

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date June 16

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. <u>Elliott Abrams</u> <i>EA</i>		
2. <u>Max Levitsky</u>		
3. <u>Charles Pollock</u>		
4. <u>DeLo Schaffer</u> <i>High Candy!</i>		
5. <u>C Faint</u> <i>WZ</i>		

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REMARKS

House hearing: U.S. Policy Toward Grenada

① *EA*: Well with making Deeply revolting;
 Jews Robinson + others simply have no concern
 for freedom, more whatever, if progressive rhetoric
 is used.
EA

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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) <p style="text-align: center;">G. Lister</p>	Room No.—Bldg. <hr/> Phone No.
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June 16, 1982

To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: House Hearing: U.S. Policy Toward Grenada

Yesterday afternoon the Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs held a hearing on "U.S. Policy Toward Grenada", called at the request of the Black Caucus. Rayburn Room 2200 has seating for about 60. Around 80 attended, including a high percentage of Blacks, some of whom were from Grenada. In addition to Mike Barnes, Members attending were Cong. Gilman (R.-N.Y.), Cong. Mica (D.-Fla.), Cong. Dymally (D.-Cal.) and Cong. Crockett (D.-Mich.). The hearing lasted over two hours. The opening statements of all witnesses, with the exception of Cong. Crockett, are attached and marked portions are recommended for reading. A very brief report follows.

Barnes said he did not know what our policy toward Grenada should be but apparently we currently have no policy whatever. Dymally, who was born in Trinidad, claimed that the Department pretends Grenada does not exist and that we are attempting to prevent the building of a new airport there. But we maintain very close relations with South Africa. Crockett, who is Black, said that since there was no witness from Grenada he had requested the P.O.'s C.S. Ambassador, Desira Williams, to give him her views. We then read her statement, which complained of the Reagan Administration's determined hostility. She said both Percy and Zablocki were being invited to Grenada. Cong. Dellums (D.-Cal.) did not attend but submitted testimony strongly critical of our policy.

Steve Bosworth contrasted Grenada's record with that of the other Eastern Caribbean countries, all of which enjoy democratic governments, respect for human rights, etc. Bosworth reviewed the domestic and foreign policies of the New Jewel Movement and cited the Department's Human Rights Report. He described our relations with the NMG as seriously strained and mentioned both Prime Minister Bishop's description of

Beagan as a "fascist" and his reference to Westminster style democracy as dead. Barnes asked why it would not be desirable to talk with the PRG. Bosworth responded that we do talk; we maintain diplomatic relations and we have contact at the OAS. The problem is not lack of communication.

Crockett said he had visited Grenada in 1966 and again this year, and had noticed vast improvement. Dymally questioned whether we would pursue the same tactics with Grenada if the latter's citizens were white. Barnes asked whether we should not consider aid to the private sector. Bosworth agreed that was a possibility.

Sally Shelton said the New Jewel Movement came to power with great expectations, some of which had been fulfilled and some not. The opposition has been coerced into silence. The Government has declined to hold elections. The country appears to have become a one-party state. But there has been significant improvement in the administration of government and in cleaning out of corruption. The PRG seems committed to social and economic reform. Relations have deteriorated since March 1979, and both sides are to blame. The USG wants good relations but considers that impossible now, mainly because of Grenada's close ties with Cuba, the PRG's virulent anti-U.S. rhetoric, and Grenada's OAS and UN performance. Sally remarked she suspects human rights violations in Grenada do not trouble this Administration as much as the previous one, since we currently gloss over human rights abuses in Argentina, El Salvador and Guatemala. She rejected as utter nonsense PRG charges of efforts to destabilize the latter during the Carter Administration. But she described our present attempts to isolate Grenada as short-sighted, petulant and based on erroneous assumptions. She recommended that we exchange Ambassadors, conduct high level discussions, refrain from provocative military maneuvers, and temporarily provide economic aid. If there was no human rights improvement, the USG could reassess its assistance.

Randall Robinson of TransAfrica ("a black American foreign policy lobby for Africa and the Caribbean") supported the New Jewel Movement. He described the Parish Councils in Grenada as evidence of participatory democracy. Robinson claimed the Reagan Administration has been waging full fledged economic warfare, while snubbing PNG efforts to open a dialogue. Rather than trying doctrinaire Soviet-style Marxism the island is building open and democratic structures by trial and error.

During the brief question period Gilman brought out some differences between the views of Shelton and Robinson.

After the hearing I chatted briefly with Sally. She was surprised to learn that NA still exists.

George Lister

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cc: Dale Shaffer