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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHCR/AMCONSUL ANTIGUA 3598

RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1391

RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 3536

RUESKN/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 2922

RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1332

RUEHCR/AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE 3725

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 3643

RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 3352

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RUEHFB/FBI HQS WASHDC

RUCLEBA/FBI SAN JUAN PR

RUEACUSX/CUSTOMS HQS WASHDC

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1349

Michael Eugene Jordan

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

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E.O. 12859: XDS-4 3/18/51 (ROSSIN, LAWRENCE) OR-P

TAGS: PINS SHUM DO

SUBJ: DOMINICA COUP PLOT: CONVERSATION WITH POLICE
COMMISSIONER

REF: (A) BRIDGETOWN 1141, (B) BRIDGETOWN 1162,
(C) BRIDGETOWN 1294

1. E - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: IN A MARCH 17 CONVERSATION WITH FBI AND US
CUSTOMS AGENTS AND EMBOFF, DOMINICA POLICE COMMISSIONER
PHILIP FLESHED OUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE RECENTLY-
UNCOVERED COUP PLOT. BESIDES THE SEVEN DOMINICANS
CURRENTLY DETAINED, PHILIP EXPRESSED THE STRONG BELIEF
THAT MANY OTHERS WERE INVOLVED. THEIR ARREST, HE SAID,
AWAITS THE ACCUMULATION OF ADEQUATE EVIDENCE INCULPATING
THEM. NONE OF THE DETAINEES HAS ADMITTED GUILT, BUT
THE POLICE ARE SLOWLY ACCUMULATING CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
IMPLICATING THEM AND PREVIOUSLY-NAMED AMERICAN CITIZENS.
PHILIP BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER CHARLES HAS THE SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL, AND HE DOES NOT SEEM FEARFUL THAT A COUP
MIGHT YET MATERIALIZE. END SUMMARY.

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3. DETAILS OF THE COUP PLOT MEETING. PHILIP'S SOURCE FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHO WAS NOT IDENTIFIED BY NAME, IS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SECOND-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DETAILS OF COUP-PLANNING MEETINGS IN ANTIGUA GIVEN HIM BY A PARTICIPANT. THE INFORMANT IS MOTIVATED BY A DISTASTE FOR THE VIOLENT METHOD PLANNED FOR OVERTHROWING THE REGIME, BUT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE CHARLES GOVERNMENT ITSELF. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMANT, DOMINICANS PATRICK JOHN, DENNIS JOSEPH, JULIAN DAVID, CAPT. MALCOLM W. REID (REF A) AND ALGERNON MAFFEI (CORRECTED SPELLING OF "ALGY MASSEI" NAMED REF B) MET WITH AMERICANS NAMED REF B AT THE CASTLE HARBOR HOTEL, ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA. AT THIS MEETING, THE DOMINICANS WERE OFFERED ARMS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE AMERICANS. THE QUID PRO QUO, IF ANY, WAS NOT DISCLOSED.

APPROX 1948

*See attached
John B*

4. JULIAN DAVID RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM MIKE PERDUE IN HOUSTON ON MARCH 6, 1931, INFORMING HIM THAT FUNDS WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED IMMEDIATELY. ON MARCH 10, THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA IN DOMINICA RECEIVED A CABLE TRANSFER OF USDOLS 1300 FROM PERDUE VIA THE FIRST CITY NATIONAL BANK OF HOUSTON. THIS MONEY IS STILL ON DEPOSIT WITH ROYAL BANK, AS DAVID HAD BEEN DETAINED WHEN THE CABLE TRANSFER ARRIVED.

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5. PERDUE AND MAFFEI HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED DOMINICA. PERDUE VISITED IN DECEMBER AND AGAIN IN FEBRUARY, POSING ONCE AS AN IMPORTER, THE OTHER TIME AS A BANK INSPECTOR. HE LEFT DOMINICA THE SECOND TIME WITHOUT PAYING HIS HOTEL BILL. MAFFEI VISITED DOMINICA IN LATE JANUARY FOR A SHORT PERIOD. PHILIPS DID NOT KNOW WHO THEY HAD CONTACTED DURING THESE VISITS.

6. THE POLICE HAVE ALSO UNCOVERED EVIDENCE OF NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY DAVID AND OTHER DETAINEES TO VARIOUS TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES, PRE-DOMINANTLY THOSE LISTED REF B.

7. ACCORDING TO PHILIP, THERE ARE MANY OTHERS STILL AT LARGE ON THE ISLAND WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE COUP PLOT. HOWEVER, THE POLICE HAVE NOT YET ACCUMULATED SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT ARRESTING THESE PERSONS. PHILIP DID NOT NAME NAMES OR MAKE CLEAR ALLUSIONS TO PARTICULAR PERSONS WHOM EMBOFF CONSIDERED NATURAL SUSPECTS. ALTHOUGH THE POLICE ARE WORKING UNDER A SPECIAL LEGAL REGIME (THE RECENTLY-PASSED TERRORISM LEGISLATION), PHILIPS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND POLICE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE WHOLESALE ARRESTS. INSTEAD, THEY WILL RESPECT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ORDINARY NORMS OF LEGALITY WHILE WORKING WITHIN THE BROADENED FRAMEWORK. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DETENTION TRIBUNAL MENTIONED REF C WILL HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO REVIEW EVIDENCE AGAINST DETAINEES IN ORDER TO JUDGE WHETHER IT WARRANTS THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION.

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3. EMBOFF ASKED PHILIP IF HE KNEW OF REASONS WHY THE AMERICAN PLOTTERS WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE ARMS AND FUNDS SEEMINGLY WITHOUT RECOMPENSE. NORMALLY, EMBOFF NOTED, THE FLOW OF FUNDS IN A MERCENARY RELATIONSHIP IS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. RATHER THAN CHARACTERIZE THE RELATIONSHIP AS AN INVESTMENT SITUATION, IN WHICH PERDUE AND THE OTHERS WOULD HAVE BEEN REPAID MANY TIMES OVER WITH FUNDS FROM THE DOMINICA TREASURY BY THE NEW RULERS, PHILIP SUGGESTED THAT PERDUE AND HIS COLLEAGUES MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS UNKNOWN. RECALLING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE JOHN AND SERAPHIN GOVERNMENTS HAD OPENED DOMINICA UP TO VARIOUS SHADY AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS (SUCH AS CARIBBEAN SOUTHERN AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT CORP.), PHILIP POINTED OUT THAT THE CHARLES GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO SUCH ACTIVITIES. PHILIP THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME AMERICAN INTERESTS MIGHT HAVE FINANCED THE COUP PLOT TO REMOVE CHARLES AND REINSTALL AN AMENABLE REGIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS ONLY VOICING HIS SUSPICIONS, BUT NOTED THAT AN INVESTIGATOR HE RECENTLY SENT TO ANTIGUA WAS TOLD BY CASTLE HARBOR HOTEL PERSONNEL THAT PERDUE SPENT MONEY FREELY YET, HAD NO VISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT.

9. PHILIP SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT ADEQUATE EVIDENCE
WOULD BE ACCUMULATED TO CHARGE THOSE CURRENTLY DETAINED
WITH CONSPIRACY AID, PROBABLY, SOME FORM OF TREASON. 30
AN ASSISTANT TO PHILIP MENTIONED THAT AN EXPERT FROM
"A COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY" WILL BE ARRIVING SOON TO AID
THE AUTHORITIES IN FORMULATING TREASON CHARGES. PHILIP
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EVIDENCE WAS BEING GATHERED SLOWLY. AT
ONE POINT HE DESCRIBED DIFFICULTIES HIS INVESTIGATOR
HAD HAD WITH A POORLY-ORGANIZED RECORDKEEPING OPERATION
OF THE ANTIGUAN IMMIGRATION AND POLICE. PHILIP WAS
HOPEFUL BUT PESSIMISTIC THAT HIS SOURCE (PARA THREE)
WOULD TESTIFY PUBLICLY; THIS, HE SAID, WOULD MAKE THE
TASK OF OBTAINING CONVICTIONS MUCH EASIER.

10. MAFFEI, BORN IN 1943, HAS A LONG RECORD OF MOSTLY
PETTY CRIME. HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR BUT NOT FORMALLY
CHARGED WITH MURDER SHORTLY BEFORE HURRICANE DAVID,
BUT ESCAPED WHEN THAT STORM BLEW DOWN THE PRISON WALLS.
HE THEN FLED DOMINICA, ALTHOUGH HE MANAGED TO RETURN
BRIEFLY TO DOMINICA IN LATE JANUARY 1981 WITHOUT BEING
DETAINED. PHILIP TOLD EMBOFF THAT NO ARREST WARRANT
HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR MAFFEI IN THE COUP PLOT CASE DUE TO
THE STILL-SKETCHY NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE OF THE ANTIGUA
MEETING. HE DID NOT PREDICT WHEN A WARRANT WOULD BE
ISSUED, NOR DID HE PREDICT WHEN CHARGES MIGHT BE FORMULATED
AND BROUGHT AGAINST THOSE CURRENTLY DETAINED. 7

11. COMMENT: FROM WHAT PHILIP TOLD AND SHOWED IMBOFF AND US AGENTS, THE DOMINICA GOVERNMENT STILL HAS SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE ADEQUATE EVIDENCE IS ACCUMULATED TO SUPPORT TREASON CHARGES. PHILIP GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF HAVING EXCELLENT CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES, AND HE HAS ACQUIRED CERTAIN PIECES OF THE PUZZLE, BUT AT PRESENT HE SEEMS TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY PUTTING THE WHOLE SCHEME TOGETHER. HIS INTERROGATIONS OF DETAINEES ARE EVIDENTLY PROCEEDING SLOWLY AND NOT ELICITING COOPERATION, WHILE THE SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN ANTIGUA HAS PROVEN DIFFICULT. FBI AND CUSTOMS INVESTIGATIONS OF AMCIT PARTICIPATION IN THE PLOT CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS MAY TURN UP USEFUL LEADS FOR PHILIP. EMBASSY URGES THAT ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT ASSIST HIM IN PREPARING CASES AGAINST PERSONS UNDER DOMINICAN JURISDICTION BE FORWARDED TO IT FOR SHARING WITH HIM. END COMMENT.

12. FBI SAN JUAN WILL SUBMIT DETAILED REPORTS THROUGH ITS CHANNELS ON ACQUISITION OF EVIDENCE FOR INVESTIGATION OF AMCIT INVOLVEMENT.

13. SEPTEL REPORTS ON PHILIP'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE HONYCHURCH KIDNAPPING AND THE DISBANDING OF THE DOMINICA DEFENSE FORCE. RANDOLPH

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5260

INFO RUEHCR/AMCONSUL ANTIGUA 0699

RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1892

RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 2507

RUESKN/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 2923

RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1333

RUEHCR/AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE 0706

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0644

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RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0185

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