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INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, BONN, ROME AND UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING MOSCOW, DUBLIN AND OTHER NATO POSTS.

GRENADA: THE LONGER TERM: MIPT

1. IT IS TOO SOON TO MAKE MORE THAN TENTATIVE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT THE IMMEDIATE SHORT TERM IMPACT ON US OPINION OF THE INTERVENTION IN GRENADA. BUT ALREADY THERE ARE STRAWS IN THE WIND, NO MORE, THAT THE LONGER TERM EFFECTS MAY BE DIFFERENT IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS.
2. FIRST, THE CONGRESS IS COLLECTIVELY INSULTED BY THE ABSENCE OF CONSULTATION. THEY WERE CONSULTED LATER THAN WE WERE. IN FACT, THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED AT ALL, ONLY INFORMED. THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WERE NOT INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE UNTIL 8PM ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER AND THEN ONLY TO BE TOLD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION, AFTER IT HAD BEEN TAKEN. THE CONGRESS IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO WISH TO MAKE LIFE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENT, NOT ONLY OVER THE WAR POWERS ACT BUT ALSO BY INDULGING IN ALL MANNER OF CONGRESSIONAL GAMES LIKE ADDING UNWANTED CONDITIONS TO THE BILLS THE PRESIDENT WANTS.
3. SECONDLY, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, O'NEILL, WHO HAS A REMARKABLE NOSE, POLITICAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL, HAS, NOW THAT THE BATTLE IS OVER, DENOUNCED THE PRESIDENT FOR GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY. HE HAS THUS OFFERED THE SEVEN DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AN ELECTION ISSUE, SHOULD THEY WISH TO TAKE IT UP. ALL OF THEM HAVE SO FAR BEEN TOO WARY TO PICK UP THE BALL AND RUN WITH IT. IT COULD BE A WINNER WITH WOMEN VOTERS, NEVER VERY STONG FOR REAGAN.
4. THIRDLY, THE MEDIA ARE INCENSED WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR BEING DELIBERATELY CUT OUT OF THE ACTION. THEIR CRY IS "CENSORSHIP": AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION. THE WHITE HOUSE WILL BE UNHAPPY THAT WILLIAM SAFIRE, A VERY CONSERVATIVE COMMENTATOR, WHILE FAVOURING AND APPLAUDING THE INTERVENTION, HAS ACCUSED WEINBURGER OF 'LYING THROUGH TIGHT LIPS' ABOUT WHY HE BARRED THE PRESS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER AND IN WHAT WAY THEY DECIDE TO TAKE IT OUT ON THE PRESIDENT: AND IF THEY DO, WHETHER THEY MAKE ANY IMPACT ON THE ELECTORATE. THE PRESIDENT IS OBVIOUSLY VULNERABLE TO THE COMPETENCE FACTOR. THAT RAN FOR A SHORT TIME EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR BUT THEN FADED MYSTERIOUSLY. IT IS A POTENTIALLY RICH VEIN IF THEY DECIDE TO MINE IT.
5. THEN THERE IS THE EFFECT OF THE INTERVENTION ON 'WILL HE RUN AGAIN?' IF THE ELECTION WERE TODAY, OF COURSE HE'D BE HOME IN A CANTER. BUT THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO PONDER WHAT THE MOOD (AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND NANCY'S HEALTH) WILL BE IN TWELVE MONTHS TIME. MY GUESS IS THAT HE WILL WANT TO SEE HOW IT ALL PANS OUT BEFORE DECIDING. BUT I HAVE NO INSIDE TRACK HERE: NOR, SO FAR AS I CAN JUDGE, HAS ANYBODY ELSE. THE PRESIDENT IS KEEPING HIS OWN COUNSEL.

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6. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL DISTILLATE OF THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL DISAPPROVAL. ONE CASUALTY COULD BE THE KISSINGER COMMISSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA. SOME OF THE LATIN, EVEN THE FRIENDLY ONES, HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST VOCAL IN CONDEMNATION. THE EFFECT OF THE LOSS OF MORAL ASCENDANCY AND THE EROSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WISDOM, JUDGEMENT AND MODERATION OF THE WESTERN SUPERPOWER WILL BE FOR OTHERS TO PRONOUNCE UPON, FOR ME TO TAKE NOTE OF.

7. THE EFFECTS ON OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ADMINISTRATION REMAIN TO BE SEEN. I DO NOT THINK THEY HAVE BEEN SERIOUS FOR ALL THE MUTTERINGS AT LOWER LEVELS THAT BRITAIN RATTED ON THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED. THE AMERICANS RECOGNISE AS WELL AS WE DO THAT DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ARE NOT ONLY PERMISSIBLE BUT HEALTHY. OUR POSITION IS UNDERSTOOD WHEN WE EXPLAIN IT, AND EVEN APPLAUDED (BY SOME). THE STANCE YOU HAVE TAKEN, BY VOTE AND SPEECH, POSITIONS THE UK FAVOURABLY TO CONTINUE THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE YOU WISH.

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