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Chronology of Grenada Events Leading to Collective
Action of the Caribbean Peace Force

October 6-8

-- Prime Minister Bishop meets in Cuba with Fidel Castro following a one-week tour of Eastern European capitals in which he sought support for his faltering regime.

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 Prime Minister Bishop under house arrest.

October 15

-- Radio Free Grenada [run by Coard's wife Phyllis] announces arrest of 3 Cabinet ministers. Mobilization Minister Selvyn Strachan announces 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 settlement and seemed determined to use force and provoke violence to achieve their objective."

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October 19

- Grenada Airport is closed, LIAT flight from Barbados is turned back, two other flights cancelled. 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 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 [CANA, 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 & CANA 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."

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 so wide a range of governments within the Caribbean. It goes far beyond ideological pluralism. 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

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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 shadow over the Caribbean. "The Government of Montserrat feels strongly that we [regional leaders] must meet as soon as possible to consider our future relationship 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 into 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, is 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.

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

-- The RMC announces Pearls 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.

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

-- U.S. diplomatic representatives arrive.

October 23

-- Fort 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

-- Prime Minister Adams informs Ambassador Bish that the Governor General has appealed, in a confidential communication, for OECS action to restore order.

-- 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.