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# Commonwealth Information

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31 October 1983

STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
MR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL ON DEVELOPMENTS IN GRENADA

20 October 1983

"I share the deep sense of horror which is wide-spread throughout the Commonwealth at the tragic loss of life in Grenada, including that of the Prime Minister and Ministers of the Government. I feel sure that Commonwealth Caribbean Governments in particular will wish to use every influence through co-ordinated responses to ensure that the will and the interests of the people of Grenada are respected and the integrity to the island state preserved".

25 October 1983

"I have heard the news of the latest developments in Grenada with great sadness. I have already condemned unreservedly the killing of Prime Minister Bishop and some of his colleagues. Now the tragedy is deepening. Today's external intervention will occasion further disquiet within the Commonwealth.

If there is a lesson in these events, it must surely be in the chain of tragedy that begins with the overthrow of constitutional government, and the deep passions and anxieties that are aroused when the contests of super-powers are brought within regions of small developing countries.

But nothing must obscure the urgent need to provide the people of Grenada with the earliest possible opportunity to determine their own future free of pressures or constraints of any kind. There may be a role for the Commonwealth to play in contributing to the restoration of constitutional government in Grenada. I am sure that the Commonwealth which has followed events in Grenada with deep anxiety will stand ready to respond in all appropriate ways".

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27 October 1983 - at a meeting of the Commonwealth Southern Africa Committee in Marlborough House.

"I have tabled the statements which I made on learning of the intervention of substantial American forces in Grenada, as well as the earlier one on the death of Prime Minister Bishop and others.

The disquiet within the Commonwealth which I envisaged in Tuesday's statement has indeed grown; as has international concern. I expect that demands for the prompt withdrawal of all external forces from Grenada will grow steadily over the days ahead. Given the political desolation in Grenada in recent weeks, I believe we can also expect a widely shared hope that the Commonwealth might, responsive to the wishes of Grenada, help to ensure the withdrawal of the intervention forces and to assist a renewal by the people of Grenada of a genuine process of self-determination. Such a contribution may take many forms, but the most immediate could be an interim security force. It will not be free of difficulty; but much will be expected of us, and I feel sure Commonwealth leaders would not wish me to rule out the possibility of an appropriate Commonwealth response.

In my earlier statement of 20 October on the death of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, I urged as matters of primary importance respect for the will and interests of the people of Grenada and the preservation of the integrity of the island state. I hope you agree that these are appropriate guidelines for the Commonwealth at the present time.

I would naturally welcome any views you may wish to share with me privately and I will continue to consult with you in the light of developments including, possibly, through a meeting of Commonwealth representatives here".

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