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1981 CIA Covert Action Plan Reported Scrubbed  
WASHINGTON

The CIA considered plans to destabilize the leftist government of the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada but was dissuaded from launching them by the Senate Intelligence Committee, The Washington Post said in Sunday editions.

An unidentified committee member was quoted as saying that the description of the 1981 plan should be "economic destabilization affecting the political viability of the government."

Details of the plan could not be learned, the newspaper said.

CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said Saturday night, "We'll stick with our regular response on that one - no comment." There was no answer at the Grenadan Embassy.

Grenada has aroused concern among U.S. officials ever since the prime minister, Maurice Bishop, took power in a coup in 1979 and aligned his government with Cuba.

Cuba has been helping Grenada build a large airport, which U.S. officials on many occasions have pointed to as a possible base for the Cuban Air Force. Grenada has said the project is an attempt to lure more tourists to the 133-square mile island of about 107,000 people.

Covert operations against Grenada were discussed in the Carter administration but Carter ruled out everything but propaganda, the newspaper said.

The Senate committee, according to the newspaper's account, opposed the 1981 Grenada plan in July of that year, six months after President Reagan took office, because of "what were perceived as unusual and unspecified components."

"You've got to be kidding," sources quoted Sen. <sup>L. Broyd</sup>~~Dale~~ Bentsen, D-Texas, as saying after the CIA presentation.

A group of expatriate Grenadans was said to have been seeking support in Washington a year ago for action against Bishop's government, according to an unidentified official quoted by the newspaper.