

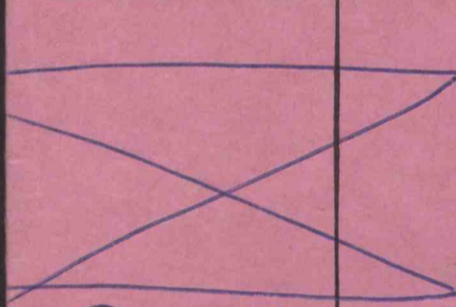
SECRET

403

10 DOWNING STREET

THIS FILE MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING ST

FILE TITLE: <i>Relations</i>		SERIES
<i>Redeployment of Belize Guardship</i>		<i>ST LUCIA</i>
		PART: <i>1</i>
PART BEGINS: <i>June 1979</i>	PART ENDS: <i>October 1990</i>	CAB ONE:



Part Closed

PREM 19/3187

SECRET

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
JIC(79)(IA) 35	29/06/1979

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed J. Gray

Date 16/8/2016

PREM Records Team

PART

CLOSED

see 'Eastern Caribbean States'

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T239/90



JD
CC FC

Subject re reester
ops

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 October 1990

Dear Prime Minister,

I am so sorry that I will not be able to see you on your forthcoming visit to London. I should very much have liked to do so but I am afraid that there are a mass of other engagements in early November to which I am already committed.

I understand, however, that you will be seeing Douglas Hurd, among other Ministers, and I am sure that you will have a useful discussion with him.

I hope that your short visit to Britain is both rewarding and enjoyable.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Halden

The Rt. Hon. John G. M. Compton, M.P.

eu



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1990

Seen by CDR

Dear Charles,

St Lucia: Visit by Prime Minister John Compton

Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia is visiting the UK from 5-9 November on a sponsored visit. The Foreign Secretary appreciates that the Prime Minister's diary is very full during that period. He is not, therefore, asking her to find time to see Mr Compton on this occasion. However, Mr Compton is a senior Commonwealth Prime Minister with influence in the Caribbean region, who is well disposed to Britain. He is a member of the Privy Council and a godfather to Prince William. Two of his Windward Islands Prime Ministerial colleagues (Mrs Charles of Dominica and Mr Mitchell of St Vincent) called on the Prime Minister during their recent guest of Government visits. In the circumstances, the Foreign Secretary wonders whether the Prime Minister might wish to write a brief letter to Mr Compton, expressing her regret at not being able to see him at this exceptionally busy time. I enclose a draft.

*Yours ever,
S L Gass*

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Prime Minister & Minister
for Finance, David Home Affairs,
St Lucia

Draft Letter from the Prime Minister

To: The Rt Hon John Compton MP PC
Prime Minister
St Lucia

c:\wpdocs\Foreign\Compton
(MEM)

I am so sorry that I will not be able to see you on your forthcoming visit to London. I should very much have liked to do so but I am afraid that there are a mass of other engagements in early November to which I am already committed.

I understand, however, that you will be seeing Douglas Hurd, among other Ministers, and I am sure that you will have a useful discussion with him.

I hope that your short visit to Britain is both rewarding and enjoyable.

oh

PRIME MINISTER

CALL BY THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

You are receiving a courtesy call from the new High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean tomorrow afternoon. He will hand over his letter of appointment. The meeting need only be brief. Do not be surprised: Mr Gunn is white!

The states which he represents ^{are} St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Short notes are attached on each of them, together with a CV for Mr Gunn. You will of course be seeing the various Prime Ministers at CHOGM.

CDP

Charles Powell

14 September 1987



INITIAL CALLS AT THE FCO BY THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES, MR RICHARD GUNN

UK/ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS RELATIONS

1. Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds. Relations very good. Her Majesty The Queen visited in October 1985 during her tour of the Eastern Caribbean.
2. In 1986 UK exports to St Kitts and Nevis were £7.14 million; UK imports £4.49 million.
3. At independence on 19 September 1983 St Kitts and Nevis were awarded a £5 million grant and a £5 million interest-free loan.
4. Our High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean States, Mr Kevin Burns CMG, resides in Bridgetown, Barbados. His responsibilities include also St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. There is no High Commission Resident Representative in St Kitts and Nevis.

UK/ST LUCIA RELATIONS

1. Relations close and friendly. Her Majesty The Queen visited in October 1985. Prime Minister Compton visited London privately in March 1985 when he called on the Prime Minister and other Ministers. Mr Eggar will visit St Lucia on 16-18 September.
2. Bilateral trade has grown in recent years. British exports rose from £6.4 million in 1981 to £12.5 million in 1986. Imports from St Lucia grew in the same period from £13.5 million to nearly £60 million, mainly bananas.



3. At independence on 22 February 1979, Britain provided a £5 million grant, later increased by £750,000 and a £5 million interest-free loan.

4. Our High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean States, Mr Kevin Burns CMG, resides in Bridgetown, Barbados. There is a High Commission Resident Representative, Mr Clive Woodland, in Castries.

UK/ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES RELATIONS

1. Relations generally good. Her Majesty The Queen visited in October 1985. Prime Minister Mitchell paid a private visit to London in March 1987 when he called on Lady Young. Mr Eggar will visit St Vincent on 11-12 September.

2. British exports in 1986 totalled £8.29 million while UK imports, mainly of bananas, amounted to £21.16 million.

3. At independence on 27 October 1979, Britain allocated a £5.5 million grant and a £5 million interest-free loan.

4. Our High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean States, Mr Kevin Burns CMG, resides in Bridgetown, Barbados. There is a High Commission Resident Representative, Mr Michael Hone MBE, in Kingstown.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
7 September 1987



CALLS AT THE FCO BY MR RICHARD GUNN, THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS, ST LUCIA AND ST VINCENT)

BIOGRAPHY

- 1936 Born St Vincent. Educated St Vincent Grammar School.
1955-58 Southern College of Art, Portsmouth.
1958-59 Professional practice with Lewisham Borough Council Architects Office.
1959-60 Business Administration Course, Regent Street Polytechnic, London.
1960-74 Manager, then Marketing Director, of John H Hazell Ltd (import/export agency), St Vincent.
1962-63 President, St Vincent Jaycees (similar to Lions/Rotary).
1965-66 Vice President, West Indies Jaycees (similar to Lions/Rotary).
1966-67 Vice President, St Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
1984-86 President, St Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
1974-87 Managing Director, Property Investments Ltd, St Vincent.
1985-87 Director, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce.

Mr Gunn is 51, tall, white, sandy-haired and bespectacled. A quiet, intelligent man with a confident and easy manner. Not politically active but close to Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines. His contract in London is for two years. Like his predecessor, the late Mr Claudius Thomas, Mr Gunn is High Commissioner for each of the three countries individually, but will be known as High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean States.

Married, Flora, with one son and two daughters (the eldest married to an Englishman, the youngest studying at a secretarial college in Hampstead).

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

7 September 1987



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 September 1987

His Excellency Mr Richard Gunn
High Commission for Eastern
Caribbean States
10 Kensington Court
LONDON
W8 5DL

CDF
7/9

My dear High Commissioner,

I am writing, in confirmation of what I told you this morning, to say that the Prime Minister looks forward to your calling on her at 10 Downing Street at 3.00 pm on Tuesday 15 September in order to present to her the letter of introduction from the Prime Minister of St Lucia, the Rt Hon John Compton. As you explained, that letter is written with the concurrence of the Prime Ministers of the two other independent countries you represent: St Vincent and the Grenadines (the Rt Hon James Mitchell) and St Christopher-Nevis (the Rt Hon Dr Kennedy Simmonds).

Yours sincerely
Stanley Martin

S W F Martin
Assistant Marshal of the
Diplomatic Corps

Bcc: ✓ Miss Tessa Gaisman (10 Downing St)
Miss Phillips (Private Office)
Mr Shave (WIAD) - could updated
briefing please reach No 10 by
the evening of Monday 14 Sept



10 DOWNING STREET

Note to remain at top of file

Before any meeting with
visitors from this Caribbean
Island BF FCO to WR 25 November
1981 - filed on Guyana
January 1980: call by
President Burnham of Guyana -
to WR.

26 November 1981



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 May 1987

CC PC

Joan Charles

CDP
7/5

St Lucia General Elections

In my letter of 10 April I advised you that Prime Minister Compton of St Lucia considered that the one-seat majority his United Workers Party (UWP) had won at the general election on 6 April was unacceptable and would call for fresh elections. The agreed message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Prime Minister Compton was therefore suspended.

Fresh elections were held on 30 April. The UWP again won by exactly the same 9-8 margin over the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) in the 17-seat House of Assembly. No seats changed hands: although initial results gave the UWP a 10-7 victory, a recount in one constituency resulted in a majority of three votes for the UWP candidate being turned into a majority of six votes for his SLP opponent.

Joan Com

Robert (R.N.) Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 April 1987

LCPC
COO 10/4

Joan Charles

St Lucia General Elections

Following my letter of 9 April, it now seems that Prime Minister Compton of St Lucia considers his one seat majority in the 17 seat House of Assembly to leave him in an untenable situation. He is therefore going to call another election to be held on Tuesday 28 April. In the circumstances, the message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Prime Minister Compton returned under cover of your letter of 10 April has been suspended. We shall offer fresh advice after the next elections.

Gausman

R N Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 April 1987

ST. LUCIA GENERAL ELECTION

BF

Thank you for your letter of 9 April proposing a message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of St. Lucia. The draft enclosed with your letter may issue.

Charles Powell

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

R



010 ~~CEPC~~
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April 1987

Prime Minister
Agree to this
message

Dear Charles

St Lucia General Election

Subject to formal confirmation, the United Workers Party has been returned to office in St Lucia with nine of the 17 seats in the House of Assembly in a general election held on 6 April. It is normal Commonwealth practice for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations. I accordingly enclose a draft message cast in the form of a telegram to the High Commission Representative in Castries for onward transmission to Mr John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia.

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Yours ever
Robert Culshaw
(R Culshaw)
Private Secretary

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification RESTRICTED	Caveat	Precedence IMMEDIATE
--	-------------------------------------	--------	--------------------------------

ZCZC
TC
CAVEAT
FM
TO
TELNO
OF
AND TO

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

ZCZC
RESTRICTED
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE CASTRIES
TELNO
OF 091735Z APRIL 87
AND TO SAVING IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN

Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Mr Compton when election results have been confirmed.
BEGINS

I should like to offer you my warmest congratulations on your recent election victory and re-appointment as Prime Minister of St Lucia. I look forward to continuing the close and friendly relations that exist between our Governments, and send you my best wishes for your next term of office.

ENDS
HOWE

YYYY
MAIN
LIMITED
WIAD



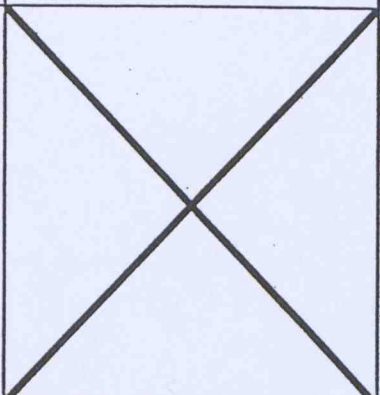
YYYY
MAIN
ADDITIONAL
NNNN

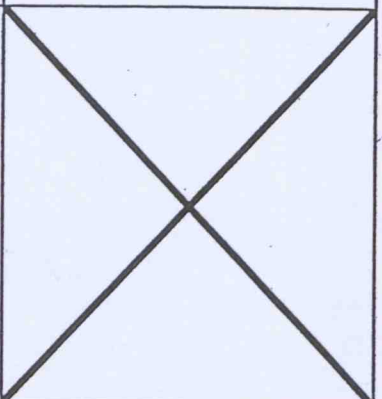
		Catchword: CCD	
File number	Dept	Drafted by (Block capitals)	Telephone no
Authorised for despatch by: Initials Date/time			
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	RESTRICTED		IMMEDIATE
<<<< / <<<< 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 /// 31 // 32 / 33 34	<<<< CCD News Dept Mr Fearn Mr Gillmore PS APS/Lady Young NNNN		
For distribution order see Page		Catchword:	

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3187</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Cradock to Powell dated 17 May 1985</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	<i>16/8/2016</i> <i>S. Gray</i>
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>POEM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3187</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Powell to Craddock dated 1 May 1985</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	<i>16/8/2016</i> <i>B. Gray</i>
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

CONFIDENTIAL



✓
CODA
Maff
DPI
fio

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 April 1985

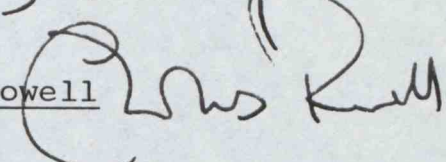
Dear Richard,

St. Lucia

Thank you for your letter of 3 April giving a full account of what has been done to meet the St. Lucian request for an air service into Heathrow.

The Prime Minister was grateful to be informed of this and agrees that our offer is a reasonable one.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely

Charles Powell

Richard Allan Esq
Department of Transport

CONFIDENTIAL

✓

cc pd
①



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

C D Powell Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister

The full story - and particularly

the paragraph ³ April 1985 at the top of page 2 -

shows that we are giving the

St. Lucians most of what they

want. Agree not to pursue
Yes no further? CDP 3/4

Dear Charles,

ST LUCIA

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter dated 25 March addressed to Peter Ricketts (FCO) about the exchanges between the Prime Minister and Mr Compton.

The St Lucian aviation story has a complicated background involving our aviation arrangements with the East Caribbean countries generally. But essentially, the problem is that St Lucia (like Antigua) would like its own national airline, cannot afford it, and would like instead to be able to designate as its own national airline BWIA, the national carrier of Trinidad.

This would be unusual. But in order to be as helpful as possible to the St Lucians we are, exceptionally, prepared to agree to such an arrangement. We met the St Lucians in March 1984 and agreed with them a text of an air services agreement which would have given them this option. What we could not do was to make a second exception and allow what would be the St Lucian airline access to Heathrow. As you may know our Gatwick policy, which has been rigidly adhered to for the past eight years, does not allow new airlines to begin international passenger services to Heathrow. Though BWIA operates its Trinidad-London services into Heathrow and has done for many years, BWIA as a St Lucian carrier could not operate into Heathrow without breaching that policy. Having refused to breach the Gatwick policy for a number of other countries, for instance New Zealand, Zimbabwe, the USA and China, we could not make an exception for St Lucia.

In order to try to overcome this difficulty we have told the Trinidadians and the St Lucians that we would permit BWIA as the Trinidadian carrier to operate Trinidad-St Lucia-London and carry St Lucia-London traffic. This would enable BWIA to operate between St Lucia and London and continue to use Heathrow Airport. The matter rests there; the St Lucians have not pursued with us the question of formalising the Air Services Agreement upon which we have an agreed text, nor have the Trinidadians pursued our offer in respect of the fifth freedom rights.

In brief, far from treating St Lucia unnecessarily harshly, we have gone out of our way to be constructive. We suspect the main problem rests with Trinidadian reluctance to involve their East Caribbean partners in the negotiations and to keep them in touch with developments.

You may be interested to know that since Mr Compton's meeting with the Prime Minister, the High Commission in London have been in touch with us asking for details of what was offered to St Lucia and Trinidad last year. Having been given this information the High Commission have told us that had these details been made fully available to Mr Compton before he spoke to the Prime Minister he might not have raised the matter at all.

I am copying this letter to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry), Ivor Llewelyn (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), and Michael McCulloch (Overseas Development Administration).

Yours,

Richard.

R A ALLAN
Private Secretary

ST LUCIA. Internal Situation:
June 1979.

Subject

24 JR
bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

25 March 1985

From the Private Secretary

CC MASTER

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST. LUCIA

The Prime Minister received the Prime Minister of St. Lucia this morning. Mr. Compton was accompanied by Dr. Claudius Thomas, High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean States.

Caribbean Affairs

The Prime Minister said that she had been very shocked to hear of Tom Adams' death. She did not know his successor. Mr. Compton said that the funeral had been an impressive display of Caribbean solidarity. The new Prime Minister, Mr. St. John, was well known in the Caribbean.

The Prime Minister said that Grenada seemed to have settled down. Mr. Compton agreed that all was now well.

The Prime Minister asked about the prospects for the election in Dominica. Mr. Compton said that Miss Charles had taken a high profile over the Grenada affair and this might cost her some support. The Left were a motley crowd, united only in their opposition to Miss Charles. But they were receiving substantial funds from Cuba and Libya. In his view Miss Charles would lose some seats but still win. The fact that she was running scared was probably a good thing because it meant she had to put in more effort. He had urged the United States to help Miss Charles' campaign. The Prime Minister said that it was important from the point of view of wider Caribbean interests that Miss Charles should win.

Mr. Compton said that, more generally, he was worried about Libyan activity in the Caribbean. They were making subventions to both politicians and newspapers in the Islands. They were also active through West Indians resident in the United Kingdom, where they financed two magazines (West Indian Digest and Caribbean Times, I think). There had been some decline in Libyan activity after the events in Grenada but it was now picking up once more. The Cubans, however, seemed quiescent. Although the United States constantly warned of

CST

resurgence of Cuban subversive activity, he had been unable to detect any sign of it.

St. Lucia

Mr. Compton said that St. Lucia was gradually coming out of the doldrums after the disastrous period between 1979 and 1982. There were three problems which he wished to mention: bananas, aid and air services.

As regards bananas, production in St. Lucia and throughout the Windward Islands was high, and he had been grateful for the aid which had been received from the United Kingdom to restore it. But the fall in the price of sterling caused difficulties and meant that the price paid to farmers was low, even though United Kingdom prices were relatively high. He recalled that Miss Charles had suggested the creation of a "banana pound". The Prime Minister said that this was just not on. Mr. Compton acknowledged this but mentioned a further problem, the import of dollar area bananas into the United Kingdom through the Irish Republic. He would be pursuing this with Lady Young and officials.

The main problem on aid was the depreciation in the value of St. Lucia's independence settlement. The £5 million grant received from the United Kingdom had been worth 53m East Caribbean dollars when it was made, but now it was worth only between 28 and 30m. The Prime Minister asked whether the aid was tied to the purchase of goods and services in the United Kingdom. If so, the depreciation was of no great significance. Mr. Compton said that in practice the local content in most projects was high. He hoped that the aid could be adjusted in real terms to bring it back to 1979 levels. The Prime Minister said she saw no prospect of this.

On air services, Mr. Compton recalled that St. Lucia had asked for BWIA to operate as a St. Lucian airline and for a new service to operate into Heathrow. The response had been that, as a new service, this would have to fly into Gatwick. He found this cynical. BWIA could not afford to open new offices in Gatwick; and, anyway, it already operated into Heathrow and all that was involved was an additional service taking in St. Lucia. He really found the United Kingdom position very unhelpful and was particularly concerned at the amount of time that had been wasted without any real discussion. The Prime Minister said that she would look into the matter.

The Prime Minister feels that Mr. Compton has a point on air services, at least on the basis of the facts as he described them and of the briefing with which she was provided. She thinks that we may be treating St. Lucia unnecessarily harshly, particularly since we are unlikely to be able to provide them with any further significant aid. She therefore wishes urgent consideration to be given to whether we could not meet their request for the service to operate into Heathrow. I should be grateful for an early report.

BC //

I am copying this letter to Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry), Richard Allan (Department of Transport), Ivor Llewelyn (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), and Michael McCulloch (Overseas Development Administration).

(C. D. POWELL)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 March, 1985

Prime Minister

CDP
22/3

Dear Charles,

Call by the Rt Hon John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia,
25 March

I enclose three sets of briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Compton at 11.30 am on Monday, 25 March.

Mr Compton will be in London for one day of official talks. His visit forms part of a European tour including France (where he will be received by the Prime Minister), West Germany and Belgium. The main purpose of his tour is to promote trade and investment and discuss aid.

Mr Compton visited London briefly on 20 March for an audience with The Queen. Her Majesty will be visiting St Lucia as part of her Caribbean tour after CHOGM later this year.

We have not been able to elicit any specific subjects that Mr Compton intends to raise. But the briefing, takes account of some critical comments Mr Compton made in an address to a West India Committee trade seminar in St Lucia. These points should be seen in their correct perspective: overall, our relations with St Lucia, as with all the Eastern Caribbean states, are warm and friendly.

The Heads of Government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have sent a message to the FCO about the arrest, on drugs trafficking charges, of the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We are considering the terms of a reply. Mr Compton may mention the message in his call on the Prime Minister: we have therefore attached a separate note.

Following his talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Compton will have talks and lunch with Lady Young.

Mr Compton will be accompanied by Dr Claudius Thomas, High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean States.

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts



u PC
Blup

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE RT HON JOHN COMPTON,
PRIME MINISTER OF ST LUCIA, 25 MARCH 1985

The following is an additional UK objective:

OUR OBJECTIVES

(c) To pre-empt complaints that we are not doing enough
to assist Windward Islands banana industry.

ARGUMENTS

(c) Over-riding policy of HMG is to sweep away barriers
to free trade: protected UK market for Windwards
bananas which we negotiated in Lomé is quite
exceptional and true measure of our commitment
to economic wellbeing of Caribbean.



INDEX TO BACKGROUND PAPERS

- A Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System
- B Bananas
- C Aid
- D Air Services Agreement
- E Overseas Students
- F Personality Notes
- G Turks and Caicos Islands



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE RT HON JOHN COMPTON,
PRIME MINISTER OF ST LUCIA, 25 MARCH 1985

Our Objectives

To persuade Mr Compton:

- (a) to encourage further moves towards closer co-operation in the eastern Caribbean region;
- (b) to maintain St Lucia's abstention on the Falklands at the UN.

Arguments

- (a) concerned about future security of small Commonwealth states in the Caribbean: closer mutual co-operation and regional defence arrangements vital: development of Regional Security System encouraging: will continue to assist in co-operation with US and Canada;
- (b) the arguments will be well known to the Prime Minister.

Tactical Arguments

Attention can be drawn to discussion at the 1983 CHOGM and the subsequent study of the Security of Small States.

/The



The Commonwealth Secretariat is to report back at CHOGM 1985.

In response to criticism of level of aid support and decline in local banana revenues due to the fall in the value of sterling against US dollar, attention can be drawn to our support for, and commitment to, the protected UK market given to Caribbean banana producers.

His Objectives:

- (a) to arrest the falling return to St Lucian farmers for their banana exports;
- (b) improvement in the disbursement of British aid;
- (c) conclusion of the Air Services Agreement already initialled;
- (d) promotion of investment in St Lucia;
- (e) an increase in the number of scholarships available in the United Kingdom for overseas students.

/Your



Your Response:

- (a) we cannot use the aid programme to artificially support the price paid for bananas; problem is strength of the dollar: now is time to buy from Britain. We maintain commitment to preferential and duty free access for Windward bananas, but quality is important;
- (b) we have maintained a substantial programme. Too early to consider formal new commitment but would expect to continue capital aid programme after independence settlement fully disbursed;
- (c) we await St Lucian response on outstanding issues, but can be no question of new services operating into Heathrow instead of Gatwick;
- (d) share his view and are doing all we can to promote trade, particularly given the attraction of our goods because of the \$ exchange rate;
- (e) Commonwealth countries benefit substantially from a number of schemes. £350,000 has been specifically allocated to the Commonwealth

/Caribbean



Caribbean for 1983/86. In 1984/85 £64,000
from ODA technical training programme is
expected to support 15 students from St Lucia.



Background

1. Prime Minister last met Mr Compton at the CHOGM in New Delhi in November 1983.

2. The independent islands of the Eastern Caribbean, excluding Grenada, established a Regional Security System (RSS) in January 1983. Grenada is expected to join shortly. Britain, the United States and Canada are assisting with equipment and training. In October last year we pledged £1.2M in aid for the construction of coastguard shore base facilities on small member islands: consultants report expected in May with construction expected to begin later this year.

3. The Windward Islands have asked for the creation of a banana pound: we cannot agree to this request as it would set a precedent for other commodity transactions. Problem is local currency tied to US\$ hence artificially high value against the £.

4. Present rate of aid disbursement is about £1 million per year, and it is unlikely that St Lucia could absorb more.



5. British exports have been falling over the past few years. West India Committee (WIC) and other bodies are active in promoting trade. Mr Compton addressed a trade seminar in St Lucia earlier this month sponsored by the WIC. St Lucia earns sterling through banana exports to protected UK market: now is a good time to import more from UK.



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (TCI)

POINTS TO MAKE

1. We expect Mr Francis, the acting Chief Minister, to return to the Islands today (25 March) with Mr Saunders' resignation.

2. This is right and proper in the wider interests of the territory.

3. I hope a new government will be in place by the end of this week, and that this will allay fears and uncertainties about the future of the economy.

4. We cannot interfere in the bail situation. There are recognised procedures for extradition. We cannot give executive assurances which might compromise judicial processes.

5. Mr Saunders' treatment and publicity at the time of his arrest typically American. Not our way of doing things. But if Mr Saunders' wishes to be treated as a Chief Minister he should behave like one.



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM (RSS)

BACKGROUND

1. Established in January 1983 with headquarters in Barbados. Members are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent and St Christopher and Nevis. The new government of Grenada is expected to join soon. Each member contributes, with Barbados providing the bulk of the funds. The RSS Headquarters is in Barbados.
2. Members of the RSS have undertaken to prepare contingency plans and to assist each other on request in natural disasters, prevention of smuggling, maritime policy, threats to national security, and other circumstances. Coastguard arrangements are central to the operation of the RSS.
3. Special Service Units (SSU) have been formed within the island members' Police forces. Military type training and equipment has been provided by the US. A Central Liaison Office has been set up in Barbados headed by Brigadier Lewis, COS of the Barbados Defence Force, as Regional Security Co-ordinator.



4. Assistance in the creation, training and equipping of SSUs and Coastguards has been sought from other countries, primarily the US and UK. During 1984 plans were drawn up for what was virtually a standing Army. This was rejected by the Council of Ministers, as was a scaled down version seen as a "quick reaction force". Small units of para-military trained policemen are acceptable.

5. The US has sent military training teams to each country to train the SSUs and has provided the units with vehicles, light weapons and uniforms. Further training and the development of facilities, eg firing ranges, will take place. Two Royal Marine teams were deployed in 1983/84 to give co-ordinated training and to arrange exercises.

6. Other assistance programmes in train which benefit the RSS include gifts (UK) of radio equipment to police forces; a radio network (US) for communication between RSS Prime Ministers; patrol boats (US) for coastguards in each country; and the provision (UK) of coastguard bases from which they can operate.

7. Agreement between the UK and the US for greater co-ordination and collaboration over military assistance

/is



is being applied for the first time in the Caribbean area, especially in support of the RSS. This led to a meeting in December 1984 between representatives of the RSS and officials concerned with military assistance from the UK, US and Canada. A programme of assistance was discussed and agreement reached on a possible way forward. This will be put to The Council of RSS Ministers for consideration.

8. The RSS is investigating transport requirements both for training exercises and for operations, an area recognised as deficient. The establishment of a training base has been considered. Siting in Barbados has been rejected and consideration is being given to the use of a camp in Grenada.

9. Most external assistance to the RSS is provided by the UK and the US. Canada offers some training courses. Agreement to greater collaboration has been established. Regular contact exists between MOD military assistance officers and USCOMFORCARIB at Key West. A UK/US military working group is in being on Barbados to maintain close liaison with the RSS.

10. A Treaty to replace the present Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted by RSS Co-ordinator.

WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT

March 1985



BANANAS

BACKGROUND

1. The Windwards' economic dependence on banana exports to the United Kingdom underlies the Government's long established policy which guarantees preferential and duty free access for their bananas and those from Jamaica. This policy is recognised in Protocol 4 of the Third ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. Imports of bananas from the major alternative sources in the "dollar area" (in practice Latin America) pay the full 20% CCT and are restricted by licensing to an amount corresponding to the balance of United Kingdom market requirement. Over 80% of the dollar licences are granted to the three large companies which import the Caribbean fruit under exclusive arrangements with the countries concerned. The companies are thereby enabled to maintain their operations notwithstanding fluctuations in Caribbean supplies due to periodic hurricane damage. The balance of the dollar licences is granted to small importers. Their percentage share was increased following a Ministerial review in 1984. Under these arrangements dollar bananas in free circulation within the European Community are also subject to import licensing in the UK. The "protective powers" which permit this are currently under review by the Commission, but the principle of renewal is not in doubt.

2. The Windward Islands are represented, by Mr Charles Cadet of the Eastern Caribbean High Commission, on the Banana Trade Advisory Committee, chaired by a MAFF official, which meets monthly to advise on demand prospects and expected imports from the Windwards, Jamaica and other ACP sources. MAFF in turn advises the DTI on the quantity of dollar licence to be allocated to the three importers for the succeeding month.

3. Production in the Windwards was badly affected by hurricanes in 1979-80. Output has now recovered, but there is room for improvement in quality standards if Windwards fruit is to be fully competitive with "dollar" bananas. A programme of action, with targets, was agreed between the United Kingdom and Windward Islands

/Governments



Governments in 1983. A Joint Monitoring Committee meets twice a year to oversee progress. Its most recent meeting, in St Lucia in January, was co-chaired by Mrs Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, MAFF and Mr I D'Auvergne, Minister of Agriculture, St Lucia. The Committee received a generally encouraging report on progress towards the introduction of improved methods of harvesting and the achievement of the target standards.

4. In the course of her visit, Mrs Fenner also met Mr Compton and emphasised the continuing UK commitment to the preferential access arrangements, as recently confirmed in the Third Lomé Convention. Mrs Fenner explained the Government's concern that this guarantee should be balanced by an equal commitment to quality and expressed appreciation of the efforts being made. Mr Compton expressed his gratitude for the protected market arrangements. He also registered his concern about the effect of the strong dollar on returns from the United Kingdom market. Mrs Fenner pointed out that increased imports from the United Kingdom would help to offset this.

Exchange Rates/Banana Pound/Aid

5. Mr Compton has raised the idea on a number of occasions with British Ministers and officials, of Britain supporting a "banana pound". (He has suggested a fixed parity of EC\$ 4.80 to the £ which at current exchange rates would produce as subsidy of £3 million a year for St Lucia (about double the current level of British aid to the island)). The UK banana market is already highly managed to the advantage of the Windward Islands producers. There is already a substantial and continuing aid input. It would be possible to consider further assistance for fertiliser etc purchased from the UK within the total amount of aid already available to St Lucia, but we cannot offer aid in support of St Lucia's over valued currency. Any suggestion of a "banana ECU" would be similarly unattractive: sterling has remained stable against European currencies and the problem remains the strength of the US\$ to which the local \$ is tied.

Tropical Foods Division

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD/ODA

March 1985



AID

BACKGROUND

Level of Aid

1. British capital aid to St Lucia is based on an Independence Settlement agreed in 1979 which provided for £10 million (£5 million grant, followed by £5 million loan) for expenditure on projects to be mutually agreed between the British Government and the St Lucia Government. The grant is fully committed, but much of the loan is yet to be committed to projects. Mr Compton has been reluctant to put forward projects which would utilise what remains of the Independence Settlement. He has some priority projects in mind which are not yet at the stage of approval and he appears to fear that funding for these will not be available once the current loan is fully committed. It is too soon to consider what new aid commitment should follow this loan but it may alleviate some of Mr Compton's concern if he were told that we expect to continue to provide capital aid after the Independence Settlement has been fully spent.

2. Aid disbursements under the settlement have been at an annual rate of £650,000 to £1 million. In addition there is a programme of manpower and training assistance of about £300,000 a year.

Aid Relations

3. Mr Compton has often been critical in public and in private about Britain's aid commitment to St Lucia. Particular concerns are the declining value of the independence aid settlement and frustration with aid procedures designed to ensure sound technical and economic appraisal of project proposals. There are some current proposals which fall into this category, to which Mr Compton might allude. These are:

4. Integrated Water Development Project (Phase II)

£407,000 was approved for 8 water schemes on the basis of assurances from the Prime Minister that the St Lucia Government debt to the

/Central



Central Water Authority would be cleared and realistic tariffs introduced. The project has been suspended because the conditions have not been fulfilled. Revised conditions have been proposed to the St Lucia Government and a response is awaited.

5. Electricity Generators

We are ready in principle to consider provision of new generators worth £3 million but a study to establish need and viability is currently being undertaken by the Caribbean Development Bank and our own appraisal will await the outcome of this. On present prospects the new generators will not be needed until 1987.

6. West Coast Road

Mr Compton has asked for confirmation that funds (£2 million) will be available for co-financing the road (total cost £9 million). A feasibility study is being updated by the Caribbean Development Bank and we are not currently in a position to provide the confirmation requested.

UK Training Awards

7. An allocation of £64,000 was available in 1984/85 to finance training of St Lucia nationals in the UK. This enabled us to make 9 new awards of which 8 were taken up. The allocation for 1985/86 is £65,000 but only 7 new awards can be offered because some of the allocation is required to meet the costs of awards continuing from the previous year.

Police

8. We have agreed that our Grenada Police Adviser, Mr Graves, should provide short term advice on operational problems of the St Lucia Police. The St Lucia Government have requested assistance on a much larger scale which will be considered in the light of Mr Graves' findings.



AID

BACKGROUND

Population: 125,000

GNP Per Capita: US\$ 1,040 (1982)

Economy: Based on agriculture, predominantly bananas, but tourism and light industry also contribute.

Basis for Aid: Independence Settlement 1979. £10M (half grant, followed by half, interest free loan).

Aid Expenditure: £'000s

	Outturn 1983/84		Forecast Expenditure 1984/85
Capital	644	Capital	738
TC	286	TC	325

Major Current Projects

(a) Banana Extension and Training

The cost of continuing support for this programme 1984/85 is about £100,000.

(b) Police Radios

£75,000 (includes training of officers for the use and maintenance of the equipment).

(c) Integrated Water Development Phase I: £103,000

This project covered the implementation of five of the St Lucia Central Water Authority's highest priority water supply development projects. The work done included the installation of pumps, pipelines and a reservoir to make greater use of existing facilities.

(d) Integrated Water Development Phase II: £407,573

Funds have recently been approved under Phase II to finance a further eight high priority schemes designed to reinforce improvement secured under Phase I and to exploit the benefits of low cost quality fed water supplies.

(e) Tree Crops Diversification Programme: £450,000

Long term programme to encourage farmers to grow alternative export fruit on regional banana land.

/Technical



Technical Co-operation

Director of Health Services
OSAS Pathologist (being recruited)
OSAS Engineer (Ministry of Public Works)
Consultant Engineer for Water Authority
Regional TCOs: Computer Adviser
Tree Crops Adviser



UK/ST LUCIA AIR SERVICES

BACKGROUND

1. The 24th ICAO General Assembly in October 1983 adopted a Resolution inspired by Trinidad and Tobago and supported by other developing countries which sought to establish the right of countries unable to support their own airline to nominate an airline owned by another State to operate on their behalf. The UK abstained.
2. St Lucia and Antigua subsequently asked for discussions with the UK about a bilateral Air Services Agreement. In March 1984 the text of an Air Services Agreement with St Lucia was agreed. The St Lucians were left to respond to UK proposals about route schedules for the airlines of both countries and the operating conditions for the St Lucian-nominated airline, BWIA (the Trinidadian flag carrier). The St Lucian Government know that the onus is on them to initiate further talks.
3. The major problem appears to be the St Lucian wish for BWIA to operate as a St Lucian airline and to be identified as such. Under UK airport policy all new airlines serve London at Gatwick: the St Lucians want their new service to serve Heathrow (BWIA currently has access for its Trinidad service at Heathrow). Our policy has been applied evenly without exception for many years: to allow the St Lucians to breach it could cause us considerable problems with a large number of countries including China, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and the USA.



OVERSEAS STUDENTS: ST LUCIA

Essential Facts

1. It is British Government policy to welcome overseas students. It provides targeted rather than indiscriminate support for them.

2. In 1984/85 the total number of overseas students enrolled in all higher education courses is expected to be 46,000 compared with 58,000 in the peak year of 1978/79. In 1983/84 there were around 44,800 overseas students engaged in higher education at British institutions, (this figure includes 5,200 European Community students paying the home rate of fee): some 31,400 were at British universities (15,100 undergraduates and 16,300 postgraduates). The general trend seems to be that, while enrolments in the public sector may be still declining, university enrolments are holding their own or even increasing slowly. The overall proportion of students in full time higher education who are from abroad is currently around 8%. The Government accepts that the composition of the overseas students body and its policies of targeted support need to be kept under review and is acting accordingly.

3. In 1983, the Government announced an increase in support for overseas students by £46 million over the following three years. This provides another 5,000 new awards each year. In 1984/85, schemes funded by the British Government supported some 16,440 overseas students from a budget of just over £71 million.

4. Students wishing to study outside their own country are concerned with the total cost involved, ie living and travel costs as well as fees. According to the latest available information, the total costs involved in studying for an undergraduate degree in Britain are now 40% less than for a comparable course in the USA. At postgraduate level also, Britain has the advantage. With most courses lasting only 3 years, a British degree offers good

/value



value for money. The teacher/student ratio is high and the prestige attached to British internationally recognised qualifications is second to none.

5. St Lucia benefits from a variety of HMG supported schemes which have been expanded as a result of the additional £46 million.

6. Under the FCO's Scholarships and Awards Scheme, students from St Lucia are eligible for awards out of Barbados' allocation, which was £40,000 in 1984/85. The allocation for 1985/86 remains the same. Under the Scholarships and Awards Scheme, £350,000 has been specifically allocated to the Commonwealth Caribbean for the period 1983/86.

7. Under the ODA's Technical Co-operation Training Programme an allocation of £64,000 is expected to support 15 students in 1984/85.

8. In 1984/85 1 student from St Lucia received an award under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan to study in the UK at an estimated cost of £7,142.

9. Tate & Lyle, in collaboration with the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the FCO's Scholarships and Awards Scheme, are sponsoring scholarships at Cambridge University for undergraduate or post-graduate students from certain Commonwealth countries. The scholarships are offered in St Lucia.

10. More than half the additional £46 million funding mentioned above is being spent on Commonwealth students.

11. In 1983/84, a total of £42.5 million was allocated to scholarships for nearly 10,000 Commonwealth students under ODA and British Council auspices as well as under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Scholarships and Awards Scheme and country student support schemes, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and the Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme. In 1984/85 these programmes are continuing and some have increased.



COMPTON, HON JOHN GEORGE MELVIN MP

Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Foreign Affairs, Development, Home Affairs and Information since May 1982. Elected member (UWP) for Micoud South. Political leader of United Workers Party (UWP).

Barrister-at-Law and a farmer.

Born 1926 in Canouan (St Vincent Grenadines).

Educated: St Vincent, St Lucia and at the University of Wales and the London School of Economics.

Studied law in UK before returning to St Lucia in 1951 when he took an active interest in politics. In 1954 was elected to Legislative Council as Independent Labour candidate. Later joined the St Lucia Labour Party of which he eventually became Deputy Political Leader. Minister 1958-61. He formed in 1961 the National Labour Movement which subsequently merged with other political groupings to form the UWP of which he became Political Leader. Became Chief Minister following the 1964 general elections. Returned to power in 1970 and again in 1974. Premier 1967-79. In 1979 led St Lucia to Independence. Became Leader of the Opposition later that year when St Lucia Labour Party won the general election.

In 1982, following general elections, became Prime Minister when UWP won a 14-3 majority in House of Assembly.

Intelligent, energetic and intellectual. Rather reserved on first acquaintance but quickly thaws. Generally well disposed to the UK he can also be critical. A respected Caribbean-minded personality.

A keen sailor and part owner with his cousin, James Mitchell (Prime Minister - St Vincent and The Grenadines) of a sailing yacht.

Married with 5 children.



DR CLAUDIUS THOMAS CMG, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Dr Thomas was born in St Lucia in 1926. He is unmarried.

He was educated as a lawyer, gaining his first degree from London University in 1956. He was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) one year later. In 1960 he gained a Doctor of Laws Degree from Strasbourg University, where he undertook research in French Administrative Law, French Colonial Law and International Law.

All his working experience has been in Europe. From 1961 to 1962 he served in London in the West Indies Commission, which was dissolved in 1962 following the failure of the West Indies Federation. He then joined the EC in Brussels as a legal translator and while there he was also briefly attached to the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. In 1963 he went to the Free University of West Berlin, where he rose to become Associate Professor of International and Comparative Law in 1972. Since 1975 he has held the office of Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean, representing the West Indies Associated States and, as an historical anomaly, Montserrat in London. When St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines became independent in 1979, Antigua and Barbuda in 1981 and St Kitts and Nevis in 1983, he was appointed the first High Commissioner in London for those four countries (Antigua recently appointed its own High Commissioner in London). Where he represents more than one of these States at a time he will describe himself as High Commissioner for Eastern Caribbean States. Dr Thomas is accredited also to the EC and other international organisations, and is non-resident Ambassador to a number of European countries.

Dr Thomas is a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London) and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. He has published a number of works on legal matters and on West Indian affairs. He speaks French and German fluently.

He was awarded the CMG in the 1979 Birthday Honours.



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (TCI)

BACKGROUND

1. On the instructions of the Heads of Government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Director-General has sent a message to the FCO about the arrest, in Miami, on drugs trafficking charges, of the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Mr Norman Saunders, and two other members of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Stafford Missick and Mr "Smokey" Smith.

2. The message is contained in Bridgetown telno 99 (attached). We are considering, with our Legal Advisers, the terms of a suitable reply.

3. It is unlikely that Mr Compton and his colleagues are aware of the extent of the evidence against Mr Saunders but have been outraged at television pictures of the accused being paraded, in handcuffs, in front of the US media

4. Full members of the OECS are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Montserrat. The last named remains a British dependent territory.

GRS 380
UNCLASSIFIED
FM BRIDGETOWN 192010Z MAR 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCC
TELEGRAM NO 99 OF 19 MAR
AND IMMEDIATE GRAND TURK
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON
SAVING CASTRIES , BDDC (BOTH PASSED LOCALLY)

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS: ARREST OF CHIEF MINISTER

1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF OECS.

BEGINS

WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE OECS
TO REQUEST THAT YOU TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING TO THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE:-

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN
STATES (OECS) MET IN BARBADOS ON 16 MARCH 1985 AND CONSIDERED
A COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE ACTING CHIEF MINISTER OF THE
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS PERTAINING TO THE ARREST IN THE
UNITED STATES OF CHIEF MINISTER NORMAN SAUNDERS, AND THE
PRINCIPAL ELECTED MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS,
AND TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

WHILE THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NO INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING
TO INTERFERE IN A MATTER WHICH FALLS ESSENTIALLY WITHIN THE
COMPETENCE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND WHILE THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY IN NO WAY CONDONE OR WOULD WISH
TO BE SEEN AS CONDONING TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS, THEY HOWEVER FEEL
COMPELLED TO EXPRESS THEIR STRONG CONCERN OVER CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF THE
CHIEF MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES. THIS CONCERN SHOULD NOT
BE CONSTRUED AS A DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANTIVE
ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER.

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE RESPECTFULLY WISH TO REQUEST
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE AS MAYX BE
MADE AVAILABLE ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO SECURING BAIL, AND
THAT SUCH BAIL IS NOT EXCESSIVE, BE EXTENDED TO THE CHIEF
MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR STRONG CONCERN
AT THE EXTENT OF PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THIS MATTER PARTICULARLY
SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE TURKS

/ AND

AND CAICOS WAS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SUCH PUBLICITY. THE GOVERNMENTS WOULD STRONGLY WISH THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING ADVERSE EMANATES FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES IN THE TURKS AND CAICOS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PREJUDICING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF AN ACCUSED TO A FAIR TRIAL

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FURTHER WISH TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THIS MATTER SHOULD BE SUCH THAT NO ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES MIGHT BE CAUSED TO THE TERRITORIES WITHIN THE OECS WHICH ARE IN A SIMILAR CONSTITUTIONAL SITUATION TO THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, BEARING IN MIND PARTICULARLY THE EASE WITH WHICH SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES CAN AFFECT THE ECONOMIES OF SMALL COUNTRIES." ENDS

BULLARD

(COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.)

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS - DRUGS
LIMITED

WIAD	PS
DEFENCE D	PS/LADY YOUNG
NEWS D	PS/MR RENTON
ERD	PS/MR RAISON
NAD	PS/PUS
UND	SIR W HARDING
CCD	CHIEF CLERK
PUSD	MR DAVID THOMAS
RESEARCH D	MR VEREKER (ODA)
PLANNING STAFF	BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PARLY UNIT	
OPA	
MCAD	
CONSULAR D	

COPIES TO:
ASSESSMENTS STAFF, CABINET OFF.
MR ANNING ODA
MOD D14
MOD D/ROW
MOD SEC (O/C)
MR BICKFORD, LEGAL ADVISERS.

RESTRICTED

file



ce: p.c.

089

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1985

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST. LUCIA

Thank you for your letter of 13 February about the visit of the Prime Minister of St. Lucia.

BF // The Prime Minister agrees to see Mr. Compton from 1115-1145 hours on Monday 25 March.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

11.15-11.45 a 25 Nov

RESTRICTED

CP
①



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 February 1985

If you are to cut back on foreign visitors, he would be one with whom to start. You will see him at CHOGM anyway: and Lady Young

Dear Charles, is giving him lunch

Had a P.M. I have to see him

Agree not to see him!

CJP
13/2.

Visit by the Rt Hon John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia

The High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean States has told us that the Rt Hon John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia, will be visiting London on 25 March during a visit to Europe and would like to call on the Prime Minister.

Although this request has been made at short notice, we recommend that the Prime Minister should agree to see Mr Compton, if her other commitments permit. Mr Compton is very active in Eastern Caribbean regional institutions and his views on regional issues are respected. Together with the Prime Ministers of Barbados and St Vincent he was instrumental in obtaining agreement amongst the moderate parties in Grenada to fight the recent election as a coalition under Mr Herbert Blaize. The Prime Minister and Mr Compton last met at the 1983 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi, and will no doubt do so again in Nassau this autumn.

Since events in Grenada in October 1983 we have been working with some success to counter the impression held by some regional leaders that we have turned our back on the region. A meeting would be a useful opportunity to reaffirm to Mr Compton the importance we continue to attach to the Commonwealth Caribbean in general and the smaller states of the Eastern Caribbean in particular. There may also be some advantage in renewing contact with Mr Compton before CHOGM later in the year.

Mr Compton has not so far raised any specific questions for discussion. But during his European visits he will undoubtedly be promoting investment and other ways to help the St Lucia economy, which is heavily dependent upon bananas and tourism.

/Lady Young

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED



Lady Young will be hosting a lunch for Mr Compton on 25 March in addition to the proposed call on the Prime Minister.

*Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED



FILE

Swd

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 May, 1982

St. Lucia General Election

Thank you for your letter of 7 May. The Prime Minister agrees that the proposed message to Mr. Compton should be sent as soon as possible after his appointment as Prime Minister.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

h



T 104/82

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 May 1982

~~Prime Minister~~

Agree to sidelined
message overleaf?

A.J.C. 7/5

Dear John,

St Lucia General Election

Mr John Compton and his United Workers' Party have won the General Election held in St Lucia on 3 May 1982.

In accordance with normal Commonwealth practice, we recommend that the Prime Minister should send a message of congratulations to Mr Compton. A draft message is contained in the attached telegram. It would be helpful if this could be approved (I appreciate the difficulties), so that our High Commissioner can be instructed to deliver the message immediately after Mr Compton's formal appointment.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

John Holmes

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

SUBJECT

Classification and Caveats
RESTRICTED

Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

ZCZC
GRS
RESTRICTED.
FM FCO Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER

*cc Madis
Ops*

Agreed mt

1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to Mr Compton as soon as possible after his appointment as Prime Minister.

Begins. Many congratulations on your return to power in the St Lucia General Election, and on your appointment as Prime Minister. I look forward to continuing the traditionally close and cordial relations between our Governments in the mutual interests of our two Commonwealth countries.

I send you my warm good wishes for the future. Ends.

2. Please deliver the following message from me to the new Foreign Minister when the appointment is announced.

Begins. Please accept my personal congratulations and good wishes upon your appointment. I look forward to continuing the traditionally close and cordial relations between our two Commonwealth countries. Ends.

3. If Mr Compton himself takes the Foreign Affairs portfolio we would not think it necessary to deliver the message at

///
//
/

NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword paragraph 2,
File number	Dept S/S OFFICE	Distribution Limited WIAD NEWS D CCD ID ODA PS PS/MrOnslow	
Drafted by (Block capitals) J E HOLMES		Mr Giffard Mr Ure	
Telephone number 233 4641			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats
RESTRICTED

IMMEDIATE

Page
2

<<<<

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34

<<<<
paragraph 2, unless you see advantage in doing so.

PYM
NNNN

///
//
/

NNNN ends
telegram

BLANK

Catchword

St. Lucia

SUBJECT

GRS 100
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Edw na
8/17
17/7

FM FCO 161210Z JUL 79
TO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 259 OF 16 JULY

AND TO PRIORITY CASTRIES
INFO GEORGETOWN, PORT OF SPAIN, WASHINGTON, KINGSTON, ANTIGUA,
ST VINCENT.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T45A/79T

PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
MR LOUISY, NEW PRIME MINISTER OF SAINT LUCIA.

DEAR MR PRIME MINISTER,
I SEND YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTORAL VICTORY AND
YOUR APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH
YOU TO STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

YOURS SINCERELY,
MARGARET THATCHER.

CARRINGTON

FILES
MPCD
PS
PS/KPS
PS/MR RIDKEY
PS/PUS
SIR A. DUFF
SIR A. PARSONS
MR STRATTON

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

RESTRICTED

St. Lucia

+



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree to send
a message in
their terms

12 July 1979

Dear Bryan,

12/7

Agreed with

FCO
informed
12/7

Mr Arthur, High Commissioner in Bridgetown has recommended that following the swearing-in of Allan Louisy as the new Prime Minister of Saint Lucia an appropriate message of congratulation should now be sent to the new Labour Party Government of Saint Lucia.

The new administration has received several good-will messages from overseas governments (including Canada) and an early message from HMG would be highly desirable.

--- I attach a suggested draft message of congratulation.

Yours ever,
Stephen

(J S Wall)

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

File No.

OUTWARD

Security Classification
RESTRICTED

Department M&CD

TELEGRAM

IMMEDIATE ^{Precedence}

Drafted by G J O'NEIL
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn

DESKBYZ

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)

(Time).....Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin).....Z(G.M.T.)

(Restrictive Prefix).....

(Security Class.) RESTRICTED

(Caveat/
Privacy Marking).....

(Codeword).....

(Deskby)

To IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN Tel. No.....of.....
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post) PRIORITY CASTRIES

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) GEORGETOWN, PORT OF SPAIN, WASHINGTON, KINGSTON,
ANTIGUA, ST VINCENT.

SAVING TO (for info).....

Distribution:-

- FILES
- M&CD
- PS
- PS/MR RIDLEY
- PS/PUS
- SIR A DUFF
- SIR A PARSONS
- MR STRATTON

(TEXT) PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER TO MR LOUISY, NEW PRIME MINISTER OF
SAINT LUCIA

~~Dear~~ Dear Prime Minister

~~I wish to extend~~ ^{send you} my warm congratulations on your
electoral victory and your appointment as Prime Minister.
I look forward to working with you to strengthen the
traditional good relations between our two countries.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher.

Copies to:-

GRS 457

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DESKBY 281637Z

FM BRIDGETOWN 281540Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 285 OF 28 JUNE

INFO CASTRIES, NASSAU (FOR NA), KINGSTON (FOR DA), PORT OF SPAIN (FOR SLO)

SAINT LUCIA ELECTION: POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPT

*Encl na
HM
177*

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF WIAS, GUS COMPTON, TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN SAINT LUCIA THAT IF THE OPPOSITION LABOUR PARTY FAIL TO WIN THE ELCTION ON 2 JULY ODLUM AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL ATTEMPT A COUP.

2. PRIME MINISTER JOHN COMPTON RANG ME THIS MORNING TO MAKE THE SAME POINT, AND TO SAY THAT AT THE VERY LEAST THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS AFTER THE ELCTION RESULTS WERE MADE KNOWN. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED, IN A GUARDED CONVERSATION, THAT HE ALSO EXPECTED AN ATTEMPTED COUP. HE ASKED WHAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DO TO ENSURE THAT LEGAL DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WERE PROTECTED.

3. I SAID THAT SINCE SAINT LUCIA WAS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT WE COULD DO ANYTHING. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, WE WERE A LONG WAY AWAY. I ASKED IF HE HAD CONTACTED BARBADOS. HE SAID HE HAND'T SINCE THERE WAS NOTHING BARBADOS COULD DO. HE AGREED TO MENTION THE MATTER TO HENRY FORDE QUOTE BUT NOT TO ASK FOR ANYTHING UNQUOTE.

4. I ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT HIS OWN SECURITY FORCES COULD COPE WITH THE EXPECTED VIOLENCE. HE SAID THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO COPE -- BUT ASKED AGAIN WHAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DO IF THEY COULD NOT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ASKING CLAUDIUS THOMAS TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH YOU AND I NATURALLY UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THE CONVERSATION.

5. THERE ARE TWO ISSUES:

(A) INTERVENTION (OR A DETERRENT) ON BEHALF OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OR TO PREVENT A COUP: AND

(B) PROTECTION OF BRITISH CITIZENS, SHOULD THINGS GET OUT OF HAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

/COMPTON

COMPTON AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT HIM WOULD NOT GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT AND SINCE ODLUM ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS ARMS AVAILABLE A CLASH WOULD BE LIKELY TO LEAD TO A MORE DANGEROUS SITUATION THAN IN DOMINICA.

6. ACTION IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SECOND MIGHT HAVE AN INDIRECT EFFECT ON THE FIRST.

7. THE OBVIOUS ANSWER, AS USUAL, IS TO HAVE THE BELIZE GUARD SHIP PAY A CALL TO THESE WATERS AND TO BE IN THE AREA BETWEEN BARBADOS AND SAINT LUCIA ON 1 JULY. I AM SURE EITHER BARBADOS OR ST VINCENT WOULD BE VERY WILLING TO INVITE THE FRIGATE TO PAY A COURTESY CALL WHICH COULD EXPLAIN ITS PRESENCE, IF ANY EXPLANATION IS NEEDED. (PERSONALLY I DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS.)

8. I AM URGENTLY LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF NUMBERS OF BRITISH CITIZENS. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN ADDITION TO RESIDENTS. THE TOTAL IS LIKELY TO RUN INTO HUNDREDS.

9. I AM INFORMING MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE AND WILL REPORT HER REACTION.

ARTHUR

DEPARTMENTAL DIST :

MVCD

NIAD

SAMD

NAMD

DEF. D

PUSD

CONS. D

CONS EM UNIT

POD

PSD

SEC. D.

COD

CABINET OFFICE

From: R P HATFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2452 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMY

US of S(A)/BJH/25/4/9

June 1979

Dear Stephen,

REDEPLOYMENT OF BELIZE GUARDSHIP

In the absence of the Secretary of State, John Gutteridge has passed me a copy of your note about the problems in St Lucia as my Minister is Duty Minister in the Ministry of Defence.

US of S(Army) has agreed to your request that HMS Brighton, currently in New York, and the RFA Cherryleaf, from Norfolk, Virginia, should be redeployed to the Caribbean in the hope that their presence off St Lucia may be a calming influence. My Minister wishes to emphasise that these ships do not have an IS capability and should any question of intervention arise it will be necessary to consult MOD Ministers further.

My Minister would also like to make two comparatively minor points. He does not find the present "cover story" very convincing and he believes that officials should consult in order to produce a better PR line. Finally, my Minister considers that a more detailed intelligence assessment of Cuban involvement should be made.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mike Patterson at No 10 and Martin Vile at the Cabinet Office.

[Handwritten signature]

PS/US of S(Army)

S J Gomersall Esq
PS to Lord Privy Seal

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIME MINISTER

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Defence have agreed
to redeploy the two
ships (x below), but
solely for appearances.

29 June 1979

If any question of
intervention arises, Ministers
will be further consulted.

Dear Guayana.

M/P 29/VI

[Handwritten signature]

P. A. G. M. 27

REDEPLOYMENT OF BELIZE GUARDSHIP

As a result of recent pre-election violence and revelations about a possible coup attempt by certain elements in the opposition if they fail to win the election, the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia has requested our help in unspecified terms. While there can be no question at this stage of a decision directly to intervene in St Lucia - and this will be made clear to their Prime Minister - we should in the time available try to use what influence we have in the area to ensure that the democratic process in the island is respected.

As you know, the recent coup in Grenada and the turmoil in Dominica has made constitutionally elected Governments in the Caribbean aware of their vulnerability to armed action by a small group of determined opponents. The United States Government are extremely concerned about deteriorating stability in the region and on their instigation we are due to hold talks in London on 5/6 July to discuss what general action should be taken to improve the situation. It would obviously be very embarrassing if these talks were precluded by a takeover of St Lucia with the suspicion of Cuban involvement. The embarrassment would be further compounded in the Commons on 5 July when Mr Ridley will be speaking to an order giving independence

/to

J D Gutteridge Esq
Assistant Private Secretary to
the Rt Hon Francis Pym MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall SW1



CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

to another West Indies Associated State, St Vincent. We would not wish to be accused of giving these states independence (St Lucia was independent on 22 February 1979) only to see them fall under Cuban-backed radicals a few months later.

X | We understand that the Belize guardship HMS Brighton is in New York and the RFA Cherryleaf in Norfolk, Virginia. While we realise that these vessels would have no capability beyond providing a calming effect and one more factor which would-be insurgents would have to take into account, we think that the grey hull on the horizon might just serve as a plausible deterrent. The accompanying RFA would be a most valuable help if an urgent evacuation of British citizens became necessary. The presence of the vessels in the area would be given the cover of a routine courtesy call to Barbados. The Foreign Minister of Barbados, whom we have consulted, has already expressed his willingness to allow this. We would not intend to make any announcement about this visit until shortly before arrival in Bridgetown.

| We would therefore be grateful if Mr Pym would agree urgently to instruct the ships to sail to waters adjacent to Barbados and St Lucia and wait there until the situation becomes clearer.

Our High Commissioner in Barbados has been instructed to speak again to the Prime Minister of St Lucia. Any specific requests for assistance which might be put to him should I think be the subject of separate consultations between us.

I am sending a copy of this letter to No 10 and to ps/
Sir John Hunt, Cabinet Office.

Yours truly,
Stephen Gomersall

S J Gomersall
Private Secretary to
the Lord Privy Seal

CONFIDENTIAL



IT8.7/2-1993

2009:02



IT-8 Target

Printed on Kodak Professional Paper

Charge: R090212