I CAN THINK OF WOULD BETTER ENSURE BOTH THAT WE ARE KEPT IN THE PICTURE AS EVENTS UNFOLD AND ALSO THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ON OUR COOPERATION IN A PART OF THE WORLD THAT IS BOTH OUR COMMONWEALTH AND AMERICA'S BACK YARD. THE SAME GOES, MUTATIS MUTANDIS, FOR THE LINE WE TAKE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WHERE THE AMERICANS HAVE ALREADY NOTED OUR SILENCE WITH CONCERN.

WRIGHT