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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 346 OF 24 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND PORT OF SPAIN

MY TELNO 331: GRENADA - REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

1. THE FOLLOWING PERSONALITY SKETCHES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL HAVE BEEN PUT TOGETHER FROM SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

GENERAL

2. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, HAVE TWO COMMON CHARACTERISTICS - THEIR RELATIVE YOUTH AND THE FACT THAT THEY ALL TOOK A LEADING PART IN THE ATTACKS WHICH SECURED THE COUP ON 13 MARCH 1979 WHEN THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM) OF MAURICE BISHOP SEIZED POWER. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUDSON AUSTIN WHO IS 45 THE OTHERS ARE ALL IN THEIR TWENTIES - AVERAGE AGE 26. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 1979 COUP THESE MEN BECAME THE NUCLEUS AROUND WHICH THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY WAS FORMED. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF AUSTIN NONE OF THEM HAD PREVIOUS MILITARY EXPERIENCE, THOUGH SOME MAY HAVE RECEIVED LIMITED TRAINING IN CUBA. ANOTHER COMMON FEATURE IS THAT MOST HAVE A REPUTATION FOR VIOLENCE, IN MANY CASES AGAINST THEIR OWN FAMILIES - AND THREE, AT LEAST, ARE DOCUMENTED IN PAPERS THAT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AS HAVING TORTURED DETAINEES IN RICHMOND HILL PRISON.

3. HUDSON AUSTIN OWES HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (PRA) NOW RESTYLED THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES (PRAF). HE IS A MAN OF ERRATIC JUDGEMENT, FICKLE LOYALTIES AND NO PARTICULAR INTELLECT. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS BOTH A 'LOUD-MOUTH' AND A 'THUG'.

4. WE ASSESS AUSTIN TO BE A FIGUREHEAD CHAIRMAN. THE THREE KEY OFFICERS IN THE COUNCIL ARE JAMES, LAYNE AND CORNWALL. ALL THREE ARE INTELLIGENT, AMBITIOUS AND RUTHLESS. TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THEY IMBIBED POLITICAL THEORY AND MARXISM-LENINISM UNDER BERNARD COARD AND HIS WIFE PHYLLIS AND WERE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE HIS CLOSEST ADHERENTS AND IDEOLOGICALLY PRO-MOSCOW. THEY WERE ALL MEMBERS OF COARD'S MARXIST CELL AND STUDY GROUP - 'THE ORGANISATION FOR REVOLUTIONARY EDUCATION AND LIBERATION' (OREL). COARD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANOEUVRING THEM INTO THE TOP POSTS IN THE PRA AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHERE JAMES AND LAYNE WERE DEPUTY SECRETARIES (JUNIOR MINISTERS). CORNWALL WAS AMBASSADOR TO CUBA UNTIL LAST WEEK AND, AS A MOSCOW-MAN, COARD'S TROJAN HORSE WITHIN THE BISHOP-CUBA RELATIONSHIP. IF BERNARD COARD IS NOT STILL ALIVE AND CONTROLLING (SIC) EVENTS WE WOULD EXPECT THESE THREE TO BE DOING SO TOGETHER. WHEN AUSTIN HAS EXHAUSTED HIS USEFULNESS WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO REMOVE HIM.

5. INDIVIDUAL DETAILS AND COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. HUDSON AUSTIN

COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY. MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES. SECRETARY OF DEFENCE AND INTERIOR IN THE PRG.

BORN 26 APRIL 1938. HIS FATHER WAS A SHOEMAKER IN MORNE JALOUX (4 MILES FROM ST GEORGES). MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

GRADUATE IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE JAMAICA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. MEMBER OF THE GRENADA VOLUNTEER CONSTABULARY IN THE 1950S. ATTENDED 6 MONTHS COURSE IN TRINIDAD IN 1958 IN WEAPONS, TACTICS, RECONNAISSANCE AND MAP-RADING. PRISON OFFICER FROM 1960-69.

CHARGED WITH LARCENY OF 50 RIFLES FROM THE CADET FORCE IN 1973. A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF MAURICE BISHOP UNTIL HE SWITCHED ALLEGENCIES TO BERNARD COARD PROBABLY ONLY ABOUT 6 MONTHS AGO. HE WAS ONE OF THOSE WITH BISHOP BEATEN UP BY GAIRY'S MONGOOSE GANG IN THE 1973 BLOODY SUNDAY INCIDENT. HE LED THE 13 MARCH 1979 TAKEOVER OF THE DEFENCE FORCE BARRACKS AT TRUE BLUE. HE TOOK LITTLE PART IN LOCAL POLITICS UNTIL MID-1980 WHEN HE STARTED MAKING SPEECHES AT POLITICAL RALLIES. HE IS HOWEVER A POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHT AND HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CRITICISE THE REVOLUTION.

AUSTIN HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS TOUGH, VAIN, A LOUD-MOUTH, PRONE TO FITS OF TEMPER, A SURVIVOR AND AT HIS HAPPIEST WHEN IN UNIFORM. GRENADIANS HAVE COMMENTED THAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS CAPABLE OF RUNNING A COUNTRY. HE IS SAID OFTEN TO HAVE BEATEN UP HIS WIFE (FROM WHOM HE NOW LIVES APART) AND, ON ONE OCCASION A DAUGHTER. HE USES HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE TO ATTRACT WOMEN.

B. LT COL LIAM 'OUSO' JAMES - VICE CHAIRMAN

FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENCE AND INTERIOR.

BORN ST GEORGES, GRENADA 8 MAY 1955. EDUCATED PRESENTATION BOYS COLLEGE (PBC). DESCRIBED AS ACADEMICALLY GIFTED BY A CONTEMPORARY. MEMBER OF OREL.

BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN UNDER ARREST AT THE TIME OF THE 1979 COUP ON ARMS SMUGGLING CHARGES (WITH VINCENT NOEL). TRAINED IN 'GUERRILLA WARFARE' BY THE CUBANS. ALLEGED TO HAVE TORTURED DETAINEES.

A GRENADIAN ACQUAINTANCE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED JAMES HAD DRAFTED SOME OF THE EARLY STATEMENTS OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL. HE DESCRIBED JAMES AS A SHADOWY FIGURE WHO IS RARELY SEEN IN PUBLIC BUT WHO SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

C. LT COL EWART LAYNE - VICE CHAIRMAN

FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENCE AND INTERIOR

AGE ABOUT 26. SINGLE. MIDDLE-CLASS BACKGROUND - HIS FATHER WAS A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER IN GAIRY'S TIME. SCHOOL - PBC. THE BROTHERS (BOTH WERE IN THE PRA), ONE IS NOW PRODUCTION MANAGER AT GRENADA AGRO INDUSTRIES.

LAYNE WAS ANOTHER CLOSE DISCIPLE OF COARD. MEMBER OF OREL AND HARDLINE MARXIST-LENINIST. WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO WERE INJURED DURING THE COUP IN 1979. HE IS DESCRIBED BY A CONTEMPORARY AS BRIGHT, ARROGANT AND POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS.

D. MAJOR LEON 'BOGO' CORNWALL

(SEE ALSO MY TELNO 343)

GRENADA AMBASSADOR TO CUBA FROM 7 OCTOBER 1982.

BORN ST PAULS, GRENADA 15 MAY 1954. POOR FAMILY. EDUCATED GRENADA BOYS SECONDARY SCHOOL (GBSS) WHERE HE SUBSEQUENTLY TAUGHT SCIENCE. MEMBER OF OREL. MARRIED.

TOOK PART IN 1979 COUP IN AUSTIN'S GROUP. CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATION AND SECRETARY FOR SPORTS (1981). DEEPLY INVOLVED IN INDOCTRINATION OF THE YOUTH. MEMBER OF THE CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE NJM.

E. MAJOR TAN BARTHOLEMEW

AGE 24. FROM POOR COUNTRY FAMILY. DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN 1979 COUP. UNTIL 1982 WAS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATION.

F. MAJOR IAN ST BERNARD

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE UNTIL 1982

BORN 26 JANUARY 1958. EDUCATED GBSS. SHIPPING CLERK. INVOLVED IN 1979 COUP ATTACK. WRITER FOR FREE WEST INDIAN NEWSPAPER. 1980 - DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION. SPENT ONE AND A HALF MONTHS IN CUBA IN 1982 FOR 'MEDICAL' TREATMENT.

G. MAJOR CHRIS STROUD

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENCE IN PRG

AGE 26. EDUCATED GBSS. MARRIED (WIFE, TESSA, WAS INVOLVED WITH NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANISATION). INSTRUCTOR IN POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR PRA.

H. MAJOR KEITH ROBERTS

BORN 11 SEPTEMBER 1958. EDUCATED PBC. FAMILY COME FROM PETIT MARTINIQUE, NOW LIVE IN ST GEORGES. A CLOSE FRIEND OF LAYNE. DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE NJM PROPAGANDISTS.

I. MAJOR BASIL HENRY GAHAGEN

BORN 14 JULY 1954. EDUCATED PBC. HIS FAMILY SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF GAIRY'S MONGOOSE GANGS. MEMBER OF NJM ORGANISATION COMMITTEE (YOUTH ARM) 1974. ONE OF THE COMMANDERS OF THE

GROUPS IN THE 1979 COUP. REPORTED NOT TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. DOCUMENTED AS HAVING TORTURED DETAINEES IN RICHMOND HILL PRISON.

J. CAPTAIN HUGH ROMAIN

BORN 2 SEPTEMBER 1956. A MARXIST-LENINIST FROM HIS SCHOOL DAYS. DOCUMENTED AS HAVING TORTURED DETAINEES, INCLUDING HIS OWN BROTHER.

K. 1ST LT CECIL PRIME

NOT KNOWN.

L. 1ST LT RUDOLPH OGILVIE

AGE 25. FROM ST PAULS.

M. 1ST LT IMAN ABDULLAH

AGE 24. EDUCATED PBC. LATE FATHER WAS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN GAIRY'S DAY. SAID TO BE INTELLIGENT. FOR A TIME STATIONED IN A PRA UNIT IN CARRIACOU.

N, 1ST LT LESTER REDHEAD

BORN 17 FEBRUARY 1960. IN 1980 WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATION. IN 1980 WAS SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT BY THE PRG WHEN HE WAS QUESTIONED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT HEATHROW. HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO DENMARK TO ATTEND A WFDY CONFERENCE.

O. 2ND LT RENRICK FRAZIER

AGE 24. EDUCATED GBSS. TOOK PART IN 1979 COUP.

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P. 2ND LT RAEBURN NELSON

NOTHING KNOWN.

BULLARD