

SAN JOSE MERCURY (CA)
7 April 1983

Undiplomatic response to 'hysterical' Grenada

By Alfonso Chardy
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Grenada's foreign minister made his usual speech Wednesday, accusing the United States of preparing to invade his small island nation, but this time he drew an unusual American response.

Asked by reporters about the accusation, which was voiced before the Organization of American States, U.S. Ambassador J. William Middendorf II replied: "Can I use a diplomatic term? Horseshit."

When a network correspondent protested

that he could not use that term on the air, Middendorf changed it to "bullfeathers."

Unison Whiteman, the Grenadan official, had formally charged — as he has publicly several times — that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was plotting the invasion and that "in recent weeks we have seen clear signs that this plot is nearing its climax."

He gave no specifics, other than that mercenaries were getting CIA training in Miami for the invasion, which he said would be launched from a country near Grenada.

"I am not in a position to give you the specific location, but we have intelligence sources on this question, and we know that training is taking place in Miami," Whiteman said at a news conference after his speech. "I can say that those involved are largely Nicaraguan and Cuban exiles and some Grenadans, and also some mercenaries, a motley collection of counterrevolutionaries sponsored, organized and trained by the CIA."

Whiteman said he had come to the OAS to appeal for "diplomatic influence" to thwart the alleged CIA plot. He said the invasion could come "at any minute. It's impending."