

# WHY GRENADA WINDS UP DEAFEN

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**P**resident Reagan, in his Apr. 27 speech on Central America before a joint congressional session, again pointed out the importance of Cuban-Soviet activity in Grenada. He noted that if the airfield under construction on the tiny island had been complete, Soviet munitions would have gone directly to Nicaragua instead of being captured en route in late April by the Brazilians. The airfield would also facilitate Cuban troop shuttles across the South Atlantic to Angola and Ethiopia (BW—Feb. 18, 1980).



PRIME MINISTER BISHOP IS TRADING NUTMEG FOR RUSSIAN GUNS

Although the Soviets have taken precautions not to assume any overt role in building the airfield, some \$30 million in Soviet construction equipment has been channeled through Havana. More than 150 pieces of Soviet heavy construction and earth-moving machinery are being used. Grenadian police drive Lada cars and Niva jeeps, while the island's People's Revolutionary Army and People's Militia—8,000 men and women out of a population of 110,000—wear Cuban uniforms and are armed with Soviet AK-47 assault rifles, DShK heavy machine guns, and ZU-23 artillery. The Grenadian government has also received helicopters and BTR-60 armored personnel carriers.

In late May, 1980, Grenada Deputy Premier Bernard Coard signed a treaty with Moscow giving landing rights to Soviet

TU-95 long-range reconnaissance aircraft. On July 28, 1982, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop signed another agreement in Moscow, in which the Soviets granted him \$1.4 million to buy "500 tons of steel and other essential goods." The Soviets also agreed to construct a new port—in return, Bishop says, "for recreational use by Russian sailors." Moscow will also finance an earth-satellite ground station, which, says Bishop, "gives us the opportunity of receiving directly in Grenada all the programs... in the Soviet Union." Some observers expect massive new electronics communications to back up Soviet installations in Cuba. Moscow also promised to buy Grenada's cocoa, nutmeg, and bananas at "stable prices" and to grant scholarships to students. Shortly afterward, the Soviets set up a mission under Ambassador Gennadiy Sazhenev, a corpulent Russian in his mid-60s, who, while ostensibly a diplomat, wears the full-dress uniform of a Soviet army general and insignia indicating he may be a member of the GRU, Soviet military intelligence.

**THE FORCES OF FASCISM.** Grenada's strategic value is far out of proportion to its size. It is less than 100 mi. off the coast of Venezuela, in a deep-water channel through which tankers carrying 56% of U. S. imported oil enter the Caribbean. Major refining capacity lies to the north—in St. Croix, the U. S. Virgin Islands; in St. Lucia; and, 90 mi. to the south, in Trinidad. Trinidad has denounced Bishop for permitting 75 Trinidadians to be trained by the Cubans in Grenada for terrorism, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare (BW—Dec. 27). In April, 1980, Bishop casually confirmed that the new airfield might be used for Soviet and Cuban airlifts to trouble spots. "Suppose there's a war next door in Trinidad, where the forces of fascism are about to take control, and the Trinidadians need assistance," he said. "Why should we oppose anybody passing through Grenada to assist them?"

Soviet MiG-23s—three squadrons of which are now based in Cuba—could wreak havoc from Grenada on nearby oil refineries, transshipment terminals, and tanker lanes. In addition, Soviet use of the airfield for long-range reconnaissance and for antisubmarine warfare missions over the Atlantic would, as Reagan indicated, pose a far greater threat for the Mid- and South Atlantic than the deadly menace of German U-boats in the Caribbean during World War II.

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Soviet Ambassador Genadiy I. Sazhenev

tion," Amb. Sazhenev said, "took the Soviet people to the very summits of science and

economic plan is adopted for the next five years and after this it becomes law.

tion, was planned the previous day in response to a statement made on March 10 by US

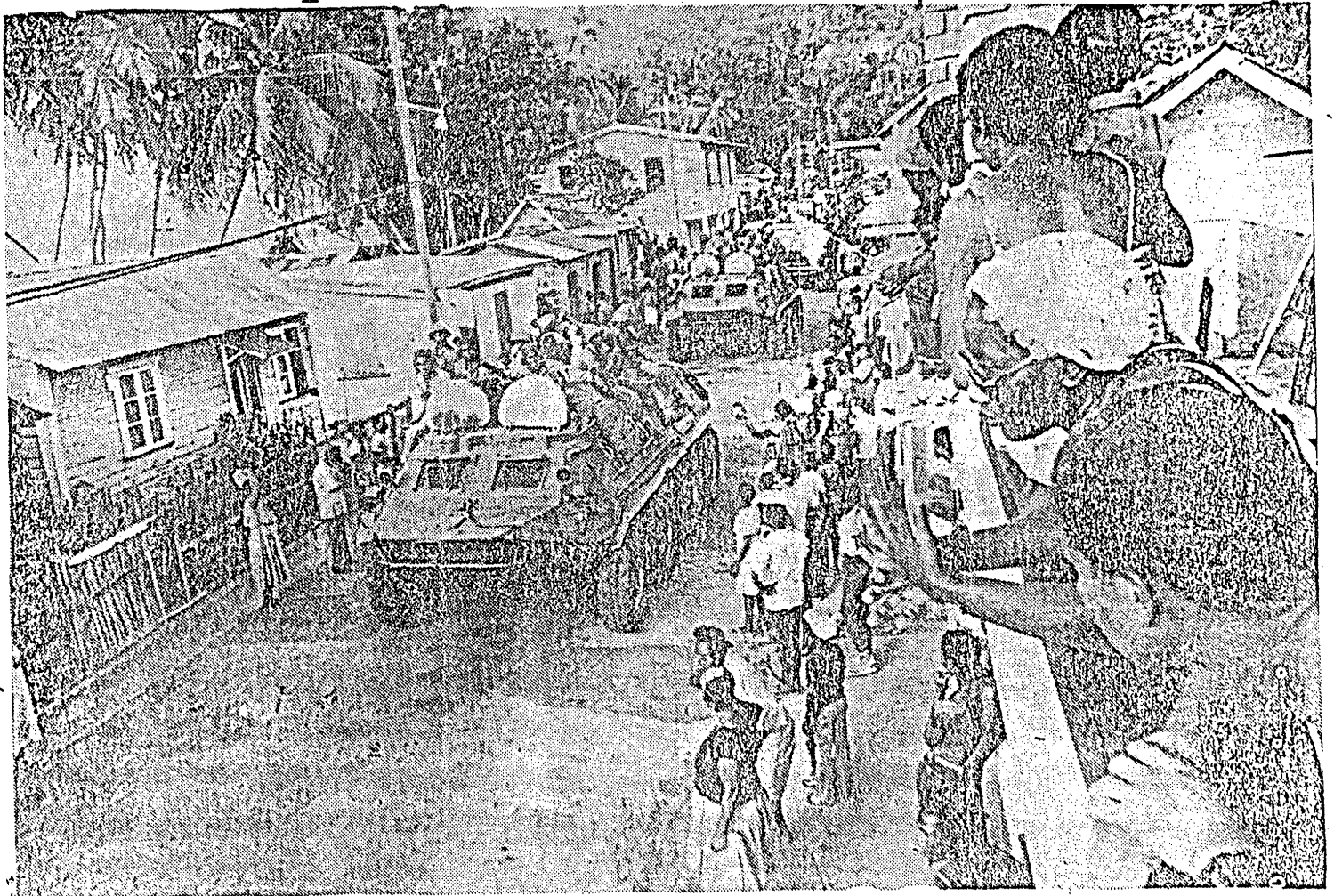
Finally ended on the  
Approved For Release 2008/01/29 : CIA-RDP85M00364R001502590103-9  
Carnegie in an evening

rally.

Addressing the rally

The military motorcade

#3



Residents watching the armoured cars passing through St. George's.