

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01348 01 OF 02 191143Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-15
TRSE-00 AID-07 EB-08 /090 W
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P R 181802Z MAR 80
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1991
INFO AMCONSUL ANTIGUA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1348

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINT, GJ, PDIP, EAID
SUBJECT: A GRENADA POTPOURRI

REF: (A) BRIDGETOWN 1297;
(B) BRIDGETOWN 1294

1. GRENADA'S FESTIVAL OF THE REVOLUTION, COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH 13, 1979 NEW JEWEL COUP, PROMPTED WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE REGIONALLY. EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE TO CELEBRATIONS REPORTED SEPARATELY (REF A) AND USICA HAS TRANSMITTED SOME PRESS COMMENT (REF B). FOLLOWING ARE OTHER ITEMS WE HAVE COLLECTED.

2. JAMAICA. PRIME MINISTER MAURICE BISHOP TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOWARD THE END OF THE CELEBRATIONS THAT JAMAICAN PM MICHAEL MANLEY WAS "IN THE THROES OF A VICIOUS DESTABILIZATION PLOT." MANLEY'S PRESENCE AS CHIEF GUEST AT THE GRENADA CELEBRATIONS AT THIS TIME UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01348 01 OF 02 191143Z

WAS "AN ACT OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL SOLIDARITY" WITH THE GRENADA PEOPLE AND THEIR REVOLUTION, BISHOP ADDED. THE NEW JEWEL NEWSLETTER, ORGAN OF THE RULING PARTY, WENT FARTHER AND REPORTEDLY ACCUSED THECIA, IMPERIALISM, AND BUSINESS INTERESTS IN JAMAICA OF COLLABORATING TO TOPPLE THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT. THEIR TACTICS, THE NEWSLETTER SAID, INCLUDED THE HOARDING OF FOODSTUFFS, ISSUING PROPAGANDA THAT BRANDED MANLEY A COMMUNIST, AND BLOCKING ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT. THE NEWSLETTER CHARGED THAT "REACTIONARY ELEMENTS"

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior
Reviewer

HAD ORGANIZED POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA IN WHICH FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED RECENTLY.

3. DETAINEES. THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION THAT THERE WOULD BE A RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY. THERE WAS NO SUCH DRAMATIC GESTURE. WHEN BISHOP WAS QUESTIONED ON THE SUBJECT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, HE SAID THAT THE PREVENTIVE DETENTION TRIBUNAL HAD RECOMMENDED THE RELEASE OF A "NUMBER OF PRISONERS" WHO WOULD BE GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM SHORTLY. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 79 PERSONS BEING HELD UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION IN GRENADA.

4. ATTENDANCE AT THE CELEBRATIONS. WE HAVE NOT SEEN A COMPLETE LIST OF ATTENDEES. THE PRESS HAS CITED, BESIDES US, BRITAIN, CANADA (TWO PARLIAMENTARIANS BESIDES THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO STAYED THE ENTIRE WEEK, BARBADOS, JAMAICA, CUBA, AND NICARAGUA, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: ALGERIA, NORTH KOREA, VIETNAM, THE SOVIET UNION, HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. EMBASSY'S DCM ALSO ENCOUNTERED REPRESENTATIVES FROM FRANCE, ROMANIA, SOUTH YEMEN, THE SEYCHELLES, GUYANA, BRAZIL, AND ST. LUCIA (GEORGE ODLUM). AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01348 01 OF 02 191143Z

PRESS, THE FOLLOWING CARIBBEAN POLITICIANS WERE INVITED INDIVIDUALLY: CHEDDI JAGAN AND CLIVE THOMAS (GUYANA), TIM HECTOR (ANTIGUA), RAFFIQUE SHAH, GEORGE WEEKES, BASDEO PANDAY, JAMES MILLETTE, AND CLIVE NUNEZ (TRINIDAD), ROSIE DOUGLAS AND ATHIE MARTIN (DOMINICA), AND BOBBY CLARKE AND RICKY PARRIS (BARBADOS).

5. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE PRG USED THE OCCASION TO RELEASE THE NAMES OF THE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM GRENADA HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN THE PAST YEAR. THE LIST IS A REVEALING ONE: ALGERIA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ETHIOPIA, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF KAMPUCHEA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, NICARAGUA, REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, USSR, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, BENIN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, AND LAOS.

6. ASSISTANCE. THE PRG RELEASED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ALL AMOUNTS ARE EAST CARIBBEAN DOLLARS: 2.7 E.C. DOLLARS EQUAL ONE US DOLLAR):
CUBA. ONE HUNDRED PIECES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT WORTH DOLS 25 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT; 250 TECHNICIANS TO WORK ON AIRPORT PROJECT AND TRAIN GRENADIANS; 13 DOCTORS AND DENTISTS; FISHING TRAWLERS; UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS. ALGERIA, LIBYA, SYRIA. DOLS 27 MILLION IN COMBINED ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND FOR REHABILITATION OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS DESTROYED BY HEAVY RAINS. IRAQ. DOLS 5.4 MILLION TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRIDGE 01348 01 OF 02 191143Z

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01348 02 OF 02 191151Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWW 1348

VENEZUELA. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AIRPORT PROJECT; CONSTRUCTION OF ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES; SUPPLY OF DIESEL OIL, GASOLINE, AND ASPHALT; DOLS 3 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT; TOURISM DEVELOPMENT. TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA. UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS. OAS. ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD RAIN-DAMAGED AREAS OF THE ECONOMY AND AID FOR A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS. EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. DOLS 12.5 MILLION TO FINANCE A WIDE VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN GRENADA, CARRIACOU, AND PETIT MARTINIQUE AND TO REBUILD THE EASTERN MAIN ROAD FROM GRENVILLE TO

ST. GEORGE'S.
IMF. DOLS 2.1 MILLION FOR REJUVENATION OF THE SUGAR
INDUSTRY.
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. ASSISTANCE TO REPAIR
ROADS DESTROYED BY HEAVY RAINS; FINANCING THE
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL FEEDER ROADS.

7. TRINIDAD. PM BISHOP AND DEPUTY PM COARD BOTH
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01348 02 OF 02 191151Z

TOLD THE PRESS OF THEIR HOPES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS
WITH TRINIDAD AND COMPLAINED OF TRINIDAD'S LACK
OF RESPONSE. BISHOP CITED FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP
TIES BETWEEN GRENADA AND TRINIDAD, AND SAID GRENADA
HAD PROPOSED COOPERATION IN VARIOUS AREAS, INCLUDING
PETROLEUM AND THE MOVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN
THE NATIONS. "WE HAVE BEEN ALMOST BENDING OVER BACK-
WARDS IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP OFFICIAL LINES OF
COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO," BISHOP SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOTT'S REACTIONS
REFLECT A "A VERY DEEP ATTITUDE OF NARROW NATIONISM
AND ISOLATIONSIM WHICH IS PART OF THE TRADITION OF
COLONIALISM WHICH WE WOULD HOPE THATELEMENTS IN
THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AGAINST."

8. MANLEY'S SPEECH. CHIEF GUEST MICHAEL MANLEY
TOLD THE MARCH 13 PUBLICRALLY THAT GRENADA WOULD
HAVE JAMAICA'S CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP, BUT THAT
EACH COUNTRY MUST BUILD ITS OWN ROAD FORWARD -- "YOU
YOURS, WE OURS." HE PRAISED THE "FEELING OF
UNITY, FEELING OF SERIOUSNESS, FEELING OF PURPOSE,
FEELING OF DETERMINATION THAT IS COMING FROM THIS
CROWD HERE. GUARD THAT DETERMINATION." MANLEY
TOLD THE CROWD IT WOULD BE IMPERTINENT FOR ANTOHER
COUNTRY TO TELL GRENADA IN WHICH DIRECTION IT SHOULD
GO AND WHAT IT SHOULD DO.

9. BARBADOS OPPOSITION LEADER COMMENT. ERROL
BARROW, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS, VISITED
GRENADA ON PRIVATE BUSINESS IN EARLY MARCH BUT
GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO RADIO FREE GRENADA THAT WAS
REPORTED IN BARBADOS AT THE TIMEOF THE CLIMAX OF
THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. BARROW, ACCORDING TO
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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01348 02 OF 02 191151Z

THE CANA REPORT, TOLD THE RADIO INTERVIEWER THAT HE
HAS NO EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
GRENADA AT PRESENT, BUT THAT THERE WERE VIOLATIONS

UNDER SIR ERIC GAIRY. "THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW CRYING OUT ABOUT SO-CALLED VIOLATIONS DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS PROPER TO VOICE PROTESTS ABOUT THE ABUSES UNDER GAIRY," BARROW REPORTEDLY SAID. CRITIZIING UNNAMED CARIBBEAN POLITICIANS, HE SAID THAT "IT IS DEPLORABLE THAT IN THE CLOSING YEARS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IN THE CARIBBEAN, INSTEAD OF LOOKING FORWARD, THERE IS THIS TENDENCY TO APE THE MOST DISGUSTING POLITICIANS THE US HAS EVER PRODUCED -- RICHARD NIXON AND JOSEPH MCCARTHY. TO ACCUSE GRENADA OF BEING COMMUNIST IS TO RETURN TO MCCARTHYISM." BARROW ALSO SAID THAT "EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SOCIALISTICAMINDED LIKE MYSELF WELCOMED THE TAKEOVER BY THE PRG." ON THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING SACRASANCT" ABOUT THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS WITHIN A PARTICULAR TIME PERIOD, ADDING THAT "PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE JOBS RATHER THAN GO RUSHING INTO ELECTIONS. SHELTON

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