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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEKJCS/ JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9185  
RUEKJCS/DOD/ISA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/ CIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1061  
RUEADWW/ WHITE HOUSE NIACT IMMEDIATE 9096  
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MIL ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DOD FOR SANCHEZ, JCS FOR ADM MOREAU CIA FOR CLARIDGE  
WHITEHOUSE FOR NORTH  
FOLLOWING BRIDGETOWN 6392 DTD OCT 20 SENT ACTION STATE  
BEING REPEATED TO YOU  
QUOTE  
S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 06392

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PASS NSC, CIA, OSD AND JCS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: AEMR, PINS, GJ, US  
SUBJECT: GRENADA: ATTITUDES OF THE GRENADA MEDICAL  
SCHOOL TOWARD POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF THEIR STUDENTS/STAFF

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).
2. WE HAD TWO LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES MODICA,  
CHANCELLOR OF (AND A MAIN INVESTOR ALONG WITH HIS FATHER,

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LUU MODICA, IN) THE ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. NOTING THAT SOME 80 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN GRENADA ARE STUDENTS OF STAFF AT THE SCHOOL, WE ASKED MODICA, WHO HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT VIA TELEX AND PHONE WITH THE SCHOOL, IF HE THOUGHT HIS PEOPLE WERE IN DANGER. HE SAID STAFF WAS TRYING TO NOTIFY EVERYONE TO BE SURE THEY KNEW ABOUT THE CURFEW (SINCE RADIO FREE GRENADA WAS OFF THE AIR MOST OF THE DAY, SOME MIGHT NOT HAVE GOTTEN WORD OF THE SHOOT-ON-SIGHT CURFEW). ON BALANCE HE FELT THAT THE QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL UNQUOTE WOULD NOT HARM AMERICANS, SO AS TO AVOID GIVING THE USG A PRETEXT FOR INTERVENTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE FEARS A VIOLENT BACKLASH, WITH THE POPULATION RISING AGAINST THE SECURITY FORCES AND SOME STUDENTS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. (FOR EXAMPLE, RADIO FREE GRENADA IS LOCATED CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL'S GRAND ANSE CAMPUS.)

3. MODICA SAID, AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES, HE WOULD POSE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER QUOTE IT WOULD BE SAFER UNQUOTE TO LEAVE PEOPLE IN PLACE OR PULL THEM OUT. HE IS BOTHERED ABOUT THE STUDENTS BEING IN TWO MAIN LOCATIONS (GRAND ANSE AND TRUE BLUE), WITH THE STAFF EVEN MORE SCATTERED. TWO POTENTIAL HELO SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, HE SAID, WHICH HE ASSUMED THE USG WOULD HAVE TO SECURE. THE FIRST CONVERSATION ENDED WITH MODICA AGREEING TO CONTACT US AT THE LATEST BEFORE HE LEFT HIS NYC OFFICE.

4. THE SECOND CONVERSATION A LITTLE AFTER MIDNIGHT ON OCTOBER 20 ALSO INCLUDED DAS GILLESPIE AND MYSELF. MODICA DESCRIBED SITUATION AS ONE IN WHICH STUDENTS WERE ON EITHER OF TWO CAMPUSES SOUTH OF CAPITAL CITY OF ST. GEORGE'S OR AT THEIR PRIVATE HOMES IN VARIOUS SUBURBS. THE UNIVERSITY HAS NO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH IT DOES HAVE A PLAN FOR ASSEMBLING THOSE WHO RESIDE ON THE TWO CAMPUSES AND MOVING THEM TO AREAS DESIGNATED AS POSSIBLE HELICOPTER LIFT SITES.

5. MODICA SAID THAT HE OBSERVED SITUATION TO BE SUFFICIENTLY TENSE AND THREATENING SO THAT IF IT WERE SIMPLY

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A MATTER OF EVACUATING THOSE RESIDENT ON CAMPUSES, HE FELT USG SHOULD MOVE AS QUICKLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATED. BUT HE HAS A NUMBER OF CONCERNS. FIRST, RADIO FREE GRENADA HAS REPORTED A MARTIAL LAW DECREE ESTABLISHING A CURFEW IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 P.M. MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, WITH A THREAT THAT ANYONE ON THE STREETS IS LIABLE TO BE SHOT. THIS WILL MAKE COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND AMONG POTENTIAL EVACUEES DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. SECOND, IN MODICA'S JUDGEMENT, VIOLENT REACTION BY BISHOP'S SUPPORTERS SHOULD BE EXPECTED WITHIN A WEEK OR SO--IF NOT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. MODICA DOES NOT BELIEVE AMERICAN STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED AS TARGETS IN SUCH VIOLENCE, BUT THEY MIGHT BE AT RISK IN CROSSFIRE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT ON THE CAMPUSES. HE REPEATED HIS OBSERVATION THAT THE GROUP NOW TAKING POWER, WHILE VICIOUS AND INHUMAN, WOULD NOT WANT TO GIVE THE U.S. AN EXCUSE TO INTERVENE ACTIVELY BY DIRECTLY THREATENING AMERICAN STUDENTS. (FYI, AS THIS BEING DRAFTED, FIRST REPORT OF POSSIBLE CUBAN ATTEMPTS TO GENERATE SPECTER OF U.S. INTERVENTION WAS RECEIVED BY PARS.) HE WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT A MOVE TO EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHICH DID NOT GET ALL OF THEM OFF THE ISLAND WOULD, HOWEVER, TRIGGER VINDICTIVE BEHAVIOR BY GRENADIANS, ESPECIALLY IF EVACUATION ITSELF RESULTED IN BLOODSHED.

6. AMBASSADOR STRESSED TO MODICA THAT USG WAS REVIEWING ALL OF ITS OPTIONS AND HAD MADE NO DECISION ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN, BUT WANTED TO BE SURE HOW UNIVERSITY ADMINIS-

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TRATION OFF THE ISLAND SAW THE SITUATION. MODICA ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD HAVE HIS ADMINISTRATORS ON GRENADA TRY TO TALK TO REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL ABOUT MOVING OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS ON TO UNIVERSITY SITES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT THIS MOVE MIGHT BE PREMATURE AND SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR THE TIME BEING.

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7. COMMENT: MODICA'S CAUTION PROBABLY REFLECTS  
UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION AT THIS STAGE, AND HIS  
RECOGNITION OF DILEMMA CAUSED BY INABILITY TO ENSURE  
SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OFF-CAMPUS.  
8. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO VOA AND THEY ARE ANNOUNCING THE  
CURFEW IN BROADCASTS. BISH UNQUOTE SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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