

GRENADA/COUP

JENNINGS: Good evening. While there was still some fighting on the island of Grenada, here in Washington the administration says overall the fighting is dying down. These are some of the first Cubans on Grenada which U.S. forces have captured. VOICE OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER: Would you introduce yourself, sir? CUBAN OFFICER: Yes, my name is (INAUDIBLE).

JENNINGS: That's the voice of a U.S. intelligence officer. These are Pentagon films which have been released just a short time ago. UNIDENTIFIED U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER: Who do we have here, sir?

JENNINGS: Cuban prisoners, captured in the south of Grenada around Ft. Salines--Cubans, who we are told, put up a very stiff fight against U.S. Rangers who parachuted onto the Point Salines Airport at the beginning of the invasion. We also will see in just a little while some of the weapons which the Pentagon says have been found in very large numbers.

JENNINGS: U.S. forces have captured what is described as the last two strong points on the island: Fort Fredrick in the capital of St. George's and Richmond Prison just outside. Gen. Hudson Austin, the leader of Grenada's revolutionary council which overthrew Prime Minister Bishop a little more than a week ago, has been trapped by American troops. The trouble is he's holding hostages. We don't know their nationality, and he is demanding safe passage off Grenada to another island, Guiana. American casualties as a result of the invasion are now eight dead, eight missing, and 39 wounded. We begin a series of comprehensive reports with John McWethey at the Pentagon.

MCWETHEY: As the fighting continued today, Marines, Army Rangers, and members of the 82nd Airborne surrounded, then assaulted the heavily fortified prison on Richmond Hill. They had been reluctant to assault it for fear that innocent prisoners might be hurt. As it turned out, Pentagon sources say just four prisoners were in the compound--they were all safe. After that assault, attention switched to Calivigny Point, a barracks area apparently for Cuban troops. According to military sources, elements of the 82nd Airborne were dealing with the problem late in the day. Sources expected the fighting there to end by dusk. Pentagon sources say one of the reasons the press was kept off the island during the early stages of the operation had to do with the presence of the supersecret Delta Group. This is an Army unit of highly trained specialists which had its genesis in the Iran rescue attempt--men trained to deal with hostage situations under the most difficult of circumstances. American military sources say they were staggered by the depth and strength of the Cuban military

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presence they found on Grenada. Intelligence sources say they anticipated encountering 5-600 Cubans, most thought to be construction workers. Now, from secret documents taken from the Cuban command center on Grenada, they believe more than 1,000 Cubans were on the island--virtually all of them soldiers. At the Cuban command center at Frecuente, which the U.S. was also unaware even existed, American forces discovered sophisticated communications equipment, coding machines, and secret documents outlining their presence there. Late yesterday, American troops found something else they had not anticipated, what one intelligence source described as an enormous supply of ammunition and weapons, far beyond what could ever be used by the forces then on the island. American analysts say they don't yet know what to make of all the Cuban activity, but they offered several interpretations. One, the Cubans in the process of making Grenada a heavily fortified base at the opposite end of the Caribbean, and two, it was to be used as a trans-shipment point for resupplying Cuban troops in either Nicaragua or Angola, in Africa. When American forces first assaulted the island two days ago, the Cuban ship Vietnam Heroica was in port there. It set sail immediately, and American forces, not wishing to fire on any international vessel that was not shooting back at them, let it go. The ship steamed out beyond the 12-mile limit and stayed there, relaying radio messages from Havana to the island. Intelligence sources say the Cuban government was telling its troops via radio to hold their positions and do their job. Military sources say there is just one reason why the U.S. did not know more about the extent of the Cuban presence on Grenada. There was apparently a massive failure of the American intelligence community--a failure which some military men here at the Pentagon say ought to cost some people their jobs. John McWethey, ABC News, the Pentagon.