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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3174 OF 27 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN

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ADVANCE COPY

GRENADA: THE FUTURE

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE ACCOUNT IN MY TELNO 3167 OF THE CONVERSATION I HAD TODAY WITH EAGLEBURGER ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL. THE AMERICANS ARE BEGINNING TO GET A SOMEWHAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS ROLE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN PRIVATE HINTS THAT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL HIMSELF HAS BEEN INSISTING ON HIS INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF JUDGEMENT. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WILL NO DOUBT BE FORMING HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE KIND OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT THAT MIGHT BE FORMED AND WHETHER TO TRY TO BASE THIS PRIMARILY ON CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTHER NON-POLITICAL FIGURES (IF ANY VESTIGES OF AN INDEPENDENT CIVIL SERVICE HAVE SURVIVED IN GRENADA); OR WHETHER TO INCLUDE

~~POLITICAL FIGURES (IF ANY VESTIGES OF AN INDEPENDENT CIVIL SERVICE HAVE SURVIVED IN GRENADA): OR WHETHER TO INCLUDE POLITICAL FIGURES.~~

2. AS POINTED OUT IN MY TELNO 3162, AFTER THE EFFORT THEY HAVE MADE TO DISLODGE THE REGIME AND THE CUBANS, THERE WILL BE A STRONG DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF MANY HERE TO TRY TO WORK, NOT TOO DISCREETLY, FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A QUOTE FRIENDLY QUOTE GOVERNMENT. BUT THERE SURELY IS A NEED TO SEER THINGS TOWARDS A GENUINELY FREE ELECTION. OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE AMERICANS MAY DEPEND ON WHETHER WE ARE READY OURSELVES TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN HELPING TO ORGANISE SUCH AN ELECTION. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL WILL HAVE HIS OWN VIEWS ON TIMING (AS INDEED WILL THE AMERICANS), AND THERE MAY BE A DESIRE TO WANT TO DEFER THIS FOR SOME MONTHS UNTIL THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN. THE OTHER EAST CARIBBEAN STATES MAY CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE ENOUGHT EXPERTS AND EXPERTISE TO ORGANISE AND SUPERVISE A FREE ELECTION. BUT THERE COULD BE A ROLE FOR US IF WE WANT TO PLAY ONE. WE HAVE THE EXPERTISE.

3. SO FAR AS POLICING THE ISLAND IS CONCERNED, THE AMERICANS LOOK TO BE IN FOR MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY HAD IMAGINED IN ERADICATING GROUPS HOLDING OUT IN THE HILLS. YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SEE THEM LEAVE THE ISLAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER IT HAS BEEN SECURE. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF SECURING IT. BUT BARBADOS, JAMAICA AND THE SMALL EAST CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES BETWEEN THEM MAY NOT FIND IT EASY TO PUT TOGETHER ADEQUATE FORCES TO POLICE IT THEREAFTER. I WAS GLAD TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT TODAY THAT, IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. I CERTAINLY WOULD HOPE THAT, IF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL SHOULD LOOK LIKE ASKING US TO DO SO, WE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO HELP WITH CIVIL POLICE, IF THE OTHER EAST CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE ABLE ADEQUATELY TO DO SO.

4. I PUT FORWARD THESE IDEAS VERY TENTATIVELY AT THIS STAGE, FOR THE OBVIOUS REASON THAT I CANNOT YET REALLY JUDGE THE LIKELY AMERICAN REACTION AND, ABOVE ALL, THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL. THERE IS ALSO THE POINT THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE EAST CARIBBEAN STATES WHO SPONSORED THE INTERVENTION MAY NOT WELCOME IDEAS OF A WIDER COMMONWEALTH ROLE. BUT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL THAT WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO HELP HIM. IN DOING SO, WE COULD DO A GOOD DEAL TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA, AS WELL

~~THAT WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO HELP HIM. IN DOING~~
~~SO, WE COULD DO A GOOD DEAL TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA, AS WELL~~
~~AS THE AMERICANS IF THEY GENUINELY WANT TO DISENGAGE: AND~~
ENABLE GRENADA TO PROCEED AS SOON AS MAY REASONABLY BE POSSIBLE
TOWARDS AN ELECTION CONDUCTED IN CIRCUMSTANCES THE WORLD WILL
JUDGE TO BE GENUINELY FREE AND FAIR.

5. WOULD YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO PUT
ANY OF THESE IDEAS, VERY TENTATIVELY, TO EAGLBURGER? WE SHOULD
NOT TRY TO FORCE THEM ON THE AMERICANS, AND WE SHOULD NOT GET
INVOLVED IF WE THINK THEY ARE GOING TO DISTORT THE PROCESS.
BUT IT WOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY OF DEMONSTRATING OUR
READINESS TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION.

6. I MUST CONFESS THAT IN PUTTING FORWARD THESE IDEAS FOR
BRITISH INVOLVMENT IN THE POST-LIBERATION WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION,
I AM INFLUENCED BOTH BY THE VERY UNDERSTANDABLE FATIGUE I
SENSE AMONG THE POLICY MAKERS HERE, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE
NOT GIVING MUCH COHERANT THOUGHT TO THE FUTURE AND ALSO BY THE
NATURAL TENDANCY OF OUR AMERICAN COUSINS TO ACT LIKE BULLS IN
A CHINA SHOP ON UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY WHEN THEY DO GET GOING.
THERE COULD BE A ROLE FOR US TO PLAY IF WE WISHED TO PLAY IT
AND THE OPENING COULD COME QUITE SOON. MOREOVER IF WE WISH
TO HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF GRENADA, WE SHALL HAVE TO BE READY
TO PLAY A ROLE IN IT.

WRIGHT

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