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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1759 OF 24 OCTOBER

AND TO BRIDGETOWN, KINGSTON, PORT OF SPAIN, NASSAU

GRENADA

1. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT US I AM CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT BE MOVING TOWARDS EARLY DIRECT INTERVENTION IN GRENADA. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY OF PUTTING THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS TO THEM AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL. PLEASE KEEP RICHARD LUCE FULLY INFORMED, BUT I AM CONTENT THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR INITIAL APPROACH BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IF THIS CAN BE ARRANGED. I FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET OUR WORD IN QUICKLY.

2. AS THE AMERICANS WILL KNOW THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION BY A MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE. MR ADAMS OF BARBADOS AWAITS OUR RESPONSE ON THIS, BUT THE WIDER MEETING OF CARICOM GOVERNMENTS IN PORT OF SPAIN HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON GRENADA.

3. I WELL UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF GRENADA'S NEIGHBOURS SHOULD SEE THE PRESENT SITUATION AS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAN UP THE MESS IN GRENADA AND TO PREVENT IT FROM BECOMING IRREVERSIBLY COMMUNIST. WE WISH TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THEIR DESIRE FOR ACTION TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER IN GRENADA, AND A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

4. BUT I AND MY COLLEAGUES SEE NO GROUNDS ON WHICH MILITARY INTERVENTION COULD BE JUSTIFIED INTERNATIONALLY. UNLESS IT WERE REQUIRED TO PROTECT LIVES. THIS DOES NOT AT PRESENT SEEM TO BE THE CASE. FURTHERMORE. THERE IS NO ORGANISATION IN GRENADA WITH WHICH AN INVADING FORCE COULD WORK. EXTRICATION COULD BE DIFFICULT. AND LIVES WOULD BE AT RISK BOTH DURING AN OPERATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY. WESTERN INTERVENTION WOULD

Seen by the P.R.  
on 24/10.

A.J.C. 25/10

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BE MISREPRESENTED IN PROPAGANDA WITH DAMAGING EFFECT.

THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT CAPABLE OF MOUNTING A RAPID AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT.

5. WE ARE THEREFORE IN FAVOUR OF JOINING THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, WITH THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES IF THEY AGREE AND OF OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES TO BRING MAXIMUM PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE AUTHORITIES IN GRENADA BY THE THREAT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MEASURES IF THEY DO NOT TAKE EARLY AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TO PUT THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER

6. WE HAVE IT IN MIND, IF THE GRENADANS GIVE SOME GROUND UNDER THIS PRESSURE, TO TRY TO WORK FOR ELECTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION SUSPENDED IN 1979, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT BE SUPERVISED BY A COMMISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM CARIBBEAN AND/OR OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

7. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY INDICATION OF AMERICAN REACTIONS TO THIS LINE OF THINKING, WHICH I INTEND TO DEPLOY WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND WITH THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL. WHOSE INTERVENTION COULD I BELIEVE BE USEFUL.

8. IN PUTTING THESE THOUGHTS TO THE AMERICANS YOU SHOULD REPEAT OUR CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN GRENADA WHO HAS NOT ASKED FOR PROTECTION OR INTERVENTION AND WHOSE LIFE COULD EASILY BE JEOPARDISED, SHOULD NOT BE MADE THE FOCAL POINT OF ANY FORM OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. I SEE HIS ROLE AS POSSIBLY BEING CRUCIAL AT A LATER STAGE PROVIDED THAT HIS POSITION IS NOT PREJUDICED NOW.

9. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE CHARACTER OF THOSE CURRENTLY IN AUTHORITY IN GRENADA. IT IS ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES THAT WE HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE PRIMARILY FROM WITHIN THE REGION, BUT WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORT, IS THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH THEM.

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