



Security Council

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to the undertaking given by the President of the Council after the suspension of the 2491st meeting on Thursday, 27 October 1983.
2. The President of the Council has received a letter dated 27 October 1983 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Dominica to the United Nations, conveying the text of a communication dated 26 October 1983 from Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General of Grenada, to the President of the Security Council to the effect that "no person or group is authorized to speak before the United Nations without the expressed permission of the Governor-General or until a new Ambassador is appointed for Grenada". The letter from Dominica was circulated informally to the members of the Council. A copy of the letter is attached hereto. On Friday, 28 October, the Secretary-General had a radio conversation with Sir Paul Scoon, in the course of which the latter confirmed the content of his communication just mentioned. The Secretary-General requested the Governor-General to provide him with a written confirmation signed by the Governor-General and addressed to the Secretary-General.
3. Under the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council (rules 13-14), credentials of representatives to meetings of the Council are to be issued by the head of the State or of the Government concerned or by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. This requirement derives from a well-established and generally accepted rule of international law.
4. Clearly, therefore, the head of the State is a primary authority empowered to issue and thus to revoke credentials of representatives of the State concerned or to limit the authority of those representatives. In Grenada, the Governor-General has the function of head of State.
5. The communication referred to in paragraph 2 above, and the oral confirmation from the Governor-General, were to the effect that the Governor-General has limited the power of the present Permanent Representative and his staff "to speak before the United Nations". The Secretary-General would not understand this communication as removing the Permanent Representative from his post but as seeking to limit his authority. The Secretary-General will only be in a position to formulate an opinion as to who is authorized to speak on behalf of Grenada in the Security Council after the arrival of the letter which the Secretary-General has requested from the Governor-General.

Annex

Letter dated 27 October 1983 from the Deputy Permanent Representative
of Dominica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you the text of a communication received from the Governor-General of Grenada:

"26 October 1983

TO: Ambassador Salah, President of United Nations Security Council

FROM: The Governor-General of Grenada

May I inform you, Sir, that in our present situation no person or group is authorized to speak before the United Nations without the expressed permission of the Governor-General or until a new Ambassador is appointed for Grenada. I further wish to inform you that I have given no such authorization to any group at this time.

Sir Paul Scoon
Governor-General of Grenada."

(Signed) Simon P. RICHARDS
Deputy Permanent Representative
