

CONFIDENTIAL

TO ALL HEADS OF DELEGATION

I circulate herewith revised draft communique paragraphs on Grenada. They are the result of the consultations requested by you. Those involved were the Heads of Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, and myself.

The revised draft paragraphs have their unanimous agreement and they commend them for your acceptance without further ammendment - as do I.

Sonny

Goa

26 November 1983

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

Grenada

Commonwealth leaders discussed recent events in Grenada which have caused such deep disquiet among them and in the wider international community, and on which most of them had already expressed their views at the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for the strict observance of these principles. They recorded their profound regret over the tragic loss of life in Grenada.

H Heads of Government agreed, however, that the emphasis should now be on reconstruction, not recrimination. They welcomed the establishment of an interim civilian administration in Grenada, looked forward to its functioning free of external interference or pressure, and noted its intention to hold, as early as possible, elections which would be seen by the international community to be free and fair. On this basis, and in the context of the prompt withdrawal of foreign military forces from Grenada at the instance of the Interim Administration and the readiness of the countries of the Caribbean Community to assist in the maintenance of law and order in Grenada if so requested by that Administration, Commonwealth leaders confirmed their readiness to give sympathetic consideration to requests for assistance from the island state. In doing so, they stressed the importance they attached to an early return of Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean to the spirit of fraternity and co-operation that had been so characteristic of the region.

UK
Foreign
military
forces

Time and again in their discussions, Commonwealth leaders were recalled to the special needs of small states, not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere in the Commonwealth. They recognised that the Commonwealth itself had given some attention to these needs in the context of economic development but felt that the matter deserved consideration on a wider basis, including that of national security. Recalling the particular dangers faced in the past by small Commonwealth countries, they requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study, drawing as necessary on the resources and experience of Commonwealth countries, of the special needs of such states consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity that they shared with all nations.