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FILE No. **ANR** 1/3 **5A** 512 (Part A)

TITLE: **INTERNAL SITUATION IN GRENADA.**

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6

HE Mr E O Laird CMG MBE
Castries

1/1

11 January 1974

GRENADA POLITICAL SITUATION

1. I have not sent you a situation report on Grenada by telegram since my Tel No 7 because there has not been any significant change in the balance of the situation between the Government and the Opposition during the past few days: there have been developments of course but not such as to change the position with a degree of urgency to justify telegrams.
2. The move for a general strike has still failed to secure general support but it has not by any means totally collapsed and there is still a risk of escalation into a general shutdown. The Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union are still out which has brought the port to a standstill and there is some concern at the announcement by the Trinidad oilfield workers of a boycott on oil products consigned to Grenada to which the SLO refers in his report in Port of Spain Tel No 10 to FCO. If this boycott proves effective Grenada is likely to find itself in difficulties over fuel supplies which would add one more facet to the reduction of services with which the Opposition are seeking to embarrass the Government.
3. Essential services are still functioning and petrol stations are open, although not all of them have any stocks. On the other hand most of the shops were closed yesterday (Thursday): management were mostly at their desks but premises were not open for lack of staff to serve the public.
4. The principal feature this week has been the series of demonstrations which have been taking place daily since Tuesday and which have been gathering momentum, having started from a gathering of some 200 on that occasion to an estimate of 3000 yesterday. The majority of participants have so far been school children but the possible effect of these demonstration marches should not be underestimated. They have so far been good humoured and have contented themselves with marching and showing placards. For a short time there was some picketing on Wednesday and up to this morning none of these demonstrations had succeeded in parading outside the Premier's residence at Mount Royal or Government House. There has been a tendency however for workers in offices to drift out and join the marches: the Manager of Cable and Wireless told me last night that some of his people had done so and he would not be surprised if he found himself unable to operate services shortly for lack of staff.

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5. The precise purpose of these demonstrations, apart from a public display of opposition to the Government, has not yet been made specifically clear. It is possible, though I think it unlikely, that the organizers may hope to rescue their strike movement from collapse by attracting support through the means of these marches which bring the issue more openly into the public arena. Expression of opposition has been focussed during this week on criticism of the legislative enactments of 3 January which have been defied by some business premises. The opinion persists in some quarters that many of those who have come out so openly into opposition against Premier Gairy now have nothing to lose at this late stage: if they fail in their efforts to dislodge him they may as well pack up and go after independence in four weeks' time. It is said that this attitude motivates those who are on strike and it is forecast that those who are on strike now will remain out. I am a little doubtful of this myself as I do not believe that the leadership is wholly convinced on the strike issue and the workers themselves are bound to feel the pinch financially before long. If the demonstrations and strike action fail to provoke the Government into over-reaction, as they are probably hoping, the latest manifestations of opposition feeling may begin to pall and it may begin to appear to the workers that it is leading nowhere. On the other hand the situation still remains potentially explosive as I have commented in my telegrams: it would only need a brush of violence for example between the Police and a crowd of demonstrators to bring the situation to flash point, or a heavy-handed over-reaction by Gairy to cause unions which have voted against a strike to reverse their votes and come out in sympathy. There also remains in some quarters an irrational belief that the Opposition can in some way prevent the attainment of independence on 7 February, and I have heard from more than one source that public response to the celebrations is likely to be muted. It has even been said that this would amount to a boycott but I regard this as a partisan view because the mass of the electorate, particularly outside St George's, are still supporters of the Premier and I think he will take good care that they are in evidence at the various items in the programme of celebrations.

6. I will now repeat here, for the record, the outline details which I gave you on the telephone about the incident resulting in the death of a man called Bishop. Bishop was a member of the Special Reserve Police who was attacked by a gang of NJM supporters. He had a gun which he fired back in self defence and killed a man called Strachan. Bishop himself was hit by bullets several times and somehow got himself to Trinidad where he was under treatment in hospital for serious injuries but recovering. Five of the NJM gang were arrested and charged. The opinion of the Commissioner of Police was that Bishop would not be liable to any charge himself if and when he recovers because he fired in self defence. This may well be true and I imagine that his membership of the SRP is also likely to be a good defence against prosecution.

G W Baker

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 36 OF 21 JAN INFO IMMEDIATE ST VINCENT
PORT OF SPAIN BRIDGETOWN AND SNOWI.
MY TELNO 35: GRENADA.

1. NJM AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN COMMITTEE OF 22 HAVE BEEN TRYING
HARD, PREVIOUSLY WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO BRING OTHER UNIONS OUT TO
JOIN THOSE ALREADY ON STRIKE. ACTION BY TAWU AT THIS TIME IS A
DAMAGING BLOW TO THE GOVERNMENT. BUT GAIRY'S PROVOCATIVE OVER-
REACTION COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY
IN ST GEORGE'S AND URBAN AREAS.
2. AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE I RECOMMEND THAT SNOWI BE ASKED TO
ARRANGE FOR NEAREST AVAILABLE HM SHIP TO STEAM TOWARDS GRENADA
AND REMAIN HULL DOWN PENDING DEVELOPMENTS.

LAIRD

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 39 OF 22 JAN INFO IMMEDIATE PORT OF SPAIN
BRIDGETOWN SNOWI AND PRIORITY ST VINCENT.
GRENADA.

1. FOLLOWING SITREP IS BASED ON REPORT FROM BAKER IN ST GEORGE'S
AT 221500Z.

(A) THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE LOOTING IN ST GEORGE'S AND THE OUTSKIRTS
DURING THE NIGHT MAINLY OF FOOD SHOPS. THERE WAS ALSO SOME
SHOOTING. ARMED OPPOSITION GANGS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SET UP
ROAD BLOCKS ON SOME OF THE ROADS OUTSIDE ST GEORGE'S. THE DEPUTY
PREMIER, PREUDHOMME, ESCAPED FROM ONE YESTERDAY WITH MINOR
INJURIES. RUPERT BISHOP (FATHER OF NJM LEADER MAURICE BISHOP)
WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN YESTERDAY'S CLASH. GRENADIAN JOURNALIST
ALISTAIR HUGHES WAS BEATEN UP.

(B) RE-EMBODIED POLICE AIDES (SOME SOURCES SAY THEY ARE 1000
STRONG) APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A FREE HAND TO STAMP OUT
OPPOSITION. IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THEY ARE LIKELY TO QUELL
OPPOSITION ACTIVITY SHARPLY BUT BEYOND THAT THEY MAY WELL PRESENT
SERIOUS PROBLEMS AS THEY CONTINUE TO PAY OFF OLD SCORES.

(C) TOURISTS ARE NOW LEAVING THE ISLAND (DETAILS LATER).

(D) SO FAR AS WE KNOW, NO MEMBER OF BRITISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN
INVOLVED IN ANY INCIDENT. THEY ARE REPORTED TO BE ANXIOUS BUT IN
GOOD HEART.

(E) AT BAKER'S REQUEST I HAVE ASKED SNOWI TO AGREE THAT LIAISON
OFFICER FROM BACCHANTE (ON VISIT TO GRENADA IN CONNECTION WITH
INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS) STAY ON TO ASSIST. I HAVE ALSO SENT
MARSH TO GRENADA TODAY TO TRY AND ESTABLISH INDEPENDANT RADIO
LINK WITH ST VINCENT AND CASTRIES.

(F) BAKER IS SEEING PREMIER THIS MORNING AND I EXPECT TO BE IN
TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN AT 1430 HOURS LOCAL TIME.

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TO PRIORITY F C O TELNO. 252 OF 23 JANUARY INFO ST VINCENT
CASTRIES NASSAU SNOWI PORT OF SPAIN BRIDGETOWN.

SITUATION IN GRENADA.

1. WE ARE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THIS AND HAVE PASSED ON THE GIST OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF SNOWI'S TELEGRAM WICOS 01. STATE DEPARTMENT WERE AWARE OF BACCHANTE'S MOVEMENTS (PARAGRAPH 2).
2. THEIR LATEST REPORTS - PARTLY BASED ON MESSAGES TELEPHONED OUT BY ONE LESLIE SEON TO BARBADOS ARE:
 - (A) THERE HAVE BEEN TWO CONFIRMED DEATHS (ONE BEING RUPERT BISHOP). THERE IS QUOTE A LOT OF FIGHTING UNQUOTE.
 - (B) THE ROAD FROM THE AIRPORT TO ST GEORGES HAS BEEN CUT BUT THE AIRPORT ITSELF IS STILL FUNCTIONING.
 - (C) ESSENTIAL SERVICES HAVE JOINED THE STRIKE.
3. ON THE OIL SITUATION STATE DEPT. UNDERSTAND THAT A FRIEND OF GAIRY'S, PETER OTLEY, A GRENADAN TRADE UNION LEADER BASED IN NEW YORK, HAS CONTACTED PINDLING IN NASSAU (WHOM HE KNOWS WELL) AND ASKED THAT OIL BE SENT FROM THE REFINERY THERE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT HAS HAPPENED OR IF OIL WERE SENT, HOW IT WOULD BE LANDED.
4. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD COPY ALL RELEVANT TELEGRAMS TO US IN VIEW OF ACTIVE STATE DEPARTMENT INTEREST, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE ADOPTED IF A MORE SERIOUS INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION DEVELOPS.

SYKES

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Your reference

Our reference

Date

22 January 1974

GRENADA: HMS BACCHANTE

1. You will have seen tel no 36 of 21 January from the British Government Representative, Castries (copy enclosed).
2. In view of the situation in Grenada, we consider that we should accept the BGR's recommendation in paragraph 2 of his telegram. We should be grateful, therefore, if HMS Bacchante could be ordered as soon as possible to the vicinity of Grenada, where she should remain beyond the horizon. Perhaps we could agree, meanwhile, exactly how far away this should be.
3. We understand, however, that you would prefer HMS Bacchante to proceed to Port of Spain first to refuel. We accept this, provided she proceeds, immediately after refuelling, to the vicinity of Grenada, and subject to the suggested review before she completes her refuelling.
4. If the situation in Grenada deteriorates further, the following steps might be called for:
 - a. on specific Ministerial authority, HMS Bacchante to proceed inshore Grenada, to St George's. We believe the presence of the ship might have a calming effect;
 - b. if necessary, and again only on specific Ministerial authority, HMS Bacchante to land parties, if necessary armed, for the strictly limited purpose of protecting the Governor and persons belonging to the United Kingdom.
5. We assume that this will not give rise to any claim for reimbursement of the MOD from the FCO vote, since this involves only the advancing of HMS Bacchante's planned programme. If there is any question of a claim on the FCO, I should be grateful if you would inform me immediately.

cc: Mr Preston, Caribbean ✓
Mr E N Smith, Finance
H Griffiths, Esq. D85

J E Jackson
Defence Department

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 46 OF 23 JANUARY/1974 INFO IMMEDIATE SNOWI AND
PRIORITY ST VINCENT PORT OF SPAIN BRIDGETOWN.
YOUR TELNO 37: GRENADA.

1. YOUR PARA 2. WE RECOMMEND THAT BACCHANTE SHOULD PROCEED TO GRENADA AREA (SAY 2 HOURS STEAMING OFF SHORE).
2. YOUR PARA 3. PRESENCE OF BACCHANTE IN THE PORT COULD WELL BE INTERPRETED BY GAIRY AS VISIBLE EXPRESSION OF HMG'S SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT AND MIGHT ENCOURAGE HIM TO BELIEVE THAT ANY PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE HE MIGHT REQUIRE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO SEE HER PRESENCE AS A DIRECT INDICATION OF HMG'S WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE IN SUPPORT OF GAIRY. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT BACCHANTE SHOULD APPEAR AT ST GEORGE'S AT THIS JUNCTURE.

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TO IMMEDIATE CASTRIES TELEGRAM NUMBER 41 OF 24 JANUARY 1974, INFO
PRIORITY ST. VINCENT, PORT OF SPAIN, BRIDGETOWN AND SHOWI.

YOUR TELNO 46 : GRENADA : HMS BACCHANTE.

IN VIEW OF LATEST SITREP WE THINK IT SUFFICIENT FOR
BUCCHANTE TO PROCEED TO PORT OF SPAIN AT THIS STAGE AND TO REMAIN
THERE AT FOUR HOURS NOTICE TO SAIL. SHE SHOULD ARRIVE PORT OF
SPAIN AT 24/2000Z. WE WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION BEFORE THE WEEKEND.

2. WE HAVE ASKED MOD TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.

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TO PRIORITY FCO TELNO 19 OF 23 JANUARY 1974.

INFO TO CASTRIES ST VINCENT PORT OF SPAIN BHOWI AND WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON TELNO 252 OF 23 JANUARY:
SITUATION IN GRENADA.

1. WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE US EMBASSY IN BRIDGETOWN AND HAVE PASSED TO THEM THE GIST OF REPORTS FROM GRENADA OVER THE PAST WEEK.
2. A MEMBER OF THE US EMBASSY STAFF, MOOSE, IS GOING TO GRENADA TOMORROW TO KEEP AN EYE ON ANY PROBLEMS FOR US CITIZENS AND WILL BE CONTACTING BAKER.

ROBERTS

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TO PRIORITY FCO TELNO 19 OF 23 JANUARY 1974.
INFO TO CASTRIES ST VINCENT PORT OF SPAIN SNOWI AND WHASHINGTON

WASHINGTON TELNO 252 OF 23 JANUARY:
SITUATION IN GRENADA.

1. WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH TH US EMBASSY IN BRIDGETOWN AND HAVE PASSED TO THEM THE GIST OF REPORTS FROM GRENADA OVER THE PAST WEEK.
2. A MEMBER OF THE US EMBASSY STAFF, MOOSE, IS GOING TO GRENADA TOMORROW TO KEEP AN EYE ON ANY PROBLEMS FOR US CITIZENS AND WILL BE CONTACTING BAKER.

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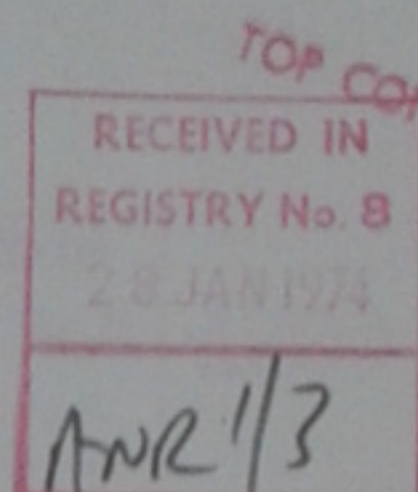
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DESKBY 261530Z JAN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 57 OF 26 JANUARY, 1974
FOR DUNCAN WATSON FROM LAIRD.



1. AM SENDING YOU THIS PERSONAL TELEGRAM BECAUSE I CAME BACK FROM GRENADA LAST NIGHT WITH MOST CONFUSED IMPRESSIONS.

2. GAIRY WAS HIS USUAL OPTIMISTIC SELF, THE STRIKE WOULD SOON BE OVER, THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS HELD AS PLANNED AND ALL WOULD THEN BE WELL. BUT HE HAD TO HAVE A LOAN FROM THE UK (MY TELNO 50) OTHERWISE THE TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD ALSO GO ON STRIKE AND THE SITUATION WOULD BE REALLY SERIOUS.

3. AT THE OTHER EXTREME SLO TRINIDAD GAVE ME A MOST GLOOMY ACCOUNT OF A LIKELY BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER AT ANY MOMENT. NJM WERE IN FACT PLANNING TO TAKE OVER BY FORCE, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES. THEY WANTED TO TRY GAIRY BY A PEOPLES' COURT. CONFRONTATION COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. HE WILL BE SENDING A FULL REPORT THROUGH HIS CHANNELS.

4. BAKER WAS ALSO DEPRESSING. NOT MUCH FOOD, LITTLE FUEL AND NO SIGN OF AN END TO THE TROUBLE. WIDESPREAD LOOTING APPARENTLY UNCONTROLLED. THE AIRPORT WOULD BE CLOSING ANY DAY NOW. ALL MINISTERS EXCEPT THE PREMIER, HE SAID; WERE WORRIED ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. EXPATRIATES AND GRENADIANS ALIKE HAD GOT OUT IF THEY COULD. THE FEW PEOPLE NOW IN THE HOLIDAY INN WERE MOSTLY LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO HAD GONE THERE FOR FOOD AND SAFETY. THE GOVERNOR TOOK MUCH THE SAME LINE. THE ASO THOUGHT WE MIGHT WELL HAVE TO EVACUATE THE 100 OR SO REMAINING BRITISH SUBJECTS PLUS A FEW OTHERS (DETAILED FIGURES ARE IN MIFT).

5. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND GAIRY'S VIEWS ON THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

6. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME IN A FEW HOURS TO COME TO ANY KIND OF CONCLUSION. ANYTHING MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT I STILL THINK WE MUST GO ALONG WITH GAIRY AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

LAIRD

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TO FLASH CASTRIES TELNO 55 OF 26 JANUARY 74 INFO IMMEDIATE
ST. VINCENT, PORT OF SPAIN AND SNOWI, INFO PRIORITY BRIDGETOWN.

SNOWI'S 252337Z TO BACCHANTE (RPTD TO YOU).

GRENADA.

SNOWI'S ARMY STAFF OFFICER (APPARENTLY IN GRENADA) HAS ASSESSED
THAT THREAT EXISTS TO SAFETY OF U K PATRIALS IN GRENADA.

2. SNOWI IN HIS SIGNAL UNDER REFERENCE HAS ORDERED BACCHANTE TO
LEAVE PORT OF SPAIN AT 261200Z TO TAKE UP POSITION 2 HOURS OFF
GRENADA NOT CLOSER THAN 35 MILES.

3. SNOWI HAS ALSO ASKED MODUK FOR CONTINGENT AUTHORITY BY
261400Z TO MOVE BACCHANTE INSHORE GRENADA AND IF NECESSARY LAND
PARTIES IF D B G R SO RECOMMENDS. WE WOULD NEED MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY
FOR SUCH CONTINGENT INSTRUCTIONS.

4. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE COMMENTS AND YOUR ASSESSMENT OF
THREAT TO U K PATRIALS. LATEST SITREP WE HAVE IS TIMED 251415Z
(YOUR TELNO 52).

DOUGLAS-HOME

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TO FLASH FCO TELNO 59 OF 26 JAN INFO IMMEDIATE PORT OF SPAIN
SNOWI AND SAVING ST VINCENT AND BRIDGETOWN.
YOUR TELNO 55: GRENADA.

1. LIVING CONDITIONS SEEM TO BE DETERIORATING FAIRLY RAPIDLY. MANAGER HOLIDAY INN SAYS HE HAS ONLY ONE WEEK'S SUPPLY OF OIL FOR HIS STANDBY GENERATOR WHICH PRODUCES ELECTRICITY FOR HIS COLD STORES AND A FEW LIGHTS. THERE IS FUEL IN OIL COMPANY'S STORAGE TANKS BUT THERE IS NO ELECTRICITY TO WORK PUMP TO GET IT OUT.
2. I WAS TOLD BY DBGR YESTERDAY THAT REASON WHY THREATENED ATTACK ON POLICE AND RADIO STATIONS NIGHT 23/24 DID NOT COME OFF MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE NJM RECKONED THEY HAD NOT GOT ENOUGH WEAPONS. GAIRY TOLD ME ATTACK WAS CALLED OFF FOLLOWING HIS RADIO APPEAL TO WIVES AND CHILDREN TO STOP THEIR MENFOLK FROM RISKING THEIR LIVES UNNECESSARILY. SLO HAS INFORMATION THAT NJM ARE COLLECTING ARMS AND MAY ATTACK POLICE HEADQUARTERS NIGHT 26/27.
3. I REGRET I CANNOT ASSESS WITH ANY ACCURACY THE RELIABILITY OF THIS CONFLICTING INFORMATION. I MUST ADD HOWEVER THAT IT SEEMED TO ME FROM AN HOUR'S CONVERSATION WITH HIM YESTERDAY THAT GAIRY WAS LIVING IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN.
4. PARA 3 OF TEL UNDER REFERENCE. IN MY VIEW IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO MOVE BACCHANTE INSHORE, MUCH LESS LAND PARTIES, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH GAIRY. WE KNOW FROM HIS REACTION TO THE CANCELLATION OF THR'S VISIT THAT HE WILL NEED MOST CAREFUL HANDLING IF IT EVER COMES TO AN EVACUATION. IF WE EVACUATE PEOPLE IN KEY POSTS PREMATURELY WE SHALL BE CONTRIBUTING MATERIALLY TO A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION.
5. I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS A PHYSICAL THREAT TO THE LIVES OF UK PATRIALS IN GRENADA. A CRUISE SHIP HAD CAR-LOADS OF ITS PASSENGERS ASHORE SIGHTSEEING WHEN I WAS IN ST GEORGE'S YESTERDAY.

/6. I AGREE

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6. I AGREE THAT IF THE NJM WERE TO MAKE A DETERMINED ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER POLICE HEADQUARTERS THIS COULD LEAD TO A NEAR BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER WHETHER THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL OR NOT. IN SUCH AN EVENT I WOULD EXPECT THE DBGR TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION FRANKLY WITH GAIRY AND REPORT TO ME. IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO ALLOW THE DBGR TO USE HIS DISCRETION.

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25 January 1974

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JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE (A)

—
GRENADA

Attached is a Special Assessment prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Current Intelligence Group on FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 1974.

Signed B O WHITE

Deputy Chairman

Current Intelligence Groups

Cabinet Office

25 January 1974

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GRENADA

There has been some further violence since our last assessment.^{*} On 24 January a truck carrying Government supporters was ambushed and two were killed. Public gatherings, including the funeral of the father of a senior New Jewel Movement (NJM) official killed during the disorders on 21 January, have passed off without incident. There was, however, considerable looting of shops in St. George's at the beginning of the week.

2. The strikes have continued to prevent the port and most of the public utilities from operating. Shops in St. George's have remained closed. After an appeal by the Premier on Tuesday, 22 January, a few of the workers in the essential services returned but the electricity supply and telephone services have not been restored. (The water supply has been maintained apparently for public health reasons.)

3. Gairy has maintained his determination to lead Grenada to independence and beyond. He told a public meeting that "independence was now a fact which would take effect at the appointed time". The Acting Governor was sworn in on 23 January, after which ceremony Gairy informed the DBCR that his government needed EC \$1 million next week to meet its immediate commitments. This may result in the Civil Service (including the police and air traffic controllers) not being paid with the consequence that some of them may join the strikers. Although Gairy relies in part on the armed "special aides" (some reports suggest that they may now number 1,000) any serious dissatisfaction amongst the regular police will encourage the opposition and reduce Gairy's grip on public order.

4. The moderate opposition appears not to be organising large scale demonstrations for the time being. The NJM, although probably behind the more violent incidents, are not yet known to have used firearms or explosives (which we believe they possess); nor have there been, so far as we know, any attempts to kill Gairy. Gairy, for his part, has not declared a state of emergency nor apparently tried to handicap the NJM by arresting known members. However, some or all of these moves towards sharper confrontation could take place at anytime.

*JIC(A)(74)(SA) 5

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Conclusion

5. The balance remains delicate. Gairy and his opponents have not yet taken all the steps remaining towards a final confrontation, but the apparent caution on the opposition side may mean that they are reserving a major effort until the last few days before independence. Gairy's ability to pay the police at the end of January may be a critical factor. Meanwhile it seems likely that there will be at least further sporadic acts of violence.

25 January, 1974

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SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY No. 8
29 JAN 1974

cc: Mr Amery
Mr Blaker
Permanent Under-Secretary

GRENADA

1. I held a meeting this morning to consider the present situation in Grenada. The likelihood is that Mr Gairy will weather his present difficulties and that it will be possible to hand over our responsibilities as planned on 7 February. But there are clearly other possibilities for which we must be prepared.

2. I recommend that you write to your DOP colleagues on the lines ... of the attached draft letter. This will put them on notice that we may have some difficult decisions to take and will secure their agreement for any action which may suddenly become necessary to protect British belongers. I have arranged for our people in the Associated States to send up to date figures about the British community and to ensure that the contingency plans are in good order.

3. I am considering separately:-

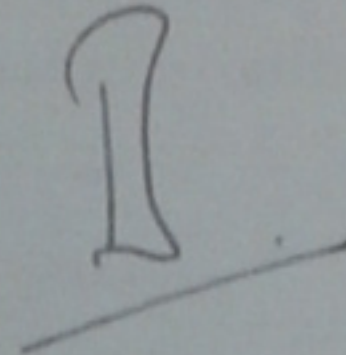
- (a) how we should respond to Grenada's request for financial assistance;
- (b) whether there would be any merit in issuing a statement to the effect that we do not intend to intervene in the Grenada internal situation (this depends on an assessment of the demonstrators' motives, which I have commissioned).

4. Finally, I am arranging for a draft Bill to be put on the stocks so that if necessary we can prevent Grenada becoming independent on 7 February. This would be a pretty desperate measure and I am certainly not advocating it at the present time. The drafting of a

/Bill

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Bill is purely a contingency measure so that one of our options is not closed by lack of time.

A handwritten signature, possibly "BALNIEL", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial letter. A horizontal line is drawn beneath the signature.

(BALNIEL)

25 January 1974

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Mr Amery

(S2)

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CABINET CM(74) 6

MEETING to be held at 10 Downing Street on
THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 1974
at 10.30 am

AGENDA

1. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS
3. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
4. INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS
5. SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT FOR STRIKERS' FAMILIES

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Social Services
CP(74) 7 - already circulated

6. HOME OWNERSHIP AND HOUSEBUILDING

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Environment
CP(74) 6 - already circulated

Signed JOHN HUNT

Cabinet Office

30 January 1974

NOTE: The following have been invited to attend -

At 10.30 am
10.35

Mr Atkins
Mr Amery

For Items 2 and 3

CONFIDENTIAL

Captain

for the Salvation Army

SECRET

(S2)

CABINET 31 JANUARY 1974

GRENADA: SPEAKING NOTE FOR MR AMERY

There have been no reports of violent demonstrations over the last few days although there has been some looting of shops. The situation remains tense and any incident, planned or unplanned, could start further disorders.

2. Electricity, telephones and telex services are still cut off. The airport is operating although some ground staff are on strike. Imported foods are short. Some hotels are closed. No threat has yet been reported to the safety of the British community although a number, mainly women and children, have left for nearby territories. But the situation does not justify us in issuing official advice to British nationals to leave the island.

3. At the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee on 30 January it was agreed that, if necessary, we would have to intervene to protect and evacuate British and friendly nationals but that we should refuse any request from the Premier, Mr Gairy, for HM Forces to aid the civil power. If there were to be a complete breakdown of Government we would have to consider at the time whether to intervene, but the balance of argument would probably be against intervention. HMS Bacchante (frigate) and HMS Fearless (assault ship) are within half a day's steaming of Grenada.

4. The Government of Grenada is seriously short of cash to pay the police and civil service at the end of this month. It is important to retain their loyalty to the Government so that there

/will

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Captain

for the Salvation Army

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will be a constitutional authority to which we can transfer power on 7 February. We are considering urgently the provision of financial assistance from the aid allocation to tide Grenada over the present difficulties.

SECRET

for the Salvation Army