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FM ANGUILLA
TO DESKBY 220900Z FCO
TELNO 11
OF 211809Z FEBRUARY 94
INFO PRIORITY BELMOPAN, GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN, PLYMOUTH
INFO PRIORITY KINGSTON, NASSAU DTRS BRIDGETOWN, GRAND TURKS
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PART ONE OF TWO

ANGUILLA: VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH: 18-19 FEBRUARY 1994

SUMMARY

1. HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR VISIT. EXHAUSTING TIMETABLE FULLY HONOURED. A QUARTER OF THE ISLAND POPULATION INVITED TO PROGRAMME EVENTS: FIRST-EVER (FOR ANGUILLA) LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE ENSURED NOBODY MISSED THE KEY EVENTS. ANGUILLA WELCOMES MORE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THAN AT ANY TIME IN ITS HISTORY. CHIEF MINISTER AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR PUBLICLY INVESTED WITH THEIR NEW YEAR'S HONOURS AWARDS BY HER MAJESTY. THE LEADER OF THE LOYAL OPPOSITION INJECTS THE ONLY SOUR NOTE INTO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS: HER MAJESTY UNWORRIED BY HUGHES' ILL-CONSIDERED REMARKS ABOUT FCO MEDDLING, WHICH WILL HAVE COST HIM FUTURE ELECTION SUPPORT. TRIBUTE.

DETAIL

2. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, VISITED ANGUILLA FROM 18-19 FEBRUARY. THE VISIT, THE FIRST BY HER MAJESTY AND THE THIRD BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. THE INCLUSION OF THE BARONESS CHALKER IN THE HOUSEHOLD PARTY WAS MOST POPULAR. THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE VISIT - HER MAJESTY TO SEE AND BE SEEN BY SO MANY ANGUILLIANS AS POSSIBLE IN THE 23-HOUR VISIT - WERE FULLY ACHIEVED: SOME 2000 OF THE ISLAND'S TOTAL POPULATION OF 9000 PEOPLE ATTENDED BY INVITATION THE KEY EVENTS IN THE PROGRAMME. LARGE (BY ANGUILLIAN STANDARDS) CROWDS OF OTHER ANGUILLIAN AND EX-PATRIATE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALSO SPONTANEOUSLY JOINED THE CELEBRATIONS.

3. FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND, ANGUILLA SCORED A 'FIRST' BY ARRANGING LIVE COVERAGE ON THREE TELEVISION CHANNELS - AS WELL AS

BY RADIO ANGUILLA - OF ALL THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BOTH JOINTLY AND SEPARATELY BY HER MAJESTY AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH. A COMPLEX SATELLITE HOOK-UP WILL OFFER NEWS FOOTAGE AND A ONE-HOUR FILM OF THE VISIT THIS WEEK, FREE OF CHARGE, TO THE WORLD'S TELEVISION VIEWERS.

4. ANGUILLA WELCOMED MORE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THAN AT ANY TIME IN ITS HISTORY, INCLUDING THE 1967 REBELLION: MEDIA ACCREDITATION TOTALLED SOME 70 REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN.

5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE QUEEN'S FLIGHT LEFT ONE MINUTE LATE.

6. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VERY CROWDED PROGRAMME WERE UNDOUBTEDLY THE WELCOME BY 1000 OF THE ISLAND'S YOUTH IMMEDIATELY AFTER HER MAJESTY'S ARRIVAL: THE PUBLIC INVESTITURE CEREMONY ON THE VERANDA OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE: THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY WELCOME: AND THE INFORMAL WALK-ABOUT SESSIONS.

7. HER MAJESTY AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WERE INSTANTLY INTO ACTION WHEN THEIR AIRCRAFT LANDED. WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF TOUCHDOWN THEY WERE GREETED BY PERHAPS THE LARGEST ASSEMBLY OF CHILDREN IN THE ISLAND'S HISTORY: THE ASSEMBLY INCLUDED THE CHOIRS OF ALL THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE STEEL BAND OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, AND CALYPSONIAN GROUPS. THE THEME WAS 'WELCOME HOME, YOUR MAJESTY' WITH THE CHEEKY NOTE THAT HER MAJESTY'S ARRIVAL IN THIS PREVIOUSLY UNVISITED TERRITORY WAS 'BETTER LATE THAN NEVER'. . . . A THEME HER MAJESTY ECHOED IN HER ADDRESS TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

8. THE PUBLIC INVESTITURE - OF ANGUILLA'S CHIEF MINISTER, THE HON SIR EMILE GUMBS, WITH HIS NEW YEAR'S HONOURS (KB) KNIGHTHOOD AND OF DEPUTY GOVERNOR, THE HON HARRY MCCRORY WITH HIS OBE - AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 400 RECEPTION GUESTS, WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. THE PUBLIC (AND WORLD CAMERAMEN) MARVELLED THAT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO FILM THE EVENT THREE METRES DISTANT. WITH LUCK CAMERAS WILL NOT HAVE RECORDED MY HISSED COMMAND TO, 'KNEEL' WHEN THE CHIEF MINISTER FROZE WITH STAGE NERVES BEFORE HER MAJESTY EXCLAM.

9. THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY CEREMONY PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY DESPITE A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN PRECEDING DAYS TO PROTEST THE TIMING OF HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO ANGUILLA AND THE AWARD

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OF A KNIGHTHOOD TO THE CHIEF MINISTER, ON THE EVE OF IMMINENT ELECTIONS. THEY ARGUED THAT THIS AND COUNTRY POLICY PAPER AID SPENDING WERE DESIGNED TO BOLSTER THE RULING ANGUILLA NATIONAL ALLIANCE (ANA) PARTY'S ELECTION PROSPECTS.

10. ONLY THE LEADER OF THE LOYAL OPPOSITION, THE HON HUBERT HUGHES, STRUCK A SOUR NOTE IN HIS WELCOME ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY. PROFESSING HIMSELF (AS HE UNDOUBTEDLY IS, THOUGH IN HIS OWN OFTEN MISGUIDED WAY) TO BE A MOST LOYAL ROYALIST SUPPORTER, HE WELCOMED

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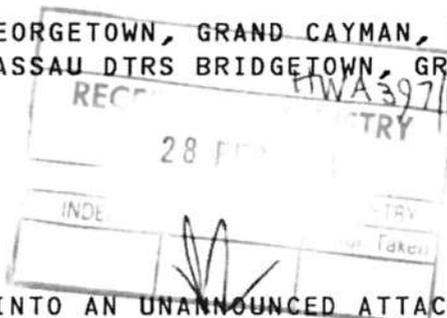
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CORRECTED VERSION

PART TWO OF TWO



HER MAJESTY AND THEN LED INTO AN UNANNOUNCED ATTACK ON A PLOT TO
PROP UP ANA: FOR ONCE HE CHOSE NOT TO ATTACK THIS GOVERNOR BUT THE
FCO.

11. AN EMBARRASSED, PACKED HOUSE LISTENED AS HUGHES DEPARTED FROM
THE ACCEPTED NORM FOR SUCH OCCASIONS, TO LAUNCH INTO STRONG
CRITICISM OF THE WHITE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, BRITAIN
DISCRIMINATORY IMMIGRATION POLICY AND THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT.
HE COMPLAINED OF AN FCO CONSPIRACY WITH THE RULING ANA, HAVING
DELIBERATELY TIMED HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO COINCIDE WITH IMMINENT
ELECTIONS. IN COMPLAINING OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT HE
REFERRED TO THIRD GENERATION CHILDREN DENIED CITIZENSHIP AND POOR
COMPARISONS WITH FRENCH AND DUTCH TREATMENT OF THEIR TERRITORIES'
CITIZENS, WHO ENJOYED AUTOMATIC ENTRY TO EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES.
BRITISH IMMIGRATION POLICY CONDEMNED CARIBBEAN VISITORS TO THE
STATUS OF INDIGENTS. (COMMENT: THE SPEECH WAS REPORTEDLY THE
WORK OF THE REV JOHN A GUMBS - FOR HUGHES IT CAN ONLY HAVE FURTHER
UNDERMINED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HIS JUDGEMENT.)

12. HER MAJESTY SMILED AND THANKED THE HOUSE FOR ITS MOST LOYAL
WELCOME. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH QUIPPED, AS HE MET HUGHES, THAT HE
HAD CLEARLY CHOSEN THE WRONG WEEKEND FOR HER MAJESTY'S VISIT.

13. HUGHES APART, THE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF THE VISIT WAS
APPARENT TO ALL IN ANGUILLA. IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE RELAXED
MANNER AND WARMTH OF HER MAJESTY AND OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND
THE EVIDENT ROYAL ENJOYMENT OF PROGRAMME EVENTS: NO ONE MISSED,
FOR EXAMPLE, HER MAJESTY'S FOOT TAPPING RYTHM WITH HER CALYPSO
WELCOME, NOR THAT THE QUEEN AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH WERE CLEARLY
DELIGHTED TO GO ON UNREHEARSED WALK-ABOUTS AND TALK TO ORDINARY
PEOPLE IN THE CROWD WITH NO EVIDENCE OF A POLICY SECURITY PRESENCE.

PAGE 1
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14. ANGUILLIANS HAD LONG DREAMED OF A VISIT BY THEIR DISTANT QUEEN OF WHOM MOST HAD A TIME-WARP IMAGE FROM OFFICIAL POSTER PORTRAITS: THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE HER MAJESTY IN THE FLESH AND

FIND HER SO CHARMING AND APPROACHABLE. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, AFTER THREE VISITS, IS, OF COURSE, NOW ACCEPTED AS AN HONORARY ANGUILLIAN EXCLAM.

TRIBUTE

15. FINALLY, I SHOULD RECORD A TRIBUTE TO THE VERY SMALL STAFF OF GOVERNOR'S AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S COMBINED OFFICES WHO ENABLED US TO PUT TOGETHER AND CARRY THROUGH SO EFFECTIVE A PROGRAMME. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SO MUCH PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED IN FACT BY THE TEAM, THAT ISLANDERS ARE NOW CALLING FOR TWO ROYAL VISITS A YEAR TO KEEP UP SUCH EXCELLENT WORK TO BEAUTIFY THE ISLAND.

16. AMONG TRIBUTES, I DARE NOT FORGET MY WIFE'S ROLE. TO PREPARE A RECEPTION FOR 400 PEOPLE IS REASONABLE: TO DO SO WHILE LIVING IN OUR THIRD TEMPORARY HOME IN AS MANY MONTHS WAS A CHALLENGE. TO CONVERT BEDROOMS INTO ROYAL REST AREAS AND REORGANISE AN ENTIRE HOUSE ONLY THREE DAYS AFTER THE BUILDERS HAD HANDED IT BACK TO HER, AND THEN INSTANTLY RECONSTRUCT GARDENS FROM BUILDERS' RUBBLE, WAS HER MOST OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF A 32-YEAR UNPAID DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT 'CAREER'. TO KNOW THAT IT WAS ONLY TO MAKE GOVERNMENT HOUSE INTO A 24-HOUR 'SHOW' WAS EVEN MORE CHALLENGING AS I WRITE, TWO DAYS AFTER HER MAJESTY'S DEPARTURE, WORKMEN ARE OVERHEAD, LITERALLY TEARING THE ROOF OFF MY OFFICE AND MOST OF THE HOUSE . . . TOMORROW I MOVE INTO HALF OF A PORTACABIN WHICH BECOMES MY OFFICE FOR THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS. MY WIFE IS MEANWHILE DIGGING UP THE GARDEN TO SAVE ALL HER NEW PLANTS TO DO THE JOB ALL OVER AGAIN IN AUGUST.

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