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FM BRIDGETOWN 060200Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 421 OF 5 NOVEMBER 83

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING TO ST GEORGE'S (GRENADA) (PASSED LOCALLY)

FOR RESIDENT CLERK

FOR MEETING WITH MR DAM

GRENADA AND THE US

1. IF US ARE IN A MOOD TO ACCEPT ADVICE FROM US, THE FOLLOWING POINTS COULD USEFULLY BE MADE.
2. COMMONWEALTH PEACEKEEPING FORCE: THERE IS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS IDEA AMONG US OFFICIALS I HAVE MET, AND NONE AT ALL AMONG OECS PRIME MINISTERS. YET IT DOES LOOK FROM HERE TO BE THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE US CAN WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS SPEEDILY. THE LONGER THEY REMAIN, THE MORE RISK THEY RUN OF GUERILLA ATTACKS, SHOULD THE REMNANTS OF THE PRA BE ABLE TO REGROUP. THESE IN TURN WOULD BECOME THE REASON FOR THE TROOPS STAYING ON, A KIND OF AFGHANISTAN IN MINIATURE. I CANNOT SEE THE CARIBBEAN POLICE FORCE ENVISAGED BY GILLESPIE HOLDING THE RING TO THE AMERICANS' SATISFACTION.
3. CIVILIAN V MILITARY. YESTERDAY WE HAD THE MIX-UP OVER THE CORDOVEZ MISSION'S FLIGHT AND THE ABORTIVE MEETING BETWEEN CORDOVEZ AND THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR, BOTH OF WHICH INCIDENTS COULD HAVE DONE UNNECESSARY DAMAGE TO THE PICTURE THE US GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY WANTS TO PAINT OF ITSELF IN GRENADA. CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT ARE STILL I UNDERSTAND BANNED BY THE US MILITARY FROM LANDING AT PEARLS AND THIS IS CAUSING INCREASING RESENTMENT NOW THAT THE FLOW IS NO LONGER OUT OF GRENADA BUT INTO IT. NOW THAT THE FIGHTING IS EFFECTIVELY OVER, THE SOONER US CIVILIAN AUTHORITY PREVAILS OVER THE MILITARY THE BETTER.
4. GOVERNOR GENERAL AND HIS STAFF. THE AMERICANS, HAVING AT FIRST GREETED THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AS A QUIANT AND UNIMPORTANT ANACHRONISM, ARE NOW THREATENING TO SWAMP HIM AND HIS ADVISERS WITH REQUESTS, QUERIES AND CALLS. THE TEMPTATION TO DO THE WORK THEMSELVES MUST BE STRONG, BUT HAS TO BE RESISTED. GILLESPIE UNDERSTANDS THIS, BUT SOME OF HIS STAFF ARE LESS SENSITIVE. POSITION SHOULD BE EASIER ONCE PROVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION IS APPOINTED, BUT NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR BOTH SIDES.
5. PROBLEMS OF SCALE. US DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN GRENADA IS SMALL BY AMERICAN STANDARDS, BUT US EMBASSY IS ALREADY BIGGER THAN THE OLD SOVIET EMBASSY, WHOSE SIZE ATTRACTED SUCH UNFAVOURABLE COMMENT FROM GRENADIANS. IT HAS ALSO TAKEN OVER ONE OF THE ISLAND'S BEST-KNOWN AND MOST PROMINENTLY SITUATED HOTELS, THE ROSS POINT INN. US OFFICIALS MIGHT LIKE TO CONSIDER HOW FEW PEOPLE THEY CAN DO THE JOB WITH, RATHER THAN HOW MANY THEY THINK THEY NEED.

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16.

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6. HEARTS AND MINDS. SURPLUS TROOPS BEFORE LEAVING THE ISLAND COULD WELL BE DEPLOYED MENDING ROADS, PAINTING CHURCHES, GIVING CHILDREN'S PARTIES AND BEING PHOTOGRAPHED DOING SO. THEY COULD EVEN HAVE A SHOT AT PLAYING CRICKET. LET THE GRENADIANS TEACH THEM SOMETHING.

BULLARD

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