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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 1, 1983

NOTE FOR: *C* DOI

Attached is a packet of unclassified Grenada briefing materials for your information.

Cordially,

Constantine C. Menges

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- Encls: (5)
- Basic Facts
 - Chronology of Events
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 - US statement re accidental attack on the hospital

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1430 26 Oct. #0195G

GRENADA
BASIC FACTS

What we are doing: Responding to an urgent and formal request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), six Caribbean States and the United States joined in a collective action to restore peace and public order in Grenada. Elements of the combined force landed on Grenada early on October 25.

Collapse of governmental institutions in Grenada: On October 19, Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and several Cabinet members and labor leaders were brutally murdered by a handful of their former military associates. The physical elimination of most of the Government of Grenada was followed by announcement of a "Revolutionary Military Council" (RMC) and rumors that remaining government members had been murdered. The only visible act of "authority" was the imposition of a shoot-on-sight curfew.

Why Caribbean States and US Acted: The Eastern Caribbean states saw the violence and the disintegration of political institutions in Grenada as an unprecedented threat to peace and security of the region. With 800 - 1000 US citizens to protect, we shared their concerns. Inaction would have increased the dangers of the crisis in Grenada.

What Caribbean States are in the Collective Security Force: The force includes contingents from Jamaica and Barbados plus four OECS member states: Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Objectives: The objectives of the collective security force are clear: to restore peace, order and respect for human rights; to evacuate those who wish to leave; to help the Grenadians re-establish governmental institutions; and to withdraw from the island as soon as possible.

Legal authority: The OECS acted pursuant to collective security provisions of the 1981 OECS Treaty of Establishment. The OECS states are not party to the Rio Treaty; the OECS Treaty is in effect their regional equivalent, and is consistent with the purposes and principles of UN and OAS Charters. U.S. participation is also justified by the need to protect U.S. nationals. U.S. actions have been consistent with the consultation and reporting provisions of the War Powers Resolution.

Duration: U.S. troops will stay the minimum time necessary to help the Caribbean states to restore peace and help the people of Grenada reestablish functioning governmental institutions.

Diplomatic activity: An emergency meeting of the OAS Permanent Council was requested by the Eastern Caribbean countries. The UN Secretary General and President of the Security Council have been informed.

The OECS: Founded in 1981 to enhance regional cooperation, OECS members are Grenada, Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

10/27 0045hrs

CHRONOLOGY OF GRENADA EVENTS

September 28 - October 6

PM Maurice Bishop visits Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

October 6-8

Bishop visits Cuba.

October 12

-- Longstanding conflict between PM Bishop and Deputy PM Bernard Coard erupts in fight in Grenadian cabinet. Coard wants to supplant Bishop and speed up "socialist change."

-- Ostensibly as a result of rumor that he seeks Bishop's assassination, Coard resigns.

Night of October 13/14

-- About midnight, New Jewel Movement (NJM) Central Committee places Bishop under house arrest.

October 15

-- Radio Free Grenada (run by Coard's wife Phyllis) announces arrest of 3 Cabinet ministers. Mobilization Minister Selwyn Strachan announced that Coard had replaced Bishop as PM. An angry crowd of 300 gathered outside the government-controlled newspaper to protest. Justice Minister Kendrick Radix arrested for organizing the demonstration.

October 17

-- Tim Hector, leader of leftist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, announces that his party is concerned about the safety of Bishop and other leaders of Grenada.

October 18

-- Five Cabinet members resign: Jacqueline Creft, Education; Norris Bain, Housing; George Louison, Agriculture; Lyden Rhamdhanny Tourism; & Unison Whiteman, Foreign Minister.

-- Whiteman said that "Comrade Coard, who is now running Grenada, has refused to engage in serious talks to resolve the crisis.....it became clear to us that they did not want a

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settlement and seemed determined to use force and provoke violence to achieve their objective."

October 19

-- Grenada Airport is closed, flight from Barbados is turned back. Radio Free Grenada, only source of news, goes off the air. Shops are closed. School children demonstrate for Bishop's return to office. Demonstrators force of restoration of overseas telephone service which had been cut off. Agriculture Minister Louison is arrested.

-- Barbados Government calls emergency cabinet meeting, expresses "deep concern" over events in Grenada.

-- A crowd of thousands, apparently led by Whiteman, marches to Bishop's residence and frees him and Creft, also held prisoner there. Group proceeds to the downtown area toward Fort Rupert (also Police HQ), where Radix was believed imprisoned. Once there, Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA) troops loyal to the Central Committee, some in armored personnel carriers (APC), surround Bishop, Whiteman, Creft, Bain and two union leaders, separate them from the crowd and march them into the fort with their hands over their heads. All are killed - Jacqueline Creft reportedly by beating. Wire services (CANAL, EFE) from St. Georges reports 50 casualties from troops firing on demonstrators.

-- Radio Free Grenada (RFG) announces deaths, formation of a Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) headed by Army Chief General Hudson Austin, and a round-the-clock, shoot on sight curfew until October 24 at 6:00 am.

-- Journalists from international press arrive at airport and are immediately deported.

-- Alister Hughes, Agence France Presse & CANAL correspondent & director of Grenadian weekly, Newsletter, who filed eyewitness report on Fort Rupert events, is picked up at his home by security forces during the night. Hughes was the sole independent news link between Grenada and the rest of the world. His brother, Leonard, and another businessman, Tony Moore are also arrested.

-- Coard placed under "protective custody" - Not seen again.

October 20

-- Barbados Prime Minister, Tom Adams, expresses "horror at these brutal and vicious murders." Describing the new regime he says, "I do not think it will be possible to accommodate wide a range a governments within the Caribbean." ✓

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It goes far beyond ideological plurvalism. This is the difference between barbarians and human beings."

-- Jamaica breaks relations with Grenada. Opposition leader Manley repudiates RMC, cuts relations with the NJM and recommends its expulsion from the Socialist International.

-- St. Lucia Prime Minister, Sir John Compton, says "Whatever little chance Grenada had in Bishop for the liberalisation of the regime is gone for sometime to come. Coard's regime will try to push the Caribbean Community into the communist camp." He said his government and others would resist any such efforts.

-- Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles condemns the killings in Grenada; says her government would have no dealings with those who now "unlawfully" constitute the government of Grenada.

-- Monserrat Chief Minister John Osborne says events in Grenada had cast a dark shadokw over the Caribbean. "The Government of Montserrat feels strongly that we (regional leaders) must eet as soon as possible to consider our future relaitonship with Grenada under its so-called revolutionary council.....Our sympathy goes out to the people of Grenada."

-- Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St Kitts and Nevis joined other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states in condemning political violence in Grenada.

-- Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago announced trade and other sanctions against Grenada, described the killings of Bishop and his ex-ministers as "executions" and said his government viewed with horror the importation of such executions in the English-speaking Caribbean.

-- In London, Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal issues statement expressing horror at murder of Bishop and his supporters. "I feel sure that Commonwealth Caribbean governments in particular will wish to use every influence through co-ordinated responses to ensure that the will and the interest of the people of Grenada are respected and the integrity of the island-state preserved."

-- The Caribbean Conference of Churches suspends all relations with Grenada's new military rulers after having earlier offered to mediate between Bishop and Coard factions.

-- Emergency meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), plus Jamaica and Barbados, called for Barbados on October 21.

-- U.S. citizen arrested in Grenada, released unharmed.

October 21

-- Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Minister Lester Bird says events in St. Georges (Grenada) threaten the well-being of the Caribbean. "The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will not recognize the regime in Grenada."

-- Except for Grenada, OECS nations (St. Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts/Nevis, and Monserrat) plus Barbados and Jamaica formally and unanimously resolve to intervene by force in Grenada if U.S. will assist. Intervention will conform to OECS charter provision that the heads of government may collectively agree to take whatever measures are necessary to defend the region and preserve the peace.

-- Grenada's Ambassador to OAS resigns.

-- Cuba issues statement asserting its non-involvement, calls for investigation and "exemplary punishment" of anyone guilty of Bishop and other deaths, and reaffirms support for the "revolutionary process" in Grenada.

-- Curfew lifted for four hours to allow food purchases; riots and looting occur.

October 22

-- Caricom Heads of Government meet in Trinidad; resolve 11-1 to expel Grenada from the organization. Guyana, Trinidad-Tobago and Belize have reservations about military resolution.

-- The RMC denies disorder during four-hour lifting of curfew the iprevious day. On the contrary, the RMC says, people formed orderly queues outside shops, youth were seen playing football, and tourists were at the beach.

-- RMC announces "policy statement" on economy, social policy, foreign policy, saying a new cabinet will be appointed "within the next 10 to 14 days."

-- The RMC said RMC Lt. Ashley Folkes had been replaced. The RMC said he had been "erroneously named" as a member of the 16 man council the day before.

-- The RMC announces Pearl's Airport will be open the next day and that the curfew will be reduced to from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

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-- RMC strenuously denies reported execution of Journalist Alister Hughes

-- RMC issues series of bulletins on Caricom actions, calls for militia mobilization.

-- U.S. diplomatic representatives arrive.

October 23

-- Forte De France (Martinique) radio reports Grenadian army divided and indicates another coup is possible. Heavy weapons fire is reported.

-- Special emissary McNeil arrives in Barbados to confer with key leaders (Adams of Barbados, Seaga of Jamaica, Charles of Dominica).

October 24

-- Canadian charter flight to pick up its citizens reported unable to land in Grenada.

-- RMC presents note requesting assurance that the U.S. does not plan an invasion.

-- OECS plus Jamaica and Barbados reported in Grenadian press to be preparing an invasion.

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THE STAKES IN GRENADA

-- The United States today acted in concert with the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), plus Barbados and Jamaica, to forestall further brutality and chaos in Grenada.

-- This collective action was taken because inaction would have encouraged lawlessness and increased the dangers of the crisis in Grenada.

-- Last Wednesday, Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and several Cabinet members and labor leaders were brutally murdered by a handful of their former military associates.

-- The physical elimination of most of the Government of Grenada was followed by announcement of a "Revolutionary Military Council" (RMC) and rumors that remaining government members had been murdered. The RMC denied that it considered itself a government, and said one would be announced in 10 days or two weeks.

-- Meanwhile, the only visible act of "authority" was the imposition of a shoot-on-sight curfew.

-- The violent disintegration of governing institutions, interruptions of communications and transportation, and the uncharacteristic brutality of events repelled and alarmed leaders throughout the Caribbean.

-- This volatile situation caused us to be seriously concerned about the welfare of U.S. citizens in Grenada, which make up the largest group of foreigners. Similar concerns were even sharper among Grenada's neighbors.

-- Meeting in emergency session, OECS members decided unanimously to protect their citizens and to help restore order and functioning institutions in Grenada. We joined Jamaica and Barbados in agreeing to work with them for these common objectives.

-- At stake are the safety and well-being of U.S. citizens, other foreign residents, and the people of Grenada.

-- At stake is the ability of free nations to cooperate to protect themselves and to help insure that one of their number is not plunged into anarchy.

-- At stake is the peace and security of the Eastern Caribbean.

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LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR U.S. ACTION IN GRENADA

Since the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister of Grenada on October 12, followed by the arrest and subsequent murder of the Prime Minister and several other cabinet members, the deteriorating and anarchic conditions on Grenada posed a serious threat to the continued safety of the approximately 1,000 U.S. citizens there and for peace and stability in the Caribbean. The U.S. watched events with increasing concern.

The regional security implications of the Grenadan situation were also a matter of grave concern for Grenada's neighbors. Grenada is a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a sub-regional body created by treaty in 1981. The members are Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Among the purposes of the 1981 Treaty are the promotion of regional cooperation and collective security.

The OECS determined that the collapse of government and disintegration of public order on Grenada posed a threat to the security and stability of the region. The OECS members decided to take necessary measures in response to this threat, in accordance with Article 8 of the OECS Treaty. They sought the assistance of friendly foreign states to participate in a collective security force. Barbados and Jamaica agreed with the OECS assessment of the gravity of the situation, offered to contribute forces to a collective action and joined in urging the United States to participate in the support of this regional measure.

The Governor General of Grenada made a confidential direct appeal to the OECS to take action to restore order on the island. As the sole remaining authoritative representative of government on Grenada, his appeal for action carried exceptional moral and legal weight.

The deteriorating events in Grenada since October 12, taken together, demonstrated the brutality of the Revolutionary Military Council and the ominous lack of cohesion within the Grenadan military. The Revolutionary Military Council had imposed a 24-hour curfew, warning that violators would be shot on sight, and closed the airport. U.S. citizens were not free to leave. Although the Military Council gave assurances that the airport would be opened on October 24 and foreigners allowed to depart, they then failed to fulfill that assurance. It became clear that delay would intensify both the risk of violence against Americans and a vacuum of authority that would imperil Grenada's neighbors.

Collective action in response to the dangerous situation was consistent with the UN and OAS Charters. Both Charters expressly recognize the competence of regional security bodies in ensuring peace and stability. The OECS states are not parties to the Rio Treaty, and the OECS Treaty, which concerns itself in part with matters of collective security, is their regional security arrangement.

Article 22 of the OAS Charter states that measures taken pursuant to collective security agreements do not violate the OAS Charter provisions prohibiting intervention and the use of force. Similarly, Article 52 of the UN Charter expressly permits regional arrangements for the maintenance of peace and security consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The actions and objectives of the collective security force, in the circumstances described by the President and the Secretary of State, are consistent with those purposes and principles.

The OECS states, in taking lawful collective action, were free to call upon other concerned states, including the United States, for assistance in their effort to maintain the peace and security of the Caribbean. Assistance given in response to their request is itself lawful. Moreover, U.S. cooperation with the collective security force permitted the safe evacuation of endangered U.S. citizens. Such humanitarian action is justified by well-established principles of international law.