

PREM 19/3266

Confidential Filing

Dominican General Election. The P.M. sent a message to the new P.M. Miss Eugenia Charles.

Possible visits of Miss Eugenie Charles.

~~Relations with the Dominican Republic~~

PM's message to the New Dominican President

DOMINICA

JULY 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
24.7.80		<p>See Relations / Int Sit</p> <p>PREM 19/3266</p>					
20.12.80							
26/3/81							
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14.5.91							
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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1991

Dear Christopher,

CALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

Thank you for your letter of 14 May with briefing for the call by Miss Charles on the Prime Minister. Miss Charles had three-quarters of an hour with the Prime Minister this morning, and was a guinea a minute.

Thank you for alerting us to the fact that today was Miss Charles' birthday. The Prime Minister gave her birthday greetings in front of the cameras at the photocall, and subsequently gave her a birthday present.

Miss Charles began the meeting by commiserating about Northern Ireland. She knew something about religious differences. In Dominica there were 80,000 people. 99% of them were Catholic, but among the remaining 1% there were 31 different religions. In 1982 she had had to deal with some real tensions and some of these religions had started calling Catholics "children of Satan". This was largely based on envy because most of the best schools were Catholic. By having a meeting of all concerned it had been possible to clear the air and avoid future misunderstanding.

Bananas

Miss Charles described her lobbying activities in Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. She had not met the Italians, Greeks or Portuguese on this occasion. She was, however, going to Ireland. Miss Charles felt that she had had a reasonably sympathetic hearing. Her main aim was to put the issue in front of busy people who would not normally focus on Dominica's problems. Commissioner Marin had helpfully made clear that he wanted to preserve the status quo and to settle the issue by July. Miss Charles said she would be content with the status quo and had warned her producers that they could not expect anything better than that. But the status quo needed to be enshrined in some sort of regulation so as not to be eroded. The French had taken a helpful stand, seeking to limit (as I understood it) imports from the Canaries. The French seemed to envisage a limit of 400,000 tonnes for the whole Caribbean which

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seemed very fair. What she feared was a general feeling in Europe that something must be done to help Latin America. The Latin Americans were using drugs as a lever saying that banana production had to be encouraged if people were to be enticed out of drug production. Miss Charles did not think this was a reasonable approach, not least because banana production was not a very convincing way of enticing people out of drug production. The approach taken in Dominica was much more responsible than that of the Latin Americans. The Community should recognise the fact that Dominica had a responsible social policy including minimum wage laws which did not exist in Latin America. Dominica was also undertaking a serious diversification programme and had undertaken to devote 50% of the money they were due to receive under Lome IV to the diversification programme. They were encouraging production in things like passion fruit, pepper and ginger, where the first marketable crops could be harvested in months rather than years. Dominica had set up its own production facilities for turning passion fruit into juice, which they could then market. She had also taken steps to ensure that money for diversification was used for that purpose and did not simply get spent on washing machines and other consumer goods.

Miss Charles said that Dominica was promoting tourism but in a responsible way. She refused to have casinos on the island since they caused instability without bringing in much revenue. Dominica was concentrating on the specialist tourist trade, e.g. birdwatchers and orchid lovers. They tended to bring more money with them and not to be looking for the high life. People sometimes asked why Dominica did not diversify more. Why were there no cattle for example? The answer was that Dominica was mountainous and unless you could get cattle with two legs longer than the others, cattle rearing was an impossibility.

The Prime Minister said that he did not need to say to Miss Charles that Britain would not let her down over bananas. We would continue to fight Dominica's corner.

CHOGM

Miss Charles confirmed that she would be going to CHOGM and, after hearing her views on South Africa, the Prime Minister encouraged her not to waver in her determination to be there. She clearly took a cynical view about President Mugabe's approach to the issue, condemning South Africa while talking to the South Africans behind his hand. At one Commonwealth meeting she claimed to have called the bluff of the Africans by insisting that they should go for a policy of total isolation, completely cutting off South Africa from any contact with the outside world. Botswana had protested that this would be the kiss of death for them. This had given Miss Charles the opening to tell them that they should not employ double standards. She was anyway very sceptical about the effectiveness of sanctions. Dominica did a certain amount of tobacco processing. They had continued to get Rhodesian tobacco during the sanctions period: it had simply been relabelled as Brazilian.

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Drugs

Miss Charles said that Dominica had long been a place where marijuana (of very good quality) was grown, but they had been able to avoid hard drugs until about two years ago. Marijuana was now less of a problem, and many of the former Rastafarian marijuana users were now short-haired respectable citizens. People were still trading in marijuana but not smoking it to the same extent. Many of those who had been into marijuana were now into bananas instead.

Cocaine, Miss Charles said, was, however, a problem. Again, this was mainly trade, but some of the cocaine stayed on the island. In the north of the island you could see the cocaine wealth in the form of opulent houses. She had had the law changed to allow for the confiscation of property. The problem was that the success of illicit drugs runners made them something of a role model. That was why it was important to cut them down to size. What was needed was a co-ordinator for the region.

The Prime Minister said that we had been trying to get a bilateral agreement with the OECS, but the Secretariat had not so far produced a draft. Miss Charles said that she wanted a regional treaty covering tracing, freezing and confiscation. There was to be an OECS meeting in June, and she would ask for a paper for that meeting setting out what progress had been made. Miss Charles said that she had weeded out of the Dominican Customs Service some people she had suspected of dealing in drugs. A little training had gone a long way, and her customs people had had some considerable success. They had recently found a television set containing an automatic weapon and drugs. The owner had been extradited to the United States.

Regional Security System

In reply to a question from the Prime Minister, Miss Charles said that she hoped that Trinidad would come into the system. During Trinidad's problems last year, Dominica had made police available but Trinidad had wanted to solve her problems on her own.

Comment

The Prime Minister had, of course, met Miss Charles before, but he was confirmed in his very high opinion of her. He really does think she will be an asset at CHOGM.

J. S. Wall
Joseph
J. S. Wall

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

Miss Charles is calling on you tomorrow, 15 May, her 72nd birthday. Janice is finding a suitable present for you to give her.

Miss Charles has been Prime Minister since 1980. She was re-elected in May 1990.

The main substantive issue on her mind will be bananas. They represent 45 per cent of the exports of the Windward Islands and 19 per cent of GDP. We (the UK) have a commitment to provide preferential market access for bananas but the Community is now trying to harmonise the market arrangements prior to 1992. The new common arrangements need to provide a measure of protection for Windward Island bananas which cannot otherwise compete with the dollar producers of Central and Latin America. We favour a tightly-managed quota of dollar supplies together with degressive, transitional aid for traditional ACP suppliers and a tariff on dollar imports.

You may want to tell Miss Charles that we remain committed to preferential arrangements for our traditional suppliers and encourage her to get other Windward Islands politicians (Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) to lobby hard.

The quality of Windward Islands bananas is not as good as those from Latin America but Miss Charles knows that well enough already.

Miss Charles wants our help in building a new airport. The ODA have done a study which concluded that the airport would be very expensive and not economically viable so you may want to steer her gently from this idea.

Political Unification

The Prime Ministers of the Windward Islands are committed to the

goal of political union. You may want to ask her what progress is being made.

Regional Security System (RSS)

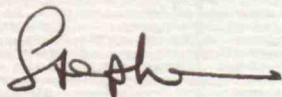
This consists of the Windward Islands plus St. Kitts, Antigua and Barbados. It deals with natural disasters, smuggling, maritime policing and threats to national security. We help with training and equipment. The RSS went to Trinidad last July in the wake of the coup attempt. Trinidad now wants to join but would probably dominate the organisation. You may want to ask Miss Charles for her views.

Drugs

We have been pressing for a bilateral agreement with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean states on tracing, freezing and confiscating. The OECS secretariat have failed to produce a draft. It would be a good idea to get Miss Charles into action to exert pressure on the secretariat.

CHOGM

Miss Charles did not go to Kuala Lumpur in 1989. You might encourage her to go to Harare this year. It would be worth talking a bit about South Africa.



(J. S. WALL)

14 May 1991

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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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London SW1A 2AH

14 May 1991

Dear Stephen,

Call by the Prime Minister of Dominica,
Wednesday 15 May

Miss Charles will call on the Prime Minister on 15 May at 1000. She arrives in London on 14 May and plans to depart on 24 May. She is also calling on Mr Gummer and on Mrs Chalker to brief them on her calls on Ministers in Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain and Luxembourg, with whom she has been arguing the Windward Islands' case for continued preferential access for their bananas into the EC after 1992. Mr Lennox-Boyd is giving her lunch on 17 May.

Miss Charles will be accompanied by Mr Ashworth Elwin, the Acting High Commissioner for Dominica. A personality note on Miss Charles is enclosed.

Miss Charles has been Prime Minister since Dominica's first post-independence election in July 1980. She was most recently re-elected in May last year. She is also Minister for Finance and Economic Development. 15 May is her 72nd birthday.

Bananas

Bananas are vital to the economic and social structure of the four Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent). In 1989 they accounted for 45% of the islands' exports and 19% of GDP. The UK has a long-standing bilateral commitment, now enshrined in the Fourth Lomé Convention, to provide effective preferential market access for bananas from our traditional ACP suppliers (the Windward Islands and /Jamaica).

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Jamaica). With the approach of 1992 the European Community is trying to harmonise banana market arrangements. However, the Windward Islands cannot compete with the "dollar" producers of Central and Latin America who benefit from large scale production on flat land and pay extremely low wages. The Windwards are also unable to compete on quality, although a package of measures to address these problems was agreed by MAFF and the Islands' Governments in February. There are only limited opportunities for diversification. Unless the EC's common arrangements contain a measure of protection for Windward Island bananas, the islands are likely to suffer severe economic and thus social and political difficulties. This could leave them wide open to exploitation by drugs traffickers.

We are still waiting for firm proposals from the Commission on the post-1992 banana market. We favour a tightly managed quota on non-preferential (dollar) supplies coupled with degressive, transitional aid for traditional ACP suppliers and a tariff on dollar imports. French and ACP proposals are very interventionist and are unlikely to gain the support of a majority in negotiations. The Germans will argue for much greater liberalisation.

Miss Charles has been mandated by the other Windward Island Governments to lobby in EC capitals. The Prime Minister may wish to reassure Miss Charles that we remain committed to effective preferential arrangements for our traditional suppliers; to ask how her calls in Europe went; and if she will be able to persuade other senior Windward Island politicians to undertake a similar exercise. He might also remind her of the need to improve quality (though Miss Charles herself is well aware of this).

Dominica's economy

Dominica is one of the poorest countries in the region and particularly reliant on bananas. Miss Charles' Government has given a lot of support to the ODA-assisted agricultural diversification programme but there are considerable difficulties in finding substitute crops. The tourist industry remains small,

/partly

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partly because of Dominica's rugged and mountainous character and lack of white sand beaches but also for lack of an international airport capable of handling larger aircraft. Miss Charles is likely to raise the question of assistance in providing a new airport. The ODA have already studied the proposal and concluded that such an airport would be extremely expensive and not economically viable.

Political unification

The independent members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts, St Lucia and St Vincent) have committed themselves to work towards closer integration including a possible "merger of sovereignty". Political union would enhance regional security and improve the region's trade and aid opportunities. We have said we wish the proposals well, though this is a matter for the electorate of the Islands themselves to decide.

The Prime Ministers of the Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent) recently reaffirmed their own commitment to the goal of political union. They have established a Regional Constituent Assembly (RCA) which is to hold four meetings, each taking the process of unification forward, culminating in referenda on each of the Islands. The second meeting of the RCA was held on 23/24 April. It would be helpful to have Miss Charles' view of the progress achieved at the meeting.

Regional Security System (RSS)

The RSS (comprised of Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts, St Lucia and St Vincent) grew out of the problems in Grenada in the early eighties. Members undertake to respond to requests for assistance with natural disasters, prevention of smuggling (particularly and increasingly drugs), maritime policing and threats to national security. We give help with training and equipment. RSS forces were deployed to Trinidad in the wake of the coup attempt last July, by request of the Trinidad government. Trinidad has shown some interest in joining the RSS but some existing members fear that this

/might

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might shift the balance of the organisation. The Prime Minister may wish to ask for Miss Charles' views on this and on the future for the RSS.

Drugs

Drugs and drug trafficking are the most serious threat to the stability and economic development of the Eastern Caribbean region. Narcotics (especially cocaine) are now being shipped through the Eastern Caribbean to the UK and Europe, as well as North America. We have been pressing for a bilateral agreement with the OECS to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug traffickers. We recently signed such an agreement with Barbados but, despite our having provided model legislation, the OECS Secretariat has so far failed to produce a draft. The Prime Minister might urge Miss Charles, whose own commitment to curtailing drug trafficking is undoubted, to exert pressure on the OECS Secretariat.

CHOGM

The Prime Minister might mention that as Dominica was unable to be represented at the last CHOGM in Kuala Lumpur, 1989, he hopes to see Miss Charles in Harare this year.

Yours ever,

Christopher Prentice,

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

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CHARLES, THE HON MARY EUGENIA (MISS) MP

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Establishment and National Security since July 1985; Security and Industry and Trade July 1980-85; Minister of Tourism July 1982-85 and of External Affairs 1985-90; Member of Parliament for Roseau Central.

Born 15 May 1919, Dominica. Daughter of the late J B Charles (died March 1983, age 107) an affluent and influential planter and businessman.

Educated Convent High School, Dominica and also at Convent School in Grenada; Toronto University (BA); London School of Economics. Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1947.

Member of Council of UWI 1962-63. Founded with Phyllis Allfrey (qv) the Dominica Freedom Party in 1968. Failed to win seat in October 1970 elections and entered Assembly as Opposition's Nominated Member; elected to House of Assembly March 1975 and became Leader of the Opposition. Became Prime Minister in July 1980; the first time she had ever been in office. She is a colossus in the Island leading her cabinet with drive, energy and imagination. Honest, intelligent, tough and volatile and with a keen sense of humour, she is very overworked - taking far too much upon herself, but given the formidable economic and social problems facing Dominica, this is understandable. A woman who sticks to her principles, she was a prime mover in the US-led intervention of Grenada in October 1983. Extremely well disposed towards UK and made an official visit in 1986. Was close to Mrs Thatcher. Miss Charles won the election in 1990 but with a greatly reduced majority. She faces increasing strident opposition.

Unmarried.

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ETA
C: Foreign
Charles
bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 May 1991

**DOMINICA: VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER
EUGENIA CHARLES**

Thank you for your letter of 9 May. The Prime Minister looks forward to seeing Miss Charles at 1000 on Wednesday 15 May. The Prime Minister will have one hour available. Perhaps Miss Charles could be told this.

I should be grateful for a brief, to reach me by lunchtime tomorrow, Tuesday 14 May. I should also be grateful to know if anybody will be accompanying Miss Charles.

J S WALL

S L Gass Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister (1)



CCP

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

You are due to see Brigadier Cavanagh
SHF on 15 May. If you put him off
(very early date) you could see Miss Charles
a that talk for half an hour.

Dear Stephen,

Sryshe 11/12

Coat
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a love!
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Dominica : Visit by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles

Miss Charles is visiting Britain privately between 14 and 23 May, after a tour of European capitals. She has asked to call on the Prime Minister. We recommend that, if the diary permits, Mr Major should agree.

Miss Charles has been Prime Minister since Dominica's first post-independence election in 1980. A strongly-principled woman, she is one of the leading protagonists of Eastern Caribbean unification and her standing in the region is high.

The Windward Islands' banana producers fear for their access to EC markets after 1992. We have been arguing their case in Europe and recently urged the Windwards to do so themselves directly at a high level. Miss Charles has been sent by the other Windwards' leaders to visit EC capitals.

A call on the Prime Minister would help to reassure all the Commonwealth Caribbean countries of our continuing commitment to the region. It would also offer the opportunity to emphasise the need for the Eastern Caribbean to strengthen collective security, diversify their economies, and improve regional integration.

Miss Charles often called on Mrs Thatcher at No 10 in the past. She plans to see Mrs Thatcher during her stay on this occasion. She is a rather special lady.

The only other FCO bid for a call on the Prime Minister in this period is on behalf of Mr Mugabe.

Signature of S L Gass

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO
10 Downing Street

FILE

DSG

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 110A/90



cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 May 1990

Dear Eugenia,

I was delighted to hear of your latest election victory on 28 May: what a splendid record! I send you my congratulations and warmest good wishes for the future, and look forward to working with you throughout your new term of office.

*Yours
Rogers*

The Honourable Miss M. Eugenia Charles, M.P.



FILE

VLG

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 May 1990

The Prime Minister has signed the enclosed message of congratulations to Miss Charles, which Mr. Sainsbury could take with him on his visit to the area and deliver if the election results are as predicted.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 May 1990

Dear Charles,

Dominica Election

A general election is due to be held in Dominica on 28 May. We expect Prime Minister Miss Charles to win but with a reduced majority.

It would be customary for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations. Mr Sainsbury will be visiting Dominica from 1 - 2 June and could therefore hand one over personally in letter form. We are sure that Miss Charles, given her warm relationship with the Prime Minister, would appreciate such a gesture.

I enclose a draft. Ideally the letter should be postdated to, say, 31 May but Mr Sainsbury would need the original by 24 May as he leaves the UK on 26 May.

S L Gass

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

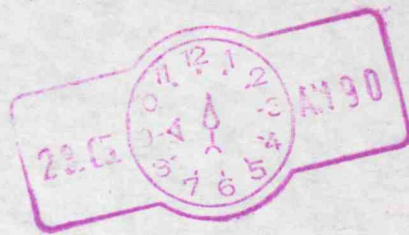
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MISS EUGENIA CHARLES,
PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

Get a splendid record!

I was delighted to hear of your latest election victory on 28 May. I send you my congratulations and warmest good wishes for the future. I wish you every success and look forward to working with you throughout your new term of office.

ES

a: Charles. ds



MR6ABC

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bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF
DOMINICA

The Prime Minister had a talk this afternoon with Miss Charles, who was her usual trenchant self. She was accompanied by Mr. Ashworth Elwyn. Our High Commissioner in Barbados was also present.

World Bank/IMF

Miss Charles said she had had a good meeting with the World Bank in the margins of the IMF/IBRD meeting in Berlin.

The Prime Minister referred to the difficulties being experienced by Mr Robinson in Trinidad. Miss Charles said, in her view, countries tended to wait too long before resorting to the IMF. She had gone early and never regretted it.

Regional Co-operation in the Caribbean

The Prime Minister referred to Mr Robinson's wish to seek closer regional co-operation in the Caribbean. Miss Charles said that all Caribbean leaders subscribed to this. It was good stuff for speeches. But she wondered how many of them really worked for it. She thought that the OECS would come steadily closer together but was more doubtful about the larger islands.

Miss Charles said that discussions were being held about the possibility of establishing a Caribbean Court of Appeal. This was largely in response to persistent rumours that the United Kingdom intended abolishing appeals to the Privy Council from the Caribbean. She took the view that she would be happy to see a Caribbean Court of Appeal provided the existing Eastern Court of Appeal was terminated. She could not afford both. But this was unlikely to be acceptable to the others. The Prime Minister said that there was no intention on our part to abolish appeals to the Privy Council. On the contrary, she was much in favour of maintaining them.

Developments in the Caribbean

Miss Charles praised the response of the Jamaican Government and people to the hurricane. She hoped that rapid distribution of the international assistance would help win Mr Seaga the election.

In response to the Prime Minister's question, Miss Charles said that she had seen Mr Blaize of Grenada. He had difficult economic problems, but at least tourism was picking up.

Hemisphere Affairs

Miss Charles was very keen to see Vice President Bush win the US Presidential election. She expected difficulties if the Democrats were to win. The Black Caucus would have a major influence on policy under a Democratic Administration and did not like her one bit.

Miss Charles commented that Chile had done pretty well under General Pinochet. A little bit of dictatorship was sometimes not a bad thing even in a democracy. She noted that the Mexicans made little effort to keep close to the Caribbean countries although the Brazilians were more active. There was considerable resentment in the Commonwealth Caribbean at the behaviour of the Dominican Republic, first in shoehorning itself into the ACP group with Spanish help, and secondly for its failure to support the candidature of Dame Nita Barrow for the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly.

10th Anniversary of Independence

The Prime Minister said that Mr Garel Jones was looking forward to attending the celebrations. Miss Charles obviously attached great importance to obtaining the service of some pipers. I assume this is in hand.

Situation in Dominica

Miss Charles said that Dominica was not doing too badly economically although they still needed one or two extra things. She was paying particular attention to housing. She had talked to Barclays while in London and urged them to make more loans available for housing with a maximum interest rate of 9 per cent. She was continuing to bring down the size of the Civil Service which, at its peak, had employed 2,700 people and consumed 66 per cent of Dominica's revenues.

Miss Charles said that quite a number of students still went from Dominica to Libya. She did not know exactly what they did there but it was a cause for concern. A number also went to Cuba but at least they did proper courses there.

New Airport

Miss Charles said that it was clear that she would have to scale down her ideas for a new international airport since

the studies had shown that it would be far too expensive. What she needed basically was an airport with a runway long enough to take Boeing 737s and catch planes on their way through from Trinidad to Miami and New York. Dominica also needed an airport which could be properly lit, to allow landings after dark. That would make it possible to improve local and regional services (she spoke scornfully of LIAT - which, according to Miss Charles, stood for Luggage In Another Terminal). She was therefore asking the consultants to do another study for a more modest airport. She hoped that we would be ready to finance this. She also intended to appeal to the Americans to send the Seabees to Dominica to do the earth-moving work for free. Her other plans included upgrading the Bay Front Development at Roseau in order to attract more cruise ships.

Lomé Convention

Miss Charles said that she would be watching discussions on the preferential arrangements for bananas very closely. The Prime Minister said that we would continue to give Dominica and other Commonwealth Caribbean countries every support in these negotiations.

Drugs

Miss Charles said that there was not a problem with hard drugs in Dominica although there was plenty of marijuana (indeed, she said with just a touch of pride, Dominica probably produced the best quality in the region). The Government was strengthening the laws on drugs so to enable confiscation of property of people convicted of drug trafficking.

British Representation

Miss Charles said she hoped that we would establish a resident British representative in Dominica. She enjoyed an excellent working relationship with our High Commissioner in Barbados, but wanted someone whom she could pester even more frequently. The Prime Minister took note.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Administration) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MISS CHARLES

You are to see Miss Charles on Thursday afternoon. She is on her way home from the IMF meeting in Berlin and a West India Committee Conference in London on the Caribbean and 1992. There are no particular issues she wants to raise. The points which you might cover are:

- Tenth Anniversary celebrations. They are in November. Unfortunately you cannot go - Tristan Garel-Jones will represent you.
- New airport. She may ask for help with financing a study of a new airport. Our advice is that it is far too expensive - £100/150 million - and donors will not be prepared to finance it. The best bet is to develop improved feeder services from regional airports.
- Lomé. You will want to give an assurance that we will look after Dominica's interests in the negotiations for the new Convention. She will be particularly concerned about the arrangements for bananas. We will fight hard to ensure that the Caribbean countries continue to receive preferential treatment for their bananas. But they must also lobby the Commission and other European countries for support.
- Falklands. Since 1985 the Dominica representative at the UN - who is not full-time - has absented himself from votes on Falkland resolutions. Could she not send Mr. Baron - non-resident High Commissioner to London - up to New York to vote against? (although there are rumours that the Argentinians will not table a resolution this year)

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- Prospects UK for political unity in the Eastern Caribbean. You will want to ask her views about this, and give an account of your meeting with the Trinidad Prime Minister (Dr. Robinson).

- Resident representation in Dominica. We keep this under review but cannot afford it at present. (Our High Commissioner in Barbados visits frequently).

- Miss Charles will welcome your views on international developments.

Our High Commissioner happens to be in the UK on leave and will attend the meeting.

A fuller brief is in the folder.

C.D.P.

C. D. POWELL

4 October 1988

SLHAZZ



CCP
CBUP

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 October 1988

Dear Charles

Call on the Prime Minister by
The Hon Miss M Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister and
Minister for Finance, Economic Development and External
Affairs of Dominica: Thursday, 6 October 1988 at 3.00 pm

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica on Thursday, 6 October 1988, at 3.00 pm. Miss Charles previously called on the Prime Minister in June 1986 during a Guest of Government visit to the UK. Miss Charles is returning from the IBRD/IMF meeting in Berlin and will have attended a West India Committee Conference on the Caribbean and 1992 in London.

Miss Charles' moderate Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) defeated the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) in the first post-independence election in July 1980. She faced several early challenges, including an attempted invasion in 1981 by mercenaries hired by supporters of former Prime Minister Patrick John. The DFP consolidated its position in July 1985 winning another five-year term of office.

Our relations with Dominica are excellent. Miss Charles has proved a steadfast friend of the UK. She invited the Prime Minister to attend the celebrations for Dominica's tenth anniversary of independence on 3 November 1988 but the Prime Minister was unable to accept. Mr Tristan Garel-Jones MP will represent HMG, the West Indies Guardship will call at Roseau and a military band from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will perform in Dominica during the celebrations.

The 1978 Independence Settlement for Dominica provided a £6.45 million grant and £5 million loan. Good use is made of our aid. Miss Charles takes a keen interest in its use and gives generous appreciation for Britain's help. Our aid has gone mainly into agriculture, infrastructure, community development and a

/coastguard



coastguard base. Miss Charles is likely to seek aid funds for a further round of work by consultants for a new international airport to take larger aircraft and night landings. She feels that Dominica's two limited airport facilities hamper the island's development of tourism. A UK consultancy study last year concluded however that a new airport (at Woodford Hill) would be expensive and difficult to justify economically (it could cost between £100 - 150 million). We see no prospect of other donors being ready to finance the project. Our Caribbean Development Division believe that part-funding of a new airport would not be the best use of aid resources and that Dominica should seek improved feeder services from regional airports.

The Prime Minister may also wish to be aware of the Bay Front Development in Roseau which includes new sea wall defences. ODA is financing a follow-up study in January 1989 on the sea wall and jetties to establish precise costings, though this carries no commitment to aid-fund construction.

UK exports to Dominica vary between £7-£10 million a year and imports between £12 million and £37 million depending on the state of the banana crop. Dominica is heavily reliant upon the UK market: we take approximately 50% of Dominica's total exports, including 90% of her bananas. Future Lomé arrangements and the 1992 Single Market are therefore of major concern to Dominica. Foreign investment is actively encouraged especially in manufacturing industry to offset the dependence on agricultural produce. Dominica aims at agricultural diversification, though this is a slow process. Dominica has signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Britain.

Miss Charles will no doubt ask about the future of Dominica's banana exports to the UK after 1992. We have a longstanding commitment to provide preferential access for bananas from our traditional suppliers in the Caribbean. Britain therefore restricts imports from non-ACP sources, in practice Central/South America - the so-called "dollar area" by import licensing which requires annual authorisation by the EC Commission. A recent review of UK banana policy concluded that the licensing system should remain but that HMG should encourage the gradual expansion of the UK market and

/modestly



modestly increased competition by establishing a guaranteed minimum quota for dollar bananas - 30,000 tonnes in 1989 out of an estimated total market requirement of at least 380,000 tonnes.

The Prime Minister could reaffirm to Miss Charles the pledge she made in Jamaica last year that Britain will continue to fight hard in the EC to ensure that the Caribbean countries continue to receive preferential arrangements for bananas under Lomé. She could remind Miss Charles of the need for effective lobbying by the Caribbean ACP of the Commission and other member states. The Prime Minister could express support for Dominica's efforts at diversification and say that we are looking at ways of enhancing our existing assistance under the aid programme for this process.

The Prime Minister might wish to raise the Falklands with Miss Charles. Dominica voted against the Argentine Resolution at the UN in 1983 and 1984. Since then, despite promises of support, Dominica's delegate has always been absent from the vote. Dominica is represented by a practising lawyer, who has other priorities. The Prime Minister might encourage Miss Charles to send Mr Baron, her non-resident High Commissioner to London and close friend, to New York for this and other important General Assembly matters. We note the disappointment caused in the Caribbean by the failure of Dame Nita Barrow (the Barbadian candidate defeated by the Argentine Caputo) to be elected as President of UNGA. We sympathise with the Caribbean feeling that they do not receive a fair share of UN offices because their regional group is dominated by the Latin Americans.

The vulnerability of small states, illustrated by events in Grenada in 1983 was considered at subsequent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings. Britain, recognising the need to encourage such states to be active members of UN, undertook to pay, through the Commonwealth Secretariat, a major part of the establishment and annual running costs of joint offices in New York. The joint office was opened in May and includes Dominica, Belize, The Gambia, Grenada, St Lucia and The Seychelles. The official opening by the Commonwealth Secretary General is planned for 13 October.

/CHOGM



CHOGM 1987 reaffirmed the British view that small states merit priority in developmental assistance and support to improve their security. Britain is providing coastguard facilities for six Caribbean states, including Dominica. The facilities are due for completion in 1989: Dominica's base was opened earlier this year.

The Prime Minister may wish to ask Miss Charles about the prospects for political unity within the Eastern Caribbean to enhance regional security and improve trade and aid opportunities. Miss Charles is a proponent of greater political unity and we have given the concept discreet support. The momentum for it within the Organisation of East Caribbean States is however declining.

We and the United States strongly support the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System (based on Barbados). Of late Miss Charles, fearing the encouragement of militarism, has talked of downgrading the RSS to a looser coastguard protection arrangement under revolving chairmanship. We do not think this would give the islands adequate protection against attacks from international narcotics traffickers as well as subversion from other sources. The Prime Minister will wish to stress to Miss Charles the emphasis we place on international cooperation to combat drug trafficking. One of the most effective tools is our Drug Trafficking Offences Act which enables us to trace, freeze and confiscate traffickers' assets. We think it important to implement the recommendations of the UK/US Caribbean Survey on Drugs and the conclusions of the Caribbean Drug Law Enforcement Conference. The formation of effective government coordination machinery and introduction of tough legislation are essential.

Miss Charles may mention that her Attorney-General has been appointed head of a CARICOM committee to study the feasibility of establishing a Caribbean Court of Appeal to replace recourse to the Privy Council. Our position is that appeals procedure is a political decision for the Caribbean countries themselves to decide. There is no truth in recent rumours that we intend abolishing appeals to the Privy Council from the Caribbean.

/Miss



Miss Charles can be expected to raise the level of UK Resident Representation in Dominica. Our High Commissioner in Barbados is concurrently accredited to the six small Eastern Caribbean island states. We have Resident Representatives in four states, but not in Dominica (nor in St Christopher and Nevis which is covered by the Representative in Antigua). The High Commissioner visits Dominica frequently and has particularly good relations with Miss Charles. But she would like to see a Resident Representative in Roseau. We are keeping under review: but we have had so far to rule it out on grounds of cost. We recognise however that when Miss Charles retires we could not guarantee that present arrangements would work well with any eventual successor.

The British Council have no representation in the Caribbean, and British cultural activity in Dominica is low. Students from Dominica receive support, via the British High Commission Bridgetown, under FCO, ODA and Commonwealth scholarship programmes. Sixteen awards were made at a cost of £100,000 in 1987/88. In the 1988/89 academic year, the High Commission, Bridgetown, is offering a flagship award to students from the Eastern Caribbean States for post-graduate study.

Our High Commissioner in Bridgetown is Mr Kevin Burns. The Prime Minister has kindly agreed that Mr Burns, who is currently on UK leave, should attend the meeting.

I enclose a Personality Note on Miss Charles.

Yours ever
Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CHARLES, THE HON MARY EUGENIA (MISS) MP

Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Development and External Affairs since July 1985; Security and Industry and Trade July 1980-85; Minister of Tourism July 1982-85; Member of Parliament for Roseau Central.

Born 15 May 1919, Dominica. Daughter of the late J B Charles (died March 1983, aged 107) an affluent and influential planter and businessman.

Educated Convent High School, Dominica and also at Convent School in Grenada; Toronto University (BA); London School of Economics. Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1947.

Member of Council of UWI 1962-63. Founded with Phyllis Allfrey (qv) the Dominica Freedom Party in 1968. Failed to win seat in October 1970 elections and entered Assembly as Opposition's Nominated Member; elected to House of Assembly March 1975 and became Leader of the Opposition. Became Prime Minister in July 1980; the first time she had ever been in office. She leads her cabinet with drive, energy and imagination. Honest, intelligent, tough and volatile and with a keen sense of humour, she is very overworked - taking far too much upon herself, but given the formidable economic and social problems facing Dominica, this is understandable. A woman who sticks to her principles, she was a prime mover in the US-led intervention of Grenada in October 1983.

Unmarried.

03 X
PM88

CONFIDENTIAL



file
bc:pc

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 August 1988

PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

BF | Your letter of 3 August refers. The Prime Minister has confirmed that she would like to see Miss Charles, and has suggested a small working lunch on 26 September. Could you please now see if this is possible?

(FLO spoke to DM
now on 6 05)

P. A. BEARPARK

Stephen Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AIRBORNE
TO CABINET OFFICE 020 IMMEDIATE
BT

R E S T R I C T E D

FOR ANDY BEARPARK, NO.10 DOWNING STREET
FROM CHARLES POWELL, AIRBORNE

PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO SEE MISS CHARLES
AND AGREES THAT WE SHOULD OFFER A TIME ON 26 SEPTEMBER
(SIC). I SUPPOSE A SMALL WORKING LUNCH IS NOT BY ANY
CHANCE POSSIBLE? IF NOT, JUST A TALK.

C.D.P.

GRS00000
NNNN

RESTRICTED
IMMEDIATE
CABINET OFFICE

020

For Andy Bearpark, No. 10 Downing Street
from Charles Powell, Airbourne

Prime Minister of Dominica

The Prime Minister would like to see
Miss Charles and agrees that we should offer a
time on 26 September (sic). I suppose a
small working lunch is not by any chance
possible? If not, just a talk.

CDP

CDP
6.8.88

RESTRICTED

72/5

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FACSIMILE DOCUMENT LEADER

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TRANSMISSION QUERIES, TEL 270 0245/0246

SERIAL No. 72/5 DATE. 5 AUGUST 1988

THIS TRANSMISSION CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES PLUS LEADER.

FROM. P. A. BEARPARK DEPT. NO. 10

TO. C. D. POWELL, PM'S PARTY FAX No.

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

PRECEDENCE: IMMED

ORIGINATING OFFICERS NAME P. A. BEARPARK

ORIGINATING OFFICERS TELEPHONE No. 222 8141 ext. 3116

ORIGINATING OFFICERS SIGNATURE .. X .. PABER

DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS. DO NOT DISTURB PARTY

..... DURING SILENT HOURS

.....
.....

Covering CONFIDENTIAL

TO MR. CHARLES POWELL, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY,
FROM ANDREW BEARPARK, 10 DOWNING STREET.

Please see the attached letter from Stephen Wall about
the Prime Minister of Dominica. I strongly suspect that
the Prime Minister would wish to see Miss Charles, but
the arguments in Stephen's letter seem to mitigate against
an October meeting. I can find something relatively
easily on 26 ^{Sept} ~~October~~. Content for me to offer them this?

PPB

5 August 1988

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OTO

CONFIDENTIAL

ccpc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 August 1988

Dear Andy,

Tessa

Pl advise

Andy

Prime Minister of Dominica

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica has told our High Commissioner in Bridgetown that she plans to travel to Europe on 25 September (transitting Heathrow on 26 September) for the Berlin IMF/IBRD meeting. She has asked whether a brief call on the Prime Minister might be possible on either Monday 3 October or Tuesday 4 October, before she returns to Dominica. We understand that Miss Charles would like aid matters to be the main topic. She can be expected to seek ODA assistance towards a new international airport which could cost between £105 million and £163 million. (The ODA do not see this project as a priority for developmental finance and would not wish to commit ODA funds to it.)

UK-Dominica relations are excellent. Dominica, under Miss Charles, has proved a steadfast friend of the UK. It has consistently refused to support Argentine-inspired resolutions on the Falkland Islands at UNGA and the OAS and has generally followed the UK's line on international issues. Miss Charles also ensures that our aid to Dominica is processed efficiently and expresses strong, public appreciation of HMG's help in developing her country. The opposition Labour Party is drifting leftwards with ties to Cuba and, increasingly, Libya. Should the Prime Minister agree to a meeting, it would further boost Miss Charles' standing within Dominica and the wider Commonwealth Caribbean. It would also help make up for Miss Charles' disappointment that the Prime Minister was unable to accept her invitation to attend the celebration of Dominica's tenth anniversary of independence on 3 November (copy of the Prime Minister's letter of 29 January enclosed).

The dates proposed by Miss Charles could, however, be tricky since they would coincide with the presence in London of a number of other Caribbean leaders, attending a conference from 30 September to 1 October on the Single European Market and the Caribbean, organised by the West India Committee in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat, CARICOM and the ACP Secretariat. An invitation to attend this conference has been sent to Miss Charles and all other Commonwealth Caribbean leaders. Many are expected to attend and they too might want to call on the Prime Minister, especially if it were known that Miss Charles was to do so. It has already been agreed that Prime Minister Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago will call on the Prime Minister on 3 October at the beginning of his Guest of Government visit, but to see the others could involve calls by another half a dozen heads of government.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



Should the Prime Minister wish to see Miss Charles, one way round this problem would be to suggest that she extend her transit stop in London on 26 September by a few hours. If Miss Charles wished to follow this up with detailed discussions with the ODA, these could be arranged on 3 or 4 October.

Jam.
Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

P A Bearpark Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

29 January 1988

THE PRIME MINISTER

HWD 22/1
- 4 FEB 1988
PA VIV

Dear Prime Minister

It was kind of you to write such a charming letter to invite me to visit Dominica and help you celebrate the 10th anniversary of your independence. It will be a great occasion and one which I would love to attend. But having gone into it very carefully, I just do not think it will be possible. The dates fall at a time when our Parliament will be sitting and the legislative programme will be at a crucial stage; also when I have several major speeches, to the Lord Mayor's Banquet and at the opening of the new session of Parliament, just ahead of me. With the greatest reluctance and sadness, I have concluded that I cannot come. But thank you again for thinking of me and I do hope all the preparations for your 'Reunion Year '88' go well.

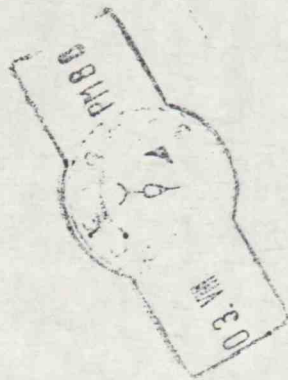
With warm regards,

Original and copy sent to BHC, Bridgetown for onward transmission

Yours sincerely

Pa
M. 1/2 Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. Miss M. Eugenia Charles, MP.



Covering CONFIDENTIAL

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Y
C
R

PPB

5 August 1988

Covering CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

E.C.R.C.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 August 1988

Tessa

Per advice

Andy

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Prime Minister of Dominica

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Jam.
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

P A Bearpark Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

29 January 1988

THE PRIME MINISTER

Handwritten: *HW D 224/1*
Stamp: *PA VIA*

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With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Pa
M. 1/2
Raymond Baxter

The Hon. Miss M. Eugenia Charles, MP.

Original and copy sent to BHC, Bridgetown for onward transmission



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 August 1986

I enclose a copy of a very nice thank
you letter from Mrs. Charles to the Prime
Minister, for your records.

(Charles Powell)

C. R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010 K 29/8

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

CEPC ②

SUBJECT CC MASTEX
OPS

SERIAL No. 7151X41/86
(Dominica)



TELEGRAMS, EXTERNAL DOMINICA
TELEX: 613 EXTERNAL DO
Ref No. EX3/13 - 969

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS,
ROSEAU,
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA,
WEST INDIES.

August 14, 1986

The Right Honourable Prime Minister
Mrs Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
White Hall
London SW1
ENGLAND

Prime Minister
A very nice
thank you letter from
Miss Charles.
CDP 29/8

Dear Prime Minister,

Let me first of all thank you for extending an invitation to me to visit London last June. A very interesting programme was arranged for me and I met many of the people whom I wanted to see again and to make acquaintance with others for the first time. I was particularly pleased to meet Lord Kindersley, and though I have been a great critic of the Corporation, I believe that my discussions with Lord Kindersley will benefit our island as well as the Corporation which requires to show a better face in this country.

I also wish to thank you for your hospitality which I greatly enjoyed and for the very kind words you said at the close of lunch. Knowing you to be a very sincere person, something which I have always admired in you, I am apt to believe that the things you said were really meant by you.

I want to thank you also for the lovely flowers and the beautiful gift which you gave me during my visit.

I know the summit of the seven has ended and I am convinced that that meeting has demonstrated that persons can remain friends and yet differ greatly in matters which might otherwise bring dissension. As you know, I take a completely different view of the matter of apartheid and treatment of South Africa to the one that you do, and I have always respected the decisions you have made and realise that we approach this from entirely different angles because of the circumstances of our positions. The important thing is that the Commonwealth has weathered the storm and this, I am very pleased and happy to note. Had the Commonwealth foundered on these differences, the only persons who would have gained would be the Botha regime in South Africa, who are no longer members of the Commonwealth.

I believe there must have been a great deal of hard work and patience both by yourself and Sir Geoffrey Howe, to have arrived at these conclusions, and I am very grateful to both of you for the effort you have put into this - which might appear sometimes a thankless task.

2.

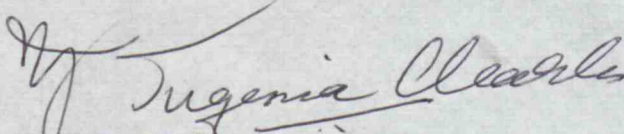
I want to thank you, too, for the interest you showed in my request that we should be considered for financial assistance in preparing for the eventual building of an international airport in Dominica. As you know, I am a realist and I do not expect such an airport would be handed to me on a golden platter within the next few months, and so, I want to stress the idea that I put forward that we will find a place suitable for such an airport, that the first phase should allow for the building of a five thousand feet strip which is capable of lighting for night landings and which will be accessible in all weather. The second phase - extension to eight or nine thousand feet to be considered later on.

May I again say thanks to you and to your government for the assistance you have always given to Dominica. Our requests have been many and on the whole have been readily fulfilled. In fact, they have had to take their turn in the line of priorities. If we seem to ask a great deal, it is because our needs are many but I am sure you would have noticed that we ask for projects which will enable us to play our own part in the development of our country in the future.

Please be assured that I understand the task you have before you. I also understand and appreciate the sincerity which you bring to the performance of these tasks, and to look on at your achievement is to assist me in continuing and in trying to achieve a great deal for Dominica.

Again many thanks.

Yours faithfully,
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

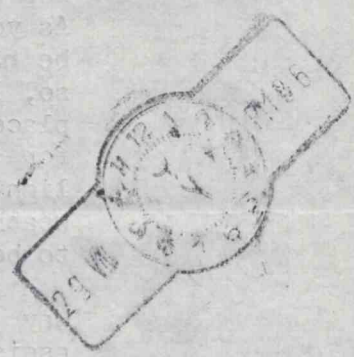


M. Eugenia Charles
Prime Minister

MEC:db

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I want to thank you, too, for the interest you showed in my request that we should be considered for financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of the National Council on Education. As you know, I am a teacher and do not expect such an amount to be placed to me on a regular basis within the next few years, and so I want to express the hope that the amount that we will receive from outside sources will be sufficient to carry out the project of a live classroom in the building and that it will be successful in all respects. The second source of assistance is to be a grant from the National Council on Education.



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Very truly yours,

John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy
President of the United States

OXLEY
1191

OXLEY



10 DOWNING STREET

25 June 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear Tony,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

The Prime Minister had a talk with the Prime Minister of Dominica before giving lunch in her honour today. Miss Charles was accompanied by the Dominican High Commissioner. The Foreign Secretary and the High Commissioner for Bridgetown were also present.

South Africa

Miss Charles said that she had made clear publicly her strong views on South Africa. She also recognised that the considerations which confronted HMG were very different and she could well understand that Britain reached different conclusions. This point of view had not appealed much to the BBC. Miss Charles said that it was absurd to talk of breaking up the Commonwealth on the issue of sanctions against South Africa. The Commonwealth was a loose association and cooperation within it was far too valuable to be sacrificed on this issue.

Dominica internal

Miss Charles said that the Prime Minister would be glad to know, given the amount of money which Britain had put into the banana industry in Dominica, that it was now prospering. She had also reached agreement with the banks on the rescheduling of Dominica's debt at a lower rate of interest. Inflation had been brought down from some 30 per cent to 2.5 per cent. She refused to grant subsidies to farmers: she preferred to spend the money on other things. The Government had been forced to take some harsh measures. But the Opposition's attempts to arrange demonstrations had not succeeded. Looking to the future, she was determined to abolish a number of statutory boards which filled no useful function. She was also intending to privatise water and electricity and to complete the programme of building feeder roads. Looking further ahead, she was convinced that a new airport was needed. The IMF and the World Bank supported this view.

Agriculture

Miss Charles said that the market for Dominica's bananas was flourishing thanks to the protection provided by

the United Kingdom. But she had taken the point made to her by Mrs. Fenner that Dominica should seek to diversify its markets. She was also encouraging diversification of crops, in particular to avocados and pink grapefruit. She would like to see Dominica's green limes sold in the United Kingdom.

United Nations

Miss Charles said that it was impossible for the Government of a small country to wade through the mass of paper produced by the United Nations. She thought the whole organisation needed to be monitored by a committee of misers like herself. Several UN agencies ought to be disbanded, in particular ECLA.

Tourism

Miss Charles said that she was trying to get away from package tourism which had a lot of undesirable social consequences towards tourism based on Dominica's special advantages.

Race problems in the United Kingdom

Miss Charles said that she was worried about race problems involving West Indians in the United Kingdom. She thought that one solution was to arrange more visits to countries like Dominica by policemen, officials and teachers from the United Kingdom so that they would come to know the West Indian nature better. The Prime Minister said that this sounded an idea worth following up. (There was some further discussion of this point but I am afraid I had to leave the room to attend to another matter.)

I am copying this letter to Ivor Llewelyn (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office).

*Yours truly,
Charles Powell*

CHARLES POWELL

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MISS CHARLES

You are to have a meeting with Miss Charles on Wednesday, and give her lunch.

I attach the briefs for you to look at during the weekend. I think you will want to talk to her mostly about South Africa and about the situation in Turks and Caicos, on which we shall know more next week. But you might also cover the general security situation in the Caribbean and Central America.

There are a number of small bilateral issues to touch upon:

1. Aid. We have just announced a new £5 million loan.
2. Regional Security. A joint US/UK training programme for the Regional Security System will be presented to East Caribbean security chiefs on 26 June. We and the US pay virtually all the costs.
3. Scholarships. The allocation for the Caribbean has been increased by £50,000 for 1986/87 (money saved from UNESCO).
4. UN. Dominica is shutting its office, and the Commonwealth Secretariat have been typically dilatory in setting up arrangements for a joint office for small states. We are ready to contribute to the financing of such an office.

I will let you have separately a short speech.

CDP

CDP

20 June, 1986.

JD3AMN

PO

CCPC
CCB/UP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 June 1986

CW
29/6

Dear Charles,

Visit of the Prime Minister of Dominica,
22-25 June 1986

I attach briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Miss Charles on Wednesday 25 June at 12.15pm. A full programme has been arranged for the visit and Miss Charles will earlier have seen Mr Raison and Mrs Fenner on 23 June. A copy of the programme is included in the briefing. Some of the briefs may need expansion or amendment in the first two days of next week.

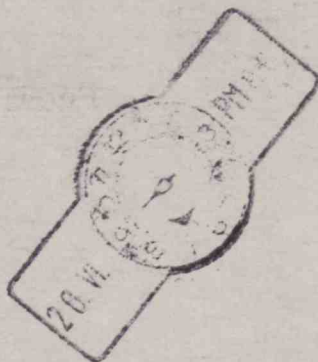
Miss Charles will be accompanied to the meeting by the non-resident Dominican High Commissioner, Mr Franklin Baron. Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Giles Bullard, who will be returning from Bridgetown for the visit, will also attend.

I also attach draft speaking notes for the lunch that will follow the meeting. This material, like the briefing, has not yet been seen by the Foreign Secretary but will be submitted to him in parallel over the weekend.

Yours ever,

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street





PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE HON MISS EUGENIA
CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA, 25 JUNE 1986

Our Objectives

- (a) to encourage Miss Charles to continue to work for closer economic and political cooperation in the Commonwealth Caribbean.
- (b) to assure her of our continuing support for her exemplary efforts towards promoting economic development in Dominica;
- (c) to urge Miss Charles to maintain Dominican representation at the United Nations.
- (d) to exchange views on the situation in South Africa and to explain our thinking on sanctions.

Arguments

- (a) Concerned about security of small Commonwealth states in the Caribbean; prevention better than cure: believe regional cooperation key to future economic and political stability in the region:



development of Regional Security System (RSS)
encouraging: will continue to assist, in
cooperation with US, at minimal cost to RSS
member states;

(b) Dominica uses aid funds well: largest of our
bilateral aid programmes in Eastern Caribbean:
new £5 million loan announced: example to other
less efficient aid users;

(c) important that the views of all truly democratic
states should be heard in the UN: ready to assist
financially Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored
arrangements for shared facilities in New York
for Small Eastern Caribbean states;

(d) the arguments will be well known to the Prime
Minister.

Her Objectives

(a) To explain her plans for stimulating growth and
development in Dominica and to solicit our
continued support for her efforts;



- (b) to seek an increase in the number of scholarships available to Dominicans in the United Kingdom.

Your Response

- (a) We will continue to assist Dominica as far as our resources allow: glad we were recently able to announce new £5 million loan: know that you discussed specific projects with Mr Raison on 24 June;
- (b) the provision of scholarships for Caribbean students has been increased for 1986/87.

Tactical Argument

- (b) A large part of Britain's former UNESCO contribution has been used for student support.



BACKGROUND

1. Miss Charles last visited Britain in September/October 1985 when she had talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Lady Young and Mr Raison. The Prime Minister did not see her on that occasion. The Prime Minister last met Miss Charles at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Nassau in October.

2. Following independence we gave a settlement grant of £6.45 million and a £5 million interest-free loan. This has all been taken up and Mr Raison announced a new £5 million loan during his visit to Dominica in April. Our technical cooperation programme for Dominica is running at about £350,000 per year.

3. Dominica is a member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a relatively cohesive sub-group within CARICOM, and Miss Charles has played and continues to play a leading role.

4. A joint UK/US training programme for the Regional Security System (RSS) is to be presented to Eastern Caribbean security chiefs on 26 June. All but residual costs, eg health care, will be met by Britain and the



United States. The package will include training in military and police skills. It is expected that the security chiefs will recommend acceptance of the package to their Prime Ministers early in July. The intention is that the joint training teams should be in place by September.

5. Miss Charles has said that Dominica's office in New York will close on 30 June. The Commonwealth Secretariat are exploring the possibility of a joint office for the small states of the Eastern Caribbean. We can assist financially from our share of the residual assets of the now liquidated British Phosphate Commission.

Miss Charles will discuss the matter with Sir Peter Marshall, Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General (Economic) while she is here.

6. The 1985/86 allocation for scholarships for the Caribbean was £1,252,000. This has been increased for 1986/87 to £1,302,000.

7. Dominica is a small market for British goods, but Britain is a vital market for Dominica: under Lomé III arrangements, we are committed to taking all Dominica's bananas of marketable quality.

WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT

June 1986



Press Line

1. PMs agreed on the desirability of increased regional cooperation in the Eastern Caribbean to improve economic well-being and political stability.

2. South Africa was among matters discussed.

WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT

June 1986



CALL BY THE HON MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF
DOMINICA, 25 JUNE 1986

INDEX TO BACKGROUND PAPERS

- A Aid
- B Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System
- C Dominican Representation at the United Nations
- D Overseas Students
- E Trade
- F Personality Notes
- G Programme for the Visit



VISIT OF MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA, 22-25 JUNE 1986
CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER: 25 JUNE 1986

AID TO DOMINICA

BACKGROUND

Future Aid

Following an independence aid settlement of £10m (£5m grant, £5m loan) we have recently announced a further loan of £5m, interest-free repayable over 15 years with a 5 year grace period.

Dominica Airport Development

We understand that during the recent IBRD/IMF Mission the existing airports at Melville Hall and Canefield were identified as major constraints on economic growth. A pre-feasibility study on resiting was carried out by Venezuelan consultants in 1974. What is at present envisaged is not a new international airport to replace Melville Hall but an alternative facility at Crompton Point which could later be expanded. The Government are now seeking to update the Venezuelan Study. Although the Dominicans do not yet have any donor in mind (they have mentioned it informally to both the Americans and Canadians) we understand from the Dominican High Commissioner Mr Baron that Miss Charles is likely to raise the matter during her visit. In principle we would be prepared to consider financing the updating of the study depending on cost and timing. TC funds are not available in 1986/87 but there are uncommitted funds in 1987/88 and thereafter.



VISIT OF MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA, 22-25 JUNE 1986
CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER: 25 JUNE 1986

AID TO DOMINICA

ESSENTIAL FACTS

British Aid to Dominica

Population: 75,000

GNP per capita: US\$970 (1983)

British aid to Dominica runs at about £2.1 million a year (£1.8 million capital £0.3m IC). The 1978 Independence Settlement provides for a £5.0 million grant and a £5 million loan (increased by a special grant of £1.46m for hurricane reconstruction). These are almost fully spent. During his visit to Dominica in April Mr Raison announced a new loan of £5 million.

Current Major Projects

The main features of the capital programme are:

- (a) A major long-term tree crop diversification programme (including coffee, mango, avocados, grapefruit and oranges) at a total cost of £1 million over 7 years. Unspent balances are being used for a programme of disease control and for the development of a marketing organisation (£130,000).
- (b) The continuation of a Community Development Programme targetted at the under-privileged sections of Dominican society (£220,000).
- (c) The provision of fertilizers and assistance to the Dominica Banana Marketing Corporation (£600,000).
- (d) Capital plant for the Public Works Department (£316,000)
- (e) Printing equipment for the Government Printery (£200,000).

/Projects



Projects under discussion

- (a) Further support to the Dominican Banana Marketing Corporation including fertilizers (up to a maximum of £1.4 million).
- (b) Second phase of coffee development programme (£510,000).
- (c) Renovation of a building to house the Post Office Statistical Centre and the Civil Service Training School (£1 million).
- (d) Renovation of a building for the Dominican Export/Import Agency (£800,000).

Technical Cooperation

At present there are six British expatriate staff in Dominica (science education, pest control, marketing, financial management, surveying, medical). Dominicans are provided with scholarships both in the region and in the UK under a £100,000 training programme.

Dominica also benefits from regional programmes in tree crop development and the banana industry (through assistance to the Windward Island Banana Association: WINBAN).

Regional Security

Dominica is part of the East Caribbean Regional Security System for which £4.5 million has been made available for the provision of coastguard shore facilities.



CALL ON THE HON MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF
DOMINICA, 25 JUNE 1986.

REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM (RSS) AND COASTGUARD SERVICES

BACKGROUND

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on military and police cooperation was signed in October 1982 by Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent. St Kitts and Grenada have subsequently joined what has become known as the RSS. This provides for mutual assistance in national emergencies, measures against smuggling, search and rescue, immigration, fisheries protection, customs and excise etc and threats to national security. The RSS was mobilised in October 1983 to take part in the intervention in Grenada.

2. Agreement has been reached between Britain and the United States to coordinate training for the RSS. Regular liaison meetings are held with the US and with the RSS planning office to put this into practice. A joint UK/US training programme is to be presented to the Eastern Caribbean security chiefs on 26 June. All but residual costs, eg health care, will be met by Britain and the United States. The package will include training in military and police skills. It is expected that the security chiefs will recommend acceptance of the package to the Prime Ministers early in July. The intention is that joint training teams should be in place by September.

3. Britain is financing the building of Coastguard bases in each State (except Barbados, which already has a

RESTRICTED



base), and is providing Loan Service Personnel (LSP) for training the Coastguard Services. The US have gifted patrol boats.

WEST INDIAN & ATLANTIC DEPT

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CALL BY THE HON MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA,
25 JUNE 1986

DOMINICAN REPRESENTATION AT THE UN

1. Dominica appears intent on closing its Mission at the UN (reportedly at the end of June) on financial grounds - several other Eastern Caribbean States are similarly concerned about costs in New York. Closure of these Missions would be regrettable since:

(a) it would weaken the States' links with the international community;

(b) their General Assembly votes tend to be helpful to us.

2. The question of small states' representation at the UN was tackled in the report "Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society" produced by a Commonwealth Consultative Group and endorsed by the Nassau CHOGM. One specific recommendation was that something similar to the successful (Australian funded) joint New York office for three Pacific small states should be set up for other groups.

3. The Commonwealth Secretariat are tasked with taking this further, but preoccupation with COMGEP has meant that little progress has been made. The Eastern Caribbean States themselves have also made little effort to come to an agreed position. HMG have offered to make some money available to help finance a joint office: this would come from our share of the residual assets of the now liquidated British Phosphate Commissioners.



4. The High Commissioner indicated recently that Miss Charles might be prepared to delay closure of the New York Mission if a solution were imminent. Either Sir Geoffrey Howe or Lady Young will raise the matter with her. FCO have again pressed the Secretariat to come forward quickly with a practical and costed proposal and it is expected that Sir Peter Marshall will raise the matter when he calls on Miss Charles.

CALL BY THE HON MISS EUGENIA CHARLES PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA,
25 JUNE 1986

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Background

1. Britain continues to welcome overseas students and recognises that they play an important bridging role between societies and help interpret one culture to another. We also recognise the political, economic and commercial benefits that they bring.
2. Britain's policy has moved away from direct subsidies for all overseas students irrespective of need, to a policy of asking all overseas students to pay for the cost of their courses. Instead, a number of targeted scholarship and training support schemes have been introduced by which we are able to help many thousands of young people (over 17000 in 1985 at a cost of about £75 million), particularly those from developing countries, to come to Britain to study. In 1985/86 approximately 230 students from the Caribbean were supported under the FCO Scholarships and Awards Scheme and the ODA's Technical Co-operation and Training Programme at a cost of £1.3 million.
3. British support for students from overseas recognises the developmental needs of developing countries particularly those of the Commonwealth, to which over 65% of resources were directed in 1985/86.
4. Over £100,000 of the money saved by Britain's withdrawal from UNESCO has been diverted to additional scholarships and training awards for Caribbean countries.
5. A degree course at a British University or Polytechnic represents good value for money. Courses in Britain are usually for three years compared with four years in, for example, the United States. Many of the courses, particularly those at Polytechnics, are appropriate for students from developing countries. A British qualification is still recognised and respected throughout the world.

CALL BY MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA, 25 JUNE 1986

BACKGROUND

1 BILATERAL TRADE

UK bilateral trade with Dominica is relatively small, but about average compared with other Eastern Caribbean islands. There has been little fluctuation in the levels of imports or exports over the last 5 years - the balance of trade being usually in Dominica's favour owing to EEC preferential arrangements for bananas.

UK Exports

UK exports are usually between £7-10m per annum. The figure for 1985 of £10.26m was the highest this decade and a 22% increase in 1984. The first four months of 1986 has seen a 3% drop on the corresponding period last year (£3.06m down to £2.95m). The main UK exports are food, chemicals, manufactured goods and machinery

UK imports

UK imports over the last 5 years have been between £11.3m and £18.1m. Imports of £18.1 in 1985 were 21% up on 1984. There has been a 7.2% increase so far this year. UK imports are almost entirely bananas. Dominica is heavily reliant upon the UK for her exports:- approximately 50% including 90% of their bananas. Recent trade figures are as follows: (£m)

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
UK exports	7.9	7.4	7.6	8.3	10.2
UK imports	14.4	11.3	12.2	14.9	18.1
balance to Dominica	6.5	3.9	4.6	6.6	7.9

2 INVESTMENT

Dominica can offer manufacturers preferential access to the European Community through the Lome Convention and to the USA through the provisions of President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). CBI provides duty and tariff-free entry to the USA for 12 years from 1 January 1984 for most goods containing 35% or more Caribbean content. So far companies from the USA and the Far East have been fastest to react to CBI. The only UK company to take advantage of the CBI opportunities is operating in Barbados (another beneficiary country of which there are, so far, 21). We are not aware of any UK manufacturing operations in Dominica and this may be because of better facilities offered by other Caribbean (CBI beneficiary) countries.

OT4/2A

June 1986



THE HON MARY EUGENIA (MISS) CHARLES MP

Prime Minister since July 1980; Minister for Finance, Economic Development and External Affairs since July 1985; Security and Industry and Trade July 1980-85; Minister of Tourism July 1982-85; Member of Parliament for Roseau Central.

Born 15 May 1919, Dominica. Unmarried. Daughter of the late J B Charles (died March 1983, aged 107) a planter and businessman.

Educated Convent High School, Dominica and also at Convent School in Grenada; Toronto University (BA); London School of Economics. Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1947.

Member of Council of University of the West Indies 1962-63. Joint founder of the Dominica Freedom Party in 1968. Failed to win seat in October 1970 elections and entered Assembly as Opposition's Nominated Member; elected to House of Assembly March 1975 and became leader of the Opposition. Became Prime Minister in July 1980 - the first time she had ever been in office. Led her party to victory in general elections in July 1985. She leads her cabinet with drive, energy and imagination. Honest, intelligent, tough and volatile and with a keen sense of humour, she is very overworked - taking far too much upon herself, but given the formidable economic and social problems facing Dominica, this is understandable. A woman who sticks to her principles, she was a prime mover in the US-led intervention of Grenada in October 1983.



FRANKLIN ANDREW MERRIFIELD BARON

Non-Resident High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Dominica to London from June 1986. Previously non-resident Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States from 1982-86.

Born 19 January 1923, Portsmouth, Dominica. Educated at Portsmouth Government School, Dominica Grammar School and St Mary's Academy. Entered business as Manager A A Baron and Co in 1939.

Member Roseau Town Council 1945, Member Legislative and Executive Council 1954-60, Dominica's Representative to Federation of the West Indies talks 1956-58, Minister of Trade and Production 1956-60, represented Windward Islands in London talks on military bases between US, UK and West Indies in 1957. Chief Minister and Minister of Finance 1960-61.

Chairman, Dominica Amateur Sports Association 1945-56, Member, Board of Management, Dominica Banana Growers' Association 1945-75, Chairman, Dominica Tourist Board and Member Dominica Hotels Association 1970-72, Member Public Services Commission 1976-78, President Rotary Club of Dominica 1976-77, Member Electoral Commission 1979, Member, Board of Dominica Electricity Services Ltd 1981.



Sir Giles Bullard KCVO CMG

High Commissioner since 6 August 1983 to Barbados and non-resident High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean states of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts (Christopher) and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Born 24 August 1926. Married (Linda). Four children and three step-children.

Sir Giles Bullard joined the Foreign Office in 1955 after military service (1944-48), and periods in the War Office and the City. He has served in Bucharest, Brussels, Panama City, Bangkok, Islamabad, Boston (as Consul General). He was HM Ambassador at Sofia from 1980-83. He was made a CMG in Her Majesty's 1981 Birthday Honours List and KCVO during the visit to Dominica by HM The Queen in October 1985.

Sir Giles is due to retire from the Diplomatic Service in August 1986.

010

CC PC
PRESS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 June 1986

COP/6/6

Dear Charles,

Visit of the Prime Minister of Dominica,
Miss Eugenia Charles

Miss Charles is to visit Britain as a Guest of Government from 22-25 June 1986.

We recommend that the visit be announced today, as has been agreed informally with your Press Office. I enclose a draft press release.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street



VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA

At the invitation of the Prime Minister,
the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP,
Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth
of Dominica, will visit Britain as a guest of Government
from 22 to 25 June 1986.

BACKGROUND

During her visit Miss Charles will have talks with the
Prime Minister and other Ministers. The Prime Minister
last met Miss Charles at the Commonwealth Heads of Govern-
ment Meeting in Nassau in October 1985.

HM The Queen visited Dominica, also in October 1985, during
her tour of the Eastern Caribbean after the CHOGM. Miss Charles
last visited Britain in September 1985 when she had talks with
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Lady Young and Mr Timothy Raison. Mr Raison
visited Dominica in April 1986.

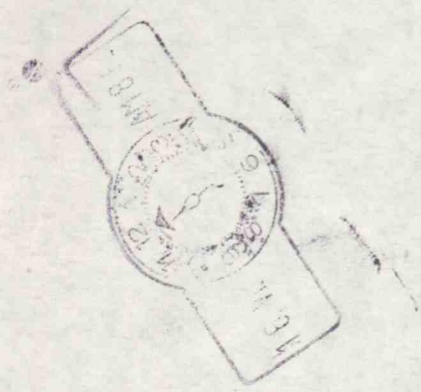
Dominica, the largest of the Windward Islands group in the
Eastern Caribbean, with a population of about 75,000, achieved
independence from Britain on 3 November 1978 as a republic with-
in the Commonwealth. Miss Charles has been Prime Minister since
1980.

Following independence, Britain gave a settlement grant of
£6.45 million and a £5 million interest-free loan. This has
all been taken up and Mr Raison announced a new £5 million
loan during his visit in April. We also have a technical co-
operation programme running at about £350,000 a year.

Britain is a vital market for Dominica: we are committed to
taking all bananas, the country's main export, of marketable
quality under Lomé III arrangements.

Trade details (£ millions)

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Imports from Dominica	14.5	11.4	12.3	15.0	18.1
Exports from Dominica	8.0	7.4	7.7	8.4	10.3



MARLIN, CONFIDENTIAL REGISTRY



With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

AS REQUESTED

Susan

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

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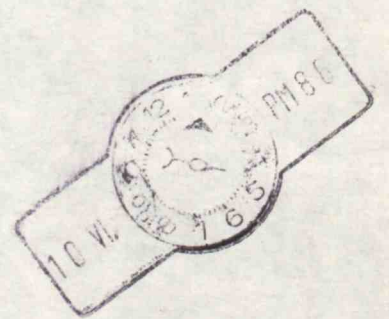
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TO IMMEDIATE CARACAS
TELNO 75
OF 021530Z JUNE 86

(11) YOUR TELNO 112 : MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SP JOACHIM BALAGUER
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. BEGINS:
PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR
ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS DURING YOUR TERM
OF OFFICE. ENDS.

HOWE

LIMITED
MCAD
PS/LADY YOUNG
MF DAVID THOMAS
SIP W HARDING

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 June 1986

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ELECTIONS

Thank you for your letter of 2 June enclosing a draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic. This may issue.

(Charles Powell)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

✓/6



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 June 1986

*Dear Charles*Dominican Republic Elections 1986

Our Ambassador in Caracas, who is also accredited to the Dominican Republic, has reported that the results of the Dominican Republic Presidential elections held on 16 May have now been finalised and Senor Joachim Balaguer has been declared the winner.

It is normal for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations to newly-elected Heads of Governments with which we have normal relations. The Dominicans are proud of the fact that Britain was the first country to recognise their independence. They were hurt by our decision to close our Embassy in Santo Domingo in 1984, but relations have remained cordial. I attach a draft telegram to Caracas with a suitable message.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification RESTRICTED	Caveat	Precedence PRIORITY
ZCZC	1	ZCZC		
TC	2	RESTRICTED		
CAVEAT	3			
FM	4	FM FCO		
TO	5	TO PRIORITY CARACAS		
TELNO	6	TELNO		
OF	7	OF 021530Z JUNE 86		
AND TO	8			
	9	Your telno 112 : MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF		
	10	THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
	11	1. Please transmit the following message to Sr Joachim Balaguer		
	12	from the Prime Minister. Begins:		
	13	Please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your		
	14	election as President. I wish you every success during your term		
	15	of office. Ends.		
	16			
	17	HOWE		
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	24	Mr DAVID THOMAS		
	25	SIR W HARDING		
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ADDITIONAL	Authorised for despatch by:		Initials	Date/time
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JB JHC

b. e. L. v. P. e.



10 DOWNING STREET

31 December, 1985.

From the Private Secretary

PROPOSED VISIT BY MISS CHARLES

Thank you for your letter of 24 December about the proposed visit by Miss Charles to London.

The Prime Minister would be content for Miss Charles to be invited to visit London in the week beginning 23 June. She could see Miss Charles for talks at 1215 on 25 June followed by a lunch at 1300.

C.D. Powell

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

JB

25 June
12 15 1000①
CCPC

Prime Minister

Agree with Mrs.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Charles should be invited
on an official visit?

And to give a lunch

24 December 1985

Dear Charles,

for her on 25 June?

CDP 20/xii

Yes no

Proposed Visit by Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of
Dominica

We have been trying for some time to arrange for Miss Charles to pay an official visit to London. The last occasion on which she did so was in May 1981.

Following the intervention in Grenada in October 1983 Miss Charles, a charismatic and determined advocate of parliamentary democracy and Western values, briefly emerged on the world stage as a close ally of the United States: she apparently has ready access to the President. Although from time to time Miss Charles has joined her fellow Eastern Caribbean leaders in their criticism of what they perceive as Britain's lack of commitment to the region, she has frequently acknowledged the importance of our aid programme to the economic development of Dominica and the well-being of its people. Miss Charles was returned to power, albeit with a slightly reduced majority, in elections held in July.

An official visit to London by Miss Charles will serve to strengthen our bilateral relations and to demonstrate our continuing commitment to political and economic stability in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

When Miss Charles was passing through London in September, Sir Geoffrey Howe took the opportunity to invite her to return as a guest of Government next year. Our High Commissioner, Sir Giles Bullard, was able recently to discuss possible timings for a visit with Miss Charles and she indicated that any time from April onwards would suit her although her preference would be for mid-summer.

We have identified two brief periods in 1986 which look reasonably clear of other commitments. I should be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's agreement that we may invite Miss Charles to visit for 2/3 days either in the week

/beginning

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beginning Monday 19 May or in the week beginning Monday 23 June (perhaps less desirable from our point of view, given the European Council on 26 and 27 June). Could you say also whether the Prime Minister would be able to host a lunch or dinner in honour of Miss Charles?

Yours ever,

R N Culshaw,

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DOMINICA

VISIT BY

PM 7/80

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SRW



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 July 1985

**CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC UNION: DOMINICA**

Thank you for your letter of 25 July suggesting that the Prime Minister invite Miss Charles to visit the United Kingdom.

Sadly it did not arrive until after our departure and the Prime Minister did not therefore act on it. If you wish to pursue the idea I suggest that you submit a draft message from the Prime Minister to Miss Charles.

(C. D. POWELL)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 July 1985

Dear Charles,

Conference of the International Democratic Union (IDU),
Washington 25/26 July: Dominica

Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, will be one of the seven Heads of Government attending the IDU conference. We have already provided briefing for the Prime Minister in the form of personality notes and points to make.

The IDU conference would provide an ideal opportunity for the Prime Minister to invite Miss Charles to visit Britain as the guest of HMG, on mutually convenient dates in 1986.

We have had it in mind for some time to invite Miss Charles to visit London, subject to the outcome of the recent general election in Dominica. Miss Charles has been amongst those in the Caribbean who, despite our efforts to persuade them otherwise, continue to share the perception that Britain lacks commitment in the region. We have not been able to arrange for a British Minister to visit Dominica in recent years and Miss Charles was last in Britain, on a private visit, in 1982.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

File Minister

24 July 1985

CDP

24/7

[You will see her tomorrow]

Dear Charles,

Dominica General Election

The Prime Minister sent a message of congratulations to Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, following her general election victory on 1 July. Miss Charles has sent the following reply via our High Commission in Barbados:

"It was kind of you to send us a congratulatory message. We have enjoyed the close relations that have existed between us during our first term and look forward to continued happy association between us during this second term. Thank you so much."

Yours ever,

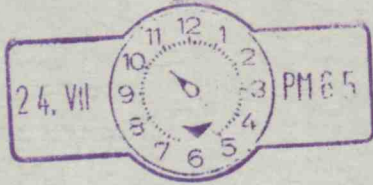
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

[Handwritten mark]

Dominica General Election July 1985



SUBJECT

cc Ops
master.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.132^{AA}/85.

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OO BRIDGETOWN
GRS 96
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FM FCO 081315Z JUL 85
TO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 203 OF 8 JULY
DOMINICA GENERAL ELECTION

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MISS CHARLES
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS: WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENT
IN WINNING RE-ELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA.
I AM DELIGHTED THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO GO ON WORKING
TOGETHER FOR THE CAUSES IN WHICH WE BOTH BELIEVE.
I SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES AS YOU ENTER ANOTHER TERM
OF OFFICE AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SEEING
YOU AT THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING THIS AUTUMN. ENDS.

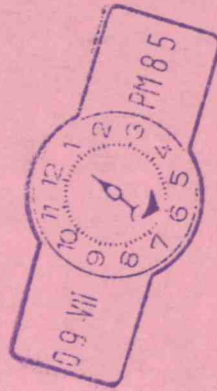
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SIR W HARDING
MR DAVID THOMAS

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1985

Dominica General Election

Thank you for your letter of 4 July enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to Miss Charles following her success in the recent elections. I enclose a revised version of the message and should be grateful if you could arrange for its early despatch.

BF /
Final
Version

(C. D. POWELL)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

VC

TELEGRAM TO BRIDGETOWN

IMMEDIATE

Please pass the following message to Miss Charles from the Prime Minister:

BEGINS: Warm congratulations on your great achievement in winning re-election as Prime Minister of Dominica. I am delighted that we shall be able to go on working together for the causes in which we both believe.

I send you my best wishes as you enter another term of office and I am looking forward very much to seeing you at the Commonwealth meeting this autumn.

ENDS



scr. JK ①

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 July 1985

Dear Charles,

Yes mb

Prime Minister
Agree attached
message?

CDP 4/7.

Dominica General Election

The Government of Dominica has been returned to office in a general election held on 1 July. It is normal Commonwealth practice for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations. I accordingly enclose, for the Prime Minister's consideration, a draft message cast in the form of a telegram to the British High Commissioner in Barbados for onward transmission to Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica.

Yr ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

TELEGRAM TO BRIDGETOWN

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Please pass the following message to Miss Charles from the Prime Minister:

BEGINS: Warm congratulations on your great achievement in winning re-election as Prime Minister of Dominica. I am delighted that we shall be able to go on working together for the causes in which we ^{believe} believe.

I send you my best wishes as you enter another term of office and I am looking forward very much to seeing you at the Commonwealth meeting this autumn.

ENDS

epc *Master*
ONS

Dominica
MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 115 C/82

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GRS 85
RESTRICTED

FM FCO 281200Z MAY 82
TO PRIORITY BUCHAREST
TELEGRAM NUMBER 65 OF 28 MAY
NEW ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE NOW PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR DASCALESCU FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS: ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, I SHOULD LIKE
TO OFFER YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON YOUR
APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOOD
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN BE DEVELOPED FURTHER
TO THE ADVANTAGE OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. ENDS

PYM

LIMITED
EESD
PCD
PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR GOODISON

1

RESTRIKCTED

CONFIDENTIAL



Dominica *JP*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 May 1982

The Prime Minister has approved the draft message to the President-elect of the Dominican Republic, which you sent under cover of your letter of 27 May to John Coles.

M. A. PATTISON

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JP

90

CONFIDENTIAL

①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 May 1982

Prime Minister

Agree to message?

A.F.C. 22/5

Dear John,

Senor Salvador Jorge Blanco has just been declared President-elect of the Dominican Republic, following orderly democratic elections on 16 May. He will take office in August.

We have good relations with the Dominican Republic. The new Government is likely to be rather more left of centre in Latin American terms, but has undertaken not to open relations with Cuba.

The Republic has remained neutral over the Falklands crisis. The Prime Minister replied on 22 May to a message from the outgoing President, Senor Guzman, expressing a desire for peace and negotiations.

We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister should send a short message of congratulation to the President-elect on the lines of the enclosed draft.

Yes
ms

Yours ever,

for Francis Richards.
(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM

	↓	Classification and Caveats UNCLASSIFIED	Precedence/Deskby ROUTINE
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6 FM FCO

7 TO ROUTINE SANTO DOMINGO

8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister

10 to Senor Blanco.

11 BEGINS: Please accept my congratulations on your success in

12 the recent elections. I look forward to the continuation during

13 your Presidency of the cordial relations which happily exist

14 between our two countries. ENDS

15

16 PYM

17 NNNN

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

27 MAY 1962





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

CONFIDENTIAL

LPO



file
10 DOWNING STREET

SUBJECT
10 Downing St
From the Private Secretary

20 May 1981

The Prime Minister of Dominica, Miss Charles, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at 1700 today. The High Commissioner for Dominica, Mr. Arden Shillingford, Mr. Ridley and Mr. Ure were also present.

The meeting was almost entirely confined to an exchange of courtesies. There was some discussion of the damage caused in Dominica by hurricanes in the last two years, and by recent very heavy rain. Miss Charles expressed her gratitude for the help that had been provided by the Royal Navy and the Royal Engineers. There was also some discussion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and the Prime Minister encouraged Miss Charles to attend. The Prime Minister said that M. Trudeau might be able to arrange for Miss Charles to travel to the Conference at no cost to the Dominican Government.

The only real point of policy that arose concerned trade in bananas. Miss Charles emphasised the importance of banana exports to the Dominican economy, and said that the Dominican Government would be approaching us in July to ask us to restrict imports from the "dollar area" through the existing licensing arrangements. She expressed the hope that the action brought by Chris International in the High Court to challenge our licensing system would not be successful. If the matter was referred to the European Court, she hoped that the proceedings would be spun out as long as possible. The Prime Minister assured Miss Charles that the Government was determined to maintain its banana marketing system which was designed to give preference to Commonwealth Caribbean fruit.

Miss Charles then briefed the Prime Minister on the steps that she was taking to diversify the economy of Dominica, largely through the development of small but profitable agricultural schemes. The Prime Minister closed the meeting by expressing the hope that Miss Charles would be successful in her plans.

WR
R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1981

Dear Mike,

Call on the Prime Minister by the
Prime Minister of Dominica,
20 May 1981 at 5pm

George Walden sent Michael Alexander on 20 May additional briefing on the effect of the British Nationality Bill on Dominicans resident in this country. I now enclose a more detailed brief on the point which we understand that Miss Charles may have in mind.

Tom
gove

PP (B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street



CALL BY MISS CHARLES ON PRIME MINISTER

SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEFING

CITIZENSHIP

1. Miss Charles need not worry that Dominicans whose permanent home is in this country will not have a right to British citizenship.

2. It is true that children born in Britain whose parents are not citizens and who are not settled here will not automatically acquire citizenship under the new law. But children whose parents are settled here will be citizens from birth and those who subsequently become settled here will have a statutory right to be registered as citizens.

3. ''Settled'' means that their residence in Britain is not subject to any restriction.

Covering CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1981

Dear Michael,

Call on the Prime Minister by the
Prime Minister of Dominica,
20 May 1981 at 5pm

We have just been warned that Miss Charles may raise with the Prime Minister the question of the British Nationality Bill and in particular its effect on Dominicans resident in this country.

/ I enclose some additional defensive briefing on this topic.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G G H Walden', with a stylized flourish below it.

(G G H Walden)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

Covering CONFIDENTIAL



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF
DOMINICA, 20 MAY 1981 AT 5pm

BRITISH NATIONALITY BILL (DEFENSIVE)

1. The Nationality Bill deals with Citizens of the UK
and Colonies (CUKC). It does not deal with the
citizenship of non-CUKC.

2. Dominican citizens who are resident in the UK may
apply for UK citizenship if they want it. We would not
wish to impose our citizenship on anyone.

Covering CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 May 1981

Dear Michael,

Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister
by the Prime Minister of Dominica
1700-1730, Wednesday 20 May

// I enclose a brief and personality note for the above call. We have heard that Miss Charles may be briefed to raise access to the British market for Caribbean bananas.

Miss Charles will be accompanied by the High Commissioner for Dominica, Mr Arden Shillingford. John Ure will attend from the FCO.

Yours ever,
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF
DOMINICA, 1700 - 1730, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 1981

OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate by receiving Miss Charles British support for her Government, so enhancing her standing at home.

POINTS TO MAKE

Political

1. Congratulations on election victory last July. Internal political situation? You will have discussed British security assistance with Nicholas Ridley. Action is in hand on equipment and training.

Hurricanes

2. Glad Britain able to help with relief. Progress in recovery?

Aid (Defensive)

3. Substantial British programme already. Financial constraints on expansion. You will doubtless discuss priorities with Neil Marten tomorrow.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

4. Hope you will be able to come.

Bananas (Defensive)

5. HMG is determined to maintain its banana marketing system which is designed to give preference to Commonwealth Caribbean fruit. Will continue to make this clear to Commission. (Chris case) Cannot comment since the case is sub judice.



BACKGROUND

Political

1. Miss Charles, a pro-Western moderate, has taken over from weak and corrupt predecessors in the poorest Commonwealth Caribbean state. Former Prime Minister Patrick John and others were arrested in February for alleged conspiracy with outside help to overthrow the government. They await trial. A state of emergency remains in force. Britain has offered advice, equipment and training for Dominica's security forces, but declined to be operationally involved in Dominican internal security. Police vehicles and communications equipment are on their way. The (British) Caribbean Regional Police Adviser is making arrangements for training.

Hurricanes

2. Dominica was devastated by Hurricane David in 1979 and severely damaged by Hurricane Allen in 1980. Britain contributed money and Royal Engineers to restore services.

Aid

3. Apart from hurricane relief, Dominica now gets more British aid than comparable independent Eastern Caribbean islands. But Miss Charles wants more, in particular faster disbursement of the £10 million independence aid settlement of 1978. Rate of spending is limited by financial constraints and Dominica's capacity to absorb worthwhile projects. Miss Charles will see Mr Marten on Thursday 21 May.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHGM)

4. Miss Charles may not attend this year's CHGM (in Melbourne from 30 September - 7 October) on the grounds of cost. Important that moderate Caribbean Heads of Government should attend. But Mr Fraser is known to doubt the advisability of paying fares for some Commonwealth leaders and not others.

Bananas

5. Under the Banana Protocol to the Lome Convention bananas from ACP states are guaranteed preferential access to their traditional

/markets



markets in the Community. The UK fulfils its share of this commitment by allowing bananas to be imported freely from the Commonwealth Caribbean, including the Windward Islands, for which the UK is the traditional market (normally two-thirds of our bananas come from this source) but controlling imports from the 'dollar area' (Latin America) by means of licensing arrangements which are used to let in only as many 'dollar area' bananas as are required to make up our market needs.

6. The UK system involves controls not only on direct banana imports from the dollar area but also on dollar area bananas which have entered free circulation elsewhere in the Community. The Commission recently questioned the compatibility of these controls with the free circulation provisions of the Treaty of Rome. The UK wishes to maintain its marketing system since to abandon it would open up our market to the detriment of our traditional Caribbean suppliers (whose bananas are not of high enough quality to be able to compete effectively with dollar area bananas). On 28 November 1980 the Commission authorised the UK to retain its system on condition that imports of dollar bananas in free circulation between 1 October 1980 and 31 May 1981 amounted to at least 8 per cent of the UK's direct dollar area imports. We are now seeking an extension of this authorisation (which expires on 31 May) to allow time for a better permanent solution to be found.

7. Chris International is a banana importer which has in the past been granted licences to import small quantities of dollar area bananas. Having unsuccessfully applied for a licence for a much larger quantity the company is now taking action in the English courts to challenge the validity of the UK's system under Community law. The action was heard in the High Court on 25 March - 3 April. Judgement was reserved and is now expected on 12 June. The matter may then be referred to the European Court of Justice.

8. The Commonwealth Caribbean suppliers are understandably concerned at these two challenges to their position in the UK market. Recent enquiries to MAFF from the Eastern Caribbean Commission indicate that Miss Charles is being briefed to raise the question with the Prime Minister.



9. Production of Commonwealth Caribbean bananas is often affected by hurricanes and other severe climatic difficulties, which do not affect dollar area bananas to the same extent. A large part of our bilateral aid for the Commonwealth Caribbean (and some Community aid) is devoted to the improvement of the quality and regularity of banana production.



FACTS ON DOMINICA

GENERAL

1. Dominica lies in the Windward Islands group between the French islands of Guadeloupe to the North and Martinique to the South. The island is 29 miles long and 16 miles wide and has a population of 77,000 of whom some 17,000 live in the capital Roseau. Most inhabitants are of African descent. There is a small number of Europeans, Syrians and Caribs. Dominica became an independent republic within the Commonwealth on 3 November 1978. The President is HE Mr Aurelius Marie.

ECONOMIC

2. The principal occupation is agriculture. The main products are tropical fruits, principally bananas, bay oil, copra and rum. Both economically and socially Dominica is more primitive and under-developed than its neighbours.
3. These problems were aggravated by Hurricane David (1979) which left Dominica's economy in ruins. About 80% of crops were destroyed, the banana crop totally. The island's large timber resources were also devastated.
4. There was also severe damage to economic infrastructure. Roads and the electricity system, are still not wholly restored. In 1980, Hurricane Allen caused further damage. Problems of reconstruction have been exacerbated by an exodus of people from the island, especially to St Lucia and Guadeloupe.

BRITISH AID

5. British aid expenditure over the last three years (in £'000) was:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project Aid</u>	<u>Technical Cooperation</u>
1978	780	148
1979	1273	152
1980	2214	167



The 1979 and 1980 figures were particularly high because of the extra hurricane rehabilitation aid, and project aid over the next three years is likely to average about £1m a year. Technical cooperation (ie training aid) will continue and increase to about £250,000 next year.



CHARLES Mary Eugenia (Miss)

Prime Minister since 18 July 1980.

Born 15 May 1919, Dominica, daughter of J B Charles, affluent and influential planter and businessman (and still working although over 100).

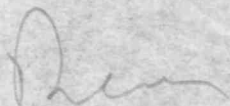
Educated: Convent High School, Dominica and also at Convent School in Grenada; Toronto University (BA); and London School of Economics. Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1947.

Member of Council of UWI 1962-3. Founded with Phyllis Allfrey Opposition Freedom Party 1968. Failed to win seat in October 1970 elections and entered Assembly as Opposition's Nominated Member; elected to House of Assembly March 1975 and became Leader of the Opposition. As Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, the then Government found her a veritable gadfly.

In addition to her legal practice, she is a director of the successful Fort Young Hotel. She is regarded as the representative of the local plantocracy and has a number of other business interests.

Intelligent, lively, volatile.

jfh



26 March 1981

Call by the Prime Minister of Dominica

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 25 March about the visit to London of the Prime Minister of Dominica. The Prime Minister would be happy to receive Miss Charles for a courtesy call from 1700 to 1730 on Wednesday 20 May.

MODBA

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HS

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Pmie Minister

①

A courtesy call on the afternoon of 20 May would be possible. Agree?

25 March 1981

Ans 25/3

Yes not

Dear Michael,

Proposed Call on the Prime Minister by the Prime Minister of Dominica

The Prime Minister of Dominica, Miss Eugenia Charles, will be paying a working visit to London from 17-23 May. In addition to talks with Ministers (probably Mr Ridley and Mr Marten) and commercial organisations she will be calling on HRH the Princess Margaret, patroness of the National Appeal for Dominica, established following Hurricane David in 1979. Miss Charles is very keen to call on the Prime Minister.

Dominica is the poorest and least developed of the independent Caribbean islands. In recent years it has suffered severely from hurricane damage and a series of inept and corrupt governments. Miss Charles' landslide victory in 1980 was a significant gain for the forces of moderation in the Eastern Caribbean. The future stability of not only Dominica but also neighbouring islands may depend on Miss Charles' ability to set Dominica on the right track.

Miss Charles has a difficult task currently complicated by internal security problems. We are doing what we can to help. But Miss Charles needs a great deal of support and re-assurance. A call on the Prime Minister would assist in reinforcing her authority and credibility both in Dominica and throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

We should be grateful therefore if a short call on the Prime Minister could be arranged in the period 18-22 May. So far the only firm engagement in the programme is Miss Charles's call on Princess Margaret at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 19 March.

*Ray. Yours ever
Rodric Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

15 MAR 1987

11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Top Copy: PM Tours,
Govt invites.

Dominica

(1)

PRIME MINISTER

Visits and Visitors - 1981

I attach a summary of your programme of outward visits and inward visitors next year as it is at present shaping up. I also attach the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's programme together with a background note.

Subject to your views, your programme seems to me at present to be manageable. However, I hope you will agree that it would be wise to resist proposals to extend it much further. In particular the programme of inward visits ^{*} is already looking rather ambitious: there will inevitably be a considerable number of unforeseen additions.

* The FCS would like to issue an (undated) invitation to Mr Angabe early next week for a visit to London next year. Agree?

Phil

12 December 1980

Can we wait a little. I am not sure it would be sufficiently well received by public opinion. not.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS AND VISITORS - 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

United States of America	Late February/early March
European Council - Maastricht	23-24 March
India/Gulf	15-23 April
North/South Summit - Mexico	Early June
European Council - Luxembourg	29-30 June
Ottawa Summit	19-21 July
CHGM - Melbourne	30 September - 7 October
Anglo-German Summit - Bonn	? October

Proposals

Portugal - now looks less attractive	1 day
Strasbourg	December - 1 day

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

Panama President	30 March - 1 April
Ghana President	Early 1981
Romania Prime Minister	13-16 April
Anglo-German Summit	11-12 May
Anglo-Italian Summit	? May or later
Anglo-French Summit	? June
Anglo-Irish Summit	June/July
European Council	26-27 November

/ Proposals

Proposals

Mauritius Prime Minister	Early February
French Prime Minister	Early 1981 - if at all
Zimbabwe Prime Minister	
Jamaican Prime Minister	
Belgian Prime Minister	Late 1981
Cameroon President	
Peruvian Prime Minister	
Dominican Prime Minister	

Notes

- (i) The Prime Minister of Singapore is likely to visit the United Kingdom under his own steam in 1981, to become a Freeman of the City of London.
- (ii) The Sultan of Brunei is coming for 4-6 weeks in the Spring to learn about the arts of government.
- (iii) The Prime Minister of Fiji may also come under his own steam.

Top Copy: PM Tower
Govt. invites

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister's Visits Overseas and Visitors 1981

I have checked through Roderick Lyne's letter to you of 1 December and can confirm all the dates he mentions on page 4, both for the outward visits and the inward visitors. I would be grateful, however, if when you write back to him you could ask him to go firm as quickly as possible with any of his "proposals". I think it would also be a good idea to show the Prime Minister the whole programme.

The FCO ask for a specific date for Sir S. Ramgoolam. I can manage a dinner on either Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 February and talks on either day, though the 12th would be infinitely preferable. Not much alternative around that time.

I really am going to be in great difficulty fitting anything more in.

ES.

5 December 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

Top Copy: PM Tours,
Gart invites



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

MODBA o/r.

1 December 1980

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Overseas Visits and
Visitors 1981

Lord Carrington has been considering possible programmes of visits and visitors for the Prime Minister and himself in 1981. I enclose a schedule of existing plans at Prime Ministerial level and of Lord Carrington's additional proposals, as well as a schedule of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's own plans. We assume of course that events are likely to necessitate additional visits, outward and inward, which cannot now be foreseen.

The Queen

As background, I should recall the plans for State Visits next year. The recommendations are likely to be that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia be invited in June and President Shagari of Nigeria in November. If there is a recommendation for a State Visit in March, it may be for President Marcos of the Philippines or President Banda of Malawi. The Queen will visit Norway in May, Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHGM) in September/October, and New Zealand and Sri Lanka later in October. Canada is a possibility in July.

- Patricia of Constance? - we may be having difficulty at that time.

Outward Visits by the Prime Minister

In view of the UK Presidency in the second half of 1981, the Prime Minister may prefer to fit as many of her outward trips as possible into the first half of the year.

Lord Carrington welcomes the idea that the Prime Minister should visit the Gulf in early January or in connection with her Indian visit in April. He suggests that the best countries to visit would be Saudi Arabia, Oman and

/the

CONFIDENTIAL



Agreed

the United Arab Emirates. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall submit draft telegrams to the Posts with instructions and detailed suggestions. (There will not be time to include visits to all six Arab states in the Persian Gulf, but the Prime Minister has met in the relatively recent past the Amir of Qatar, and the Prime Ministers of Bahrain and Kuwait. They will be borne in mind for another Ministerial visit in the not too distant future.)

The proposals in the schedule for visits to the US and to the North/South Summit in Mexico need little explanation. Lord Carrington will make specific suggestions in due course. We shall also make detailed suggestions about a visit to India in April. A visit to Spain would only be appropriate if the Lisbon Agreement on Gibraltar is implemented. If this condition was met, a visit during the UK Presidency would be particularly appropriate. A visit to Portugal (Paul Lever's letter of 7 November) could be extremely brief, but the Portuguese would wish it to be separate from any visit to Spain.

Agreed

The schedule of outward visits does not include an Anglo/Italian Summit in Rome in November. The Prime Minister may feel that the frequency of these meetings could be eased by suggesting in due course to the Italians that the second Summit due in 1981 might be postponed because of the UK Presidency until early 1982.

Inward Visits

Agreed

Sir S Ramgoolam, although Prime Minister of Mauvitius since independence, has never paid an official visit to Britain. Despite his age he is not expected to retire soon. He is firmly pro-Western and his country is among the few which have preserved the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy. Lord Carrington recommends that Sir S Ramgoolam should be invited here in the second week of February, when the Mauritian parliament (where the government have a slender majority) will be in recess and when The Queen should be able to receive him. Given the short time available, we would be grateful to know the Prime Minister's wishes as soon as possible.

Please try to delay.

An invitation to Mr Mugabe would be an excellent way of keeping up the momentum of our relations with Zimbabwe. One of the regular Anglo/Irish Summits will be due in mid-year and should probably be held after the Northern Ireland

/local



not before election

local government elections in June. We shall be writing shortly with detailed suggestions about inviting M. Barre. It would be a suitable gesture to invite the Belgian Prime Minister for a brief visit before we hand over the Presidency to Belgium at the end of the year.

will be here to comm 11/85

An invitation to Mr Seaga would be an excellent goodwill gesture after the change of government in Jamaica.

We have tended to neglect Cameroon, a stable, moderate country which is one third Anglophone. The Cameroon market, with its sound agricultural base and significant oil reserves, is buoyant and attractive. President Ahidjo, in office since independence in 1960, has just started another 5 year term. Lord Carrington recommends an official invitation in 1981.

Peru has recently returned to democratic government. The economy is strong and offers opportunities for investment and exports. Dr Ulloa, the Prime Minister, is also Minister of the Economy and Commerce and the most important person after the President. An official visit could win us a valuable friend.

The new, moderate Dominican Government would welcome an invitation to the Prime Minister, Miss Charles. There is advantage in demonstrating support for governments favouring stability in the volatile Eastern Caribbean.

You will see that Lord Carrington's schedule of inward visits includes the possibility of inviting the Polish Foreign Minister. But, depending on how things go in Poland, we may later wish to sound the Poles about the possibility of a higher level contact instead.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD and David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

yours ever
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

RESTRICTED

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OVERSEAS VISITS AND VISITORS, 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed or in hand

Morocco/Egypt	3-17 January
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	19-20 January
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 February
Political Cooperation Foreign Ministers - The Hague	25 June
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 March
European Council - Maastricht	23-24 March
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	13-14 April
Hong Kong/China/Japan/Pakistan	?28 March - 9/10 April
State Visit to Norway	May
Foreign Ministers' Informal weekend - Netherlands	9-10 May
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	18-19 May
NATO Ministerial Meeting Location not fixed	2 days in May
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	22-23 June
European Council - Luxembourg	29-30 June
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	13-14 July
Ottawa Summit	19-21 July
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	14-15 September
CHGM Melbourne	30 September - 7 October
Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg	19-20 October
Anglo-German Summit - Bonn	?October
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	16-17 November
NATO Ministerial Meeting - Brussels	2 days in December
Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels	7-8 December

Proposals

USA	?February/March
Pakistan en route to Hong Kong	?26 March
FRG	Early 1981
Moscow	Early 1981
Nigeria	February 1981
France for brief Bilateral North/South Summit - Mexico	Early June
Netherlands (handover visit to outgoing Presidency)	One day late June
UNGA (speaking engagement in US?)	September
Luxembourg: Churchill Memorial Lecture	One day October
Berlin after the Anglo-German Summit	October
ASEAN two countries en route to or from CHGM	September-October

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed or in hand

Mozambique Foreign Minister	26-29 January
Foreign Ministers' informal weekend	5-6 September
Anglo-German Summit	?May
Anglo-Italian Summit	?May
Anglo-French Summit	?June
Political Cooperation Foreign Ministers	13 October
European Council	26-27 November
Iraqi Foreign Minister (perhaps in 1980)	

/Proposals

Proposals

Foreign Ministers of:

Poland	Venezuela
Yugoslavia	Brazil
India	Sweden
Luxembourg	Finland
Mexico	
Botswana	

Notes

- (i) The Department may wish later to recommend that the Secretary of State should attend the opening session of the Global Negotiations, which may be in late January.
- (ii) New Australian Foreign Minister likely to come under own steam in 1981.
- (iii) The same applies to the Portuguese Foreign Minister;
- (iv) and to the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister.
- (v) The Foreign Minister of Guinea may come in early 1981 as a COI Visitor.

File

889
Dominica

24 July 1980

DOMINICA GENERAL ELECTION

As I have mentioned to you on the telephone, the Prime Minister would be content for a message along the lines of that in Bridgetown telegram No. 237 of 22 July to be sent on her behalf to the new Prime Minister of Dominica.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TRR

SUBJECT

Master
Ops

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 200A

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRIDGETOWN 222015Z JUL 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 237 OF 22 JULY

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T147A/80

DOMINICA GENERAL ELECTION: MY TELNO 235 OF 22 JULY

1. THIS IS NOW THE FOURTH GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CARIBBEAN WITHIN A YEAR - ST VINCENT, ANTIGUA, ST KITTS AND DOMINICA - IN WHICH THE WINNING PARTY HAS EITHER BEEN CONSERVATIVE OR MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. THE EXTREME LEFT PARTIES HAVE WON NO (NO) SEATS IN ANY ELECTION - SO MUCH FOR PREDICTIONS THAT THERE IS A RADICAL LEFTWARDS WIND OF CHANGE SWEEPING THROUGH THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.

2. SINCE MISS EUGENIA CHARLES WILL BE THE FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN (AND SENT A SOMEWHAT FULSOME MESSAGE TO MRS THATCHER ON HER APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER) I WOULD SUGGEST A SHORT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MISS CHARLES ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGINS

MANY CONGRATULATIONS OF THE SUCCESS OF YOUR PARTY IN THE DOMINICA GENERAL ELECTION AND ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE SHALL OF COURSE CONTINUE, TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY, TO ASSIST IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMINICA.

I SEND YOU MY WARMEST GOOD WISHES AS YOU TACKLE THE FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS WHICH LIE AHEAD.

ENDS

3. I HAVE SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MISS CHARLES, BUT YOU MAY WISH ALSO TO SEND A SHORT MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES ONCE WE KNOW WHO IS APPOINTED FOREIGN SECRETARY. MISS CHARLES HAS SAID THAT HER FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE QUOTE NON-ALIGNED UNQUOTE WHICH IN HER CASE WILL MEAN GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED.

ARTHUR

DEPTL DISTN

M and CD

NEWS D

OID

IPD

CCD

ODA

CABINET OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

Grey Scale #13



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



Inches 1 2 3

Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Colour Chart #13

Blue Cyan Green Yellow

