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A. Acland
Sir J. Leahy
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SUBJECT

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL AT 1855 HOURS ON TUESDAY
22 NOVEMBER 1983 IN NEW DELHI

Present:

The Prime Minister
Mr. Alison
Mr. Coles

Mr. Ramphal

Mr. Ramphal said that he had advised the OECS countries not to make an issue of Grenada at CHOGM. He had told them that no other country was setting out to criticise them. The Prime Minister of Dominica had, however, made a rather strident statement to the press in Rome on her way to Delhi. It still seemed possible that Mr. McIntyre would send a letter to the Heads of Government. He would reach Grenada by next weekend. This was not a moment too soon. It was for him to say what he wanted of the Commonwealth. He was anxious to keep Latin America in play and was therefore thinking of the possibility of a policing operation drawn from countries from the American hemisphere. All the Caribbean countries were pleased about McIntyre's appointment. We should throw our weight behind him. The Americans might have difficulty with him because he certainly would not wish US troops to stay in Grenada. When the American forces left, there would have to be some replacement. That was where the Commonwealth could help. McIntyre would probably seek a broader Caribbean presence with countries like Trinidad and the Bahamas participating. Canadian participation was possible too - and McIntyre might need UK logistical help. The Commonwealth Secretariat had two plans ready. One involved a purely policing operation; the other policing plus a counter-insurgency reserve.

With regard to Cyprus, President Kyprianou would be arriving early on Friday morning. He was very pleased with Britain's stand on Turkish/Cypriot UDI. But it looked as though Kyprianou's

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efforts would produce no results. The prospect was of Northern Cyprus being absorbed into Turkey and the South going for ENOSIS. Our world was not equipped to deal with such situations.

Mr. Mahathir appeared to be in difficulty in Malaysia. The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia was to have attended CHOGM but had been called back. There were problems involving the Head of State. Mahathir's attitude to the Royalty had produced a backlash. People asked what could be expected of a Prime Minister who was not a true Malay.

He had met President Jayewardene in Sri Lanka and had since told Mrs Gandhi that Jayewardene appeared to be making a genuine effort at reconciliation with the Tamils. The mood amongst Sri Lankan Ministers was so strong that Jayewardene was virtually isolated in his conciliation efforts. The Tamils no longer felt able to trust anyone. Mrs Gandhi and President Jayewardene had met in Delhi today. The question was whether she could sell to the Tamils the package which he had put forward.

It was expected that the debate on the world political situation would continue until Thursday morning. Southern Africa would be dealt with next Monday.

On the venue for the next CHOGM, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and the Prime Minister of the Bahamas were each willing to act as hosts. He had advised the Caribbean countries to get together and select a single capital. The Prime Minister said that her impression was that Mr. Trudeau would be prepared to host the meeting in Vancouver.

Finally, on Namibia, Mr. Ramphal said that he had heard from President Nyerere that a meeting of the Front Line States had been told by Angola that it would not accept an African force, as proposed by the President of Nigeria, in place of the

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Cubans. Nevertheless, Mr. Shagari had given publicity to his idea and it remained to be seen what line he would take at CHOGM.

The discussion ended at 1835.

A.J.C.

22 November 1983