

24 FEB 1984 07 35

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

United States Department of State

Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 23, 1984

*best - heart
draft - response
by 2/27
Tuesdays
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*GRANADA
25 FEB 1984*

Dear Will:

The Grenada rescue operation brought many positive results for both the U.S., Grenada, and the Caribbean. We are pledged to help the interim government in its efforts to restore democracy, stability, and a productive economy to Grenada. Chairman Brathwaite and the Advisory Council have already taken significant steps to start Grenada along the path toward these goals.

We need, however, urgently to address one of the troublesome areas that has been pending since our action in late October of last year: assistance for recovery from war damage. The Army's Claims Service, with much publicity, established an office in Grenada shortly after our entry last October 25 and has done a commendable job of processing several hundred claims resulting from all causes, from looting to automobile accidents to those arising from combat actions. Those in the latter category have been routinely rejected apparently because the Claims Act does not authorize their reimbursement.

The mental hospital, the Westerhall telephone exchange, the radio station, and some equipment of foreign contractors working on the airstrip are the larger items which fall into this category. Although the cost is unknown, we estimate that claims in this category could total as much as \$10 million. The remnants of the NJM have already seized on this as a club with which to hit us and which enhance the myth of Maurice Bishop, the martyr. This assumes increased importance as the elections approach. Our failure to repair or make good these damages not only will reflect badly on us, but will become a political issue. The NJM has already begun to collect money (some of which will undoubtedly come from outside sources) to make token payments to private citizens whose property suffered unreimbursed damages caused by American personnel during the hostilities. These will be highly publicized, we can be sure.

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 28 2018

237-2684

330-86-0047, bx 48, 7

The Honorable

William H. Taft, IV

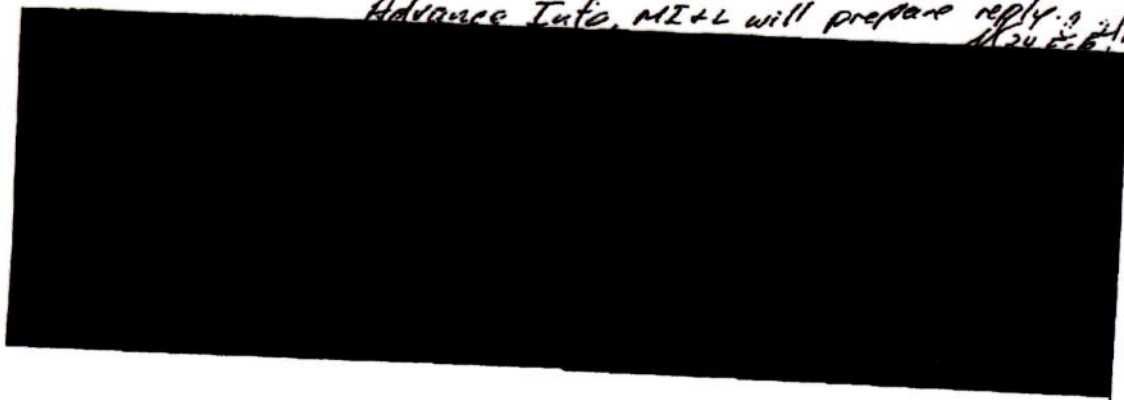
Deputy Secretary of Defense.

FEB 27 1984

DEP SEC HAS SEP

SEC DEF CONTR No. X29518


Advance info, MI+L will prepare reply. 2/11/84



18-M-1987

I believe you can understand the gravity of the problem we face. I would appreciate the Department of Defense taking whatever steps are necessary to resolve the problem in the shortest time possible. We will assist DOD in any appropriate way, including any legal and legislative assistance we may be able to give. In response to a request by Bud McFarlane we are to inform the President by February 29 of our plan to effect the repairs for war damages in Grenada. I would appreciate a response before then on an action plan. But final resolution of the problem should be achieved and funding to the recipients provided by no later than May 15 to deprive our adversaries of a political issue by election time.

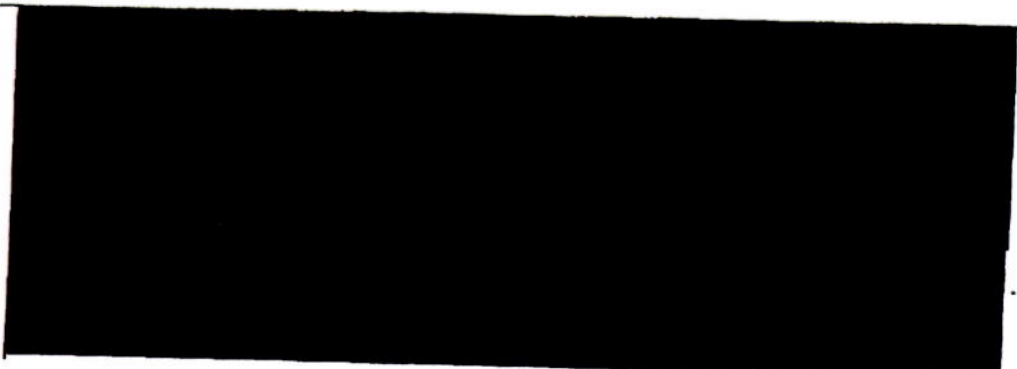
Sincerely,



Lawrence S. Eagleburger

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
Date: 28 Sep 2018 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
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MDR: 18 -M- 1987

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

25 February 1984

MEMO FOR ASD (MI&L)

Please see and take for action DepSec Def's comment "Let me have draft response by Tuesday COB. It should be positive. If we need legislation, let's ask for it and the money. WHT".

V. R.

Nick

cc: ASD (C)
ASD (LA)

H. KRASOFF
Colonel, US Army
Military Assistant

Page determined to be Unclassified
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
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