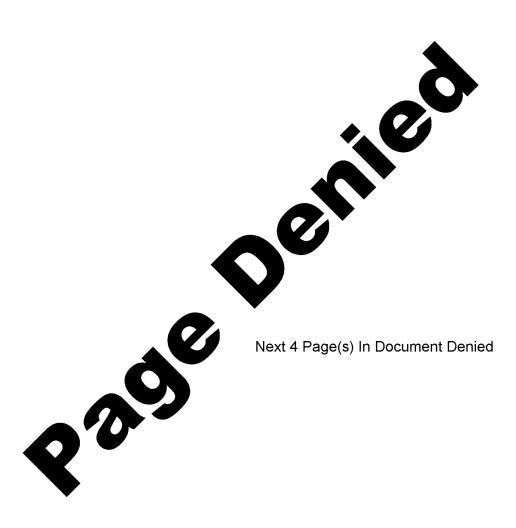
25X1







Washington, D. C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE 1 October 1982

GRENADA: Cuban-Soviet Outpost in the Eastern Caribbean

Summary

Grenada has become the focal point of efforts by the Cubans and Soviets to expand their influence in the eastern Caribbean. Until now, Havana has taken the lead in attempting to make the island a showcase of Cuban-aided development, but Moscow has begun to enlarge its presence now that the People's Revolutionary Government has survived for more than three years. All evidence points toward Grenada becoming in the eastern Caribbean what Nicaragua has become in Central America—a revolutionary protege of the communist countries.	25X1
Cuba, the USSR, and other socialist regimes have increased their assistance to Bishop's government to help prop it up in the face of adverse economic trends. Havana and Moscow are stepping up training and aid to Grenada's armed forces at a level far beyond the legitimate security needs of such a small island. We judge that the principal objectives of the military buildup are:	
 to check any external threats to the Bishop regime and oppose internal insurrection. to establish Grenada as a training site for revolutionary-minded radical groups from neighboring islands. to provide an operational base enabling the Cubans and Soviets to 	
exploit Pishop's government and serve their own interests.	25 X 1
	25 X 1
This memorandum was prepared for the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs by of the Middle America-Caribbean Division, of the Office of African and Latin American Analysis. It contains information available through 30 September 1982, and was coordinated with the Office of Soviet Analysis, the Office of Near East and South Asian Analysis, the Office of Global Issues, and the Nation Intelligence Officer for Latin America. Questions and comments are welcome and should be directed to Chief, Middle America-Caribbean Division,	0 e
25X1 ALA M 82-1013	3 C

25X1

Approved For Release 2007/08/04: CIA-RDP84B00049R001604070015-3

Steady Military Buildup

Both the Cubans and the Soviets publicly disclaim any strategic interest in Grenada, but clearly their growing investment suggests a desire to expand their presence. Indeed, Grenadian officials—including Prime Minister Bishop—have alluded openly to a willingness to facilitate Cuban and Soviet military use of the huge new airport being constructed with Havana's help at Point Salines.

25X1

Soviet involvement with Grenada took a significant stride forward during Bishop's July visit to the USSR. In addition to its modest aid package--and possibly agreement on security assistance--Moscow offered to conduct a feasibility study for a deep water port at Grenville on the east coast of the island.

25X1 25X1

Meanwhile, Cuba is out front in expediting the steady expansion of Grenada's military capabilities.

25X1 25X1

-2-SECRET

				Approved For Release 2007/08/04 : CIA-RDP84B00049R001604070015-3				
					-			
	.1							
ho Ainne	wate Uava	nale Sheuni	see Dueine					
		na's Showpl						
Cuba roject o	has fund on the sou	ed almost h thern part	alf of the	e \$80 millio	on airport			
onstruct	cion and t	echnical pe	rsonnel as	well as he	eavv equipmer	ıt .		
teadily	to its cu	rrent level	of about	700, but se	has increaseveral hundre	ed .		
f these	are const	ruction wor	kers who w	ill soon be	e returning to 00 Cubans are	:0		
orking (on the air	port runway	and the r	new terminal	building.			
					- [
The	first hal	f of the 3,	200 meter	airport rur	way is almos	t		
inished	and has a	ready been	used by F	rime Minist	er Bishop's way will be			
rivate a	i i i Ci u i c.	11113 77000	-1110-001 300		as MIG-17,			

-3-SECRET

NGA Review Complete

Approved For Release 2007/08/04: CIA-RDP84B00049R001604070015-3

25X1

Approved For Release 2007/08/04: CIA-RDP84B00049R001604070015-3

25X1

25X1

25X1

-4-SECRET

and will take an active role in cultivating Grenadians as well as

regional leftists.

Support for Radical Movements

Both Havana and Moscow strongly endorse Grenada's sponsorship of regional meetings to expand links with labor, youth, journalists, and women's groups. Funds, staffing, and equipment needs have been donated by Cuba to facilitate such gatherings. Grenada is preparing to host a conference of anti-imperialist youth and students from the Caribbean in March 1983 which will be sponsored by communist front groups, including the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Democratic Youth.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Bishop is worried about a possible move by the regional organization to expel his country when Caribbean heads of state convene in Jamaica during mid-November. Grenada's headlong thrust into the Cuban-Soviet camp has been disconcerting to its democratic neighbors, who are apprehensive about the growing ideological polarization and possible plans by Bishop to export his revolution.

25**X**1

25X1

In addition to the Cuban and Soviet presence, the Libyans are becoming more active now that they have an embassy in Grenada.

25X1

25X1

Looking Ahead

Grenada seems increasingly likely to become a disruptive influence in the eastern Caribbean. Bishop and his small coterie of radicals are firmly in control of the island and have moved solidly to align themselves with the Cubans and Soviets. The short-term strategy of Havana and Moscow apparently is to make

25X1

-5-SECRET

the smallest investment necessary to prop up Bishop's regime economically and to strengthen his security forces sufficiently to deter internal dissent. Over the longer run, they probably hope to take advantage of the steady economic deterioration in the region and to recruit followers from among the large pool of unemployed youth -- many of whom are impatient for change. 25X1

of the eastern Caribbean.

25X1

Ву

25X1

training and arming insurgents, the threat of illegal takeovers would grow--particularly among the weak and fragmented ministates

25X1

25X1

-6-SECRET

25X1

25X1