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## Talking Points DCI

Cuban Involvement in Grenada Before the Onset of HostilitiesMilitary Activities

Our information before the invasion on 25 October indicated that Havana and Moscow were stepping up training and aid to Grenada's armed forces at a level beyond the legitimate security needs of such a small island. In late 1982 we published our judgment that the principal objectives of the military buildup were:

- 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 Bishop's government and serve their own interests.

This analysis has subsequently been supported by captured documents revealing the existence of separate secret military agreements between Grenada and the Soviet Union, Cuba, and North Korea.

- These agreements contain promises of some \$37.8 million worth of military equipment including artillery and small arms, anti-aircraft armament, and armored personnel carriers.
- Preliminary reporting since the invasion confirms the presence of most of the types of weaponry cited in the secret treaties.

We also reported in late 1982 that Cuba's military involvement with Grenada appeared to increase sharply in mid-1982.

- Most significantly, the largest single shipment of military equipment was delivered in August.

In addition, leftists from St. Lucia, Dominica, and possibly other islands reportedly were receiving basic training from the Grenadian army.

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- Reporting also indicated that some small groups from the Eastern Caribbean may have been receiving indoctrination and military training at Calivigny.

Political Activities

We have no evidence--and indeed strongly doubt--that the Castro regime sponsored the coup against Maurice Bishop, but Havana's failure to act more assertively in supporting him may have inadvertently sealed his fate.

- By early October the Cubans were almost certainly aware that a serious power struggle was underway among the Grenadian leadership.
- Bishop's rival, the more radical Bernard Coard, was pressing Bishop to yield his post as party leader, and we are persuaded that Havana--although perhaps somewhat reluctantly--had concluded that collegial leadership was necessary in view of Bishop's waning support in the New Jewel Movement.

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Castro reacted to the killing of Bishop and his top cabinet ministers on 19 October by attempting to distance himself publicly from Grenada's new leaders.

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The meeting of leaders of the governments of the Eastern Caribbean on 22-23 October evidently convinced Castro that an invasion was imminent, and Colonel Tortola Comas and several other officers were rushed to Grenada on 24 October to organize resistance.

- Shortly thereafter, Cuban military elements in Grenada were instructed to improve their defenses.

Castro's decision to fight apparently was triggered by concern that a supine capitulation to a US invasion would

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undermine Cuba's revolutionary reputation, raise grave doubts among the Sandinistas and others about Cuba's reliability as a military protector, and whet the appetite of the US for greater military involvement in Central America.

Before the onset of hostilities we estimated that the Cuban presence in Grenada probably totaled 400 to 600.

- We now believe that the Castro government's acknowledgment on 28 October of 784 Cubans in Grenada is probably close to the mark.
- The most plausible explanation for this discrepancy is that the approximately 200 Cuban construction workers whom we thought had rotated home last January either did not leave or were replaced without our knowledge.
- According to the Cuban's own admission, the 43-man Cuban military mission was about four times the size indicated by previous reporting. (The recently captured secret military treaty between Grenada and Cuba also provides for a Cuban military advisory group of about 40).
- Additional Cuban military personnel may have been clandestinely infiltrated into Grenada in October aboard any of three Cuban-associated ships, but the circumstances of those voyages make this unlikely.