



Prime Minister

I can understand that, on balance, you decided that you were against supplying British forces to assist in the Eastern Caribbean & US action in Grenada.

But now that it has occurred, & has been reasonably successful, may I suggest that we do make the best of it (as the Foreign Secretary has begun to) by e.g. emphasising, among other things, the following:

- i. that although tiny, the island of Grenada is a chain in a necklace in two senses — first, geographically, because all these lesser Antillean islands are part of a submerged peninsula & the other islands are bound to be situated (as you have already said); second, ideologically, because of its place among Soviet & Cuban satellites or sub-satellites;
- ii that this is the first time ever that such an advanced Marxist state has been overthrown (Hungary 1919; Azerbaijan 1946; Chile 1973; Guatemala 1954; Jamaica 1980) did not have such substantial Soviet commitment. No doubt, as the Telegraph suggests



- suggests to-day) there will be ^a substantial intelligence benefit - perhaps comparable to the collecting documents found by the Germans in Smolensk (1941) & published since by Professor Fainsod in the US;
- iii that there was no evidence at all that the people of Grenada desired a revolutionary or a Marxist state. Quite the contrary if its neighbours are a guide; the Cuban, East German & Soviet involvement must have strengthened that;
- iv that Grenada is strategically very well-placed guarding a route into the Caribbean wh. wd be of great importance in respect of oil supplies in a conventional war. This was recognised in 1762 when Rodney despatched Captain Swanton to capture it (see text at "A");
- v that the setback to Cuba really must be beneficial to the West. Bishop looked to Castro I believe for his communications to Moscow & Castro as I believe desired to establish by comp d'etat or terrorism a chain of sub-satellites in a subservient status wh. wd give him support if the US & USSR ^{were} ~~or~~ ever to make a deal over his head (note that Castro has been quoted



as saying that the Cubans in Grenada died for "their" country!) a defeat for Castro might drive some in Cuba - even communists - to question his adventurism;

- vi nearly all the real Caribbean states have supported the action (i.e. ST Vincent ST Lucia Dominica Antigua - I can't remember about ST Kitts-Nevis - & Jamaica). The only serious dissenter is Trinidad. Guyana is such a cess-pit (pace Ramphal) that one cannot take its complaints seriously and anyway, like Bahamas, is not a Caribbean country. Then there is Barbados;

Anyone who knows the history of the West Indies in recent years wd. never have thought that these islands could have agreed;

- vii although President Mitterand's attack was doubtless to ~~be~~ foreseen, I wd. very much doubt that his feelings were shared by ~~the~~ his prefets in Martinique & Guadeloupe, the first of whom in April told me of his deep anxieties re Grenada under Bishop & of his administration's gendarmerie's help to the security in ST Lucia in direct consequence.

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viii the U.S. have, of course, often described circumstances in wh. they wd. feel justified in intervention in Latin America, under the Monroe doctrine — and under the (Theodore) Roosevelt corollary to that (1905). It is not at all clear to what extent the US looks on the Monroe doctrine as still extant — there was much talk of it in 1962; nor whether the independent English speaking nations of the Caribbean are in any way affected by it. But the doctrine was designed to prevent European re-engagement in the Americas. If it is extant, Russian involvement in Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador & Grenada must be covered by it. I shd. be surprised if President Reagan does not dwell on this one day. (I do not have the imagination to picture the mind of either President Roosevelt if told of PLO or Libyan involvement in Central America!)

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Finally



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- i. I very much hope that we can avoid the ^{attitude} European community taking any ~~action~~ over this. It is inconceivable that they will support the US. But a condemnation would really adversely affect the Alliance;

- ii. Could the Commonwealth be made to see that a Marxist-leninist state is ineligible for membership? Such a statement ^{just} might have an effect on rulers, such as Bishop, tempted towards totalitarianism.

Hugh Thomas
Oct. 27