

Thomas



ms

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

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The attached note  
from Hugh Thomas is  
self-explanatory. (He  
spoke in today's HoP  
Lords debate, being a  
specialist on Cuban  
affairs. He promised  
to be v. circumspect!)  
MA 1/11



From Lord Thomas.

GRENADA

Prime Minister

I am perturbed about the line that you have been represented as now following.

I appreciate that the consultation by the U.S. was off-hand or worse. New technology (telephone and telex) seems to make understanding worse than in the days of old-fashioned letters.

I also accept that the seizure of, or an attack on, even by our allies, of a sovereign state is to be condemned.

That might be so in most circumstances, even if the government in question is communist. It is also liable to be counter-productive: even in Russia (1941).

But Grenada was not just a quiet communist state, as, say, the Indian state of Kerala once was; or even as Hungary now is. It was being turned by Cuba, presumably at the Soviet behest, into a revolutionary communist one; a real H.Q. for terrorism and backing of "wars of liberation" (ie. terrorism to begin with, guerrilla wars as Act II) in both South America and the Caribbean.

It must surely be questionable whether Grenada, always vulnerable like other micro-states there, was still sovereign, in the sense of being master of its fate. Grenadians had no way of influencing themselves the outcome of their political imbroglio.

Even Bishop's coup was plotted in New York with the Cubans. The Cubans in Grenada seem to have been the only ones who fought the marines; and I heard Castro himself on television saying that those who died did so "for their country".

The shooting of Bishop and his colleagues seems to be a typically communist action and not one which usually occurs in Caribbean politics; for all the alleged violence of the region, I cannot think of a recent precedent - certainly not in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

General Vernon Walters told me on Saturday that the notices at the famous new airport were in Spanish.

For all these reasons I cannot help thinking that the U.S. action was a blessing; and not a blessing in disguise.

The U.S. are, as you know, really preoccupied by the threat of communism in the central American and Caribbean area. Should revolutionary Civil war flow seriously from Central America into Mexico, the eyes of the U.S. might be wholly concentrated on that region and we might look in vain for their help over European defence, much less the Falklands. (We have to remember that the U.S. itself has a 'subvertible' Mexican population in the south-west: last year alone they arrested six million illegal Mexican immigrants).

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What  
a wonderful  
man!

Hugh Thomas  
October 31, 1983