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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.