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U.S. WON'T DISPUTE HAVANA ON TALLY

Estimate of Nationals on Isle Is Reduced by Washington

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 — A senior State Department official said today that the United States did not dispute Cuba's statement that there were only 784 Cubans on Grenada when American forces invaded the island on Tuesday.

The Reagan Administration said Friday that its latest figures showed that there were more than 1,100 Cubans there.

The senior State Department official said "no one is quarreling with" the Cuban figure. He spoke after a representative of the Cuban Government reiterated a statement that there were 784 Cubans on the Caribbean island at the time of the invasion.

At the Pentagon, a Defense Department spokesman said that the official United States count of Cubans on Grenada had been revised to less than the earlier estimate of 1,100, but said he could not give a new number.

Different Estimates

The Administration's Friday estimate of 1,100 Cubans was 10 percent higher than the estimate offered the day before and almost twice as large as the estimate made before the invasion began Tuesday. The Friday announcement came amid a growing debate about why intelligence agencies had failed to measure Cuban strength on the Caribbean island more accurately.

Military officials have said the United States has captured 638 Cubans. Other officers said privately that between 150 and 200 Cubans were still at large on Grenada, some of them continuing sniper fire at American troops.

Another State Department official, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, said the earlier judgment that placed 1,100 armed Cubans on Grenada "was based upon some documents but now that we've gotten better information, we've gotten a new estimate."

Agreement With Cuban Figure

He did not say what the new estimate was, but the other senior official indicated the department agreed with the Cuban figure.

Mr. Dam, who spoke on the CBS News program "Face the Nation," also said the United States had captured Soviet, Cuban, and North Korean documents on Grenada that he said were agreements to supply Grenada with military goods.

He said American forces in Grenada had found "a treasure trove of documents," including three supply agreements with the Soviet Union and one each with Cuba and North Korea.

In another development, a Pentagon spokesman said he had no information on a report by Michael Posner, a correspondent for the Canadian news magazine MacLeans', that bombing by the United States had killed 47 inmates in a mental hospital near Richmond Hill,

the site of a prison near the Grenadian capital. Mr. Posner said a nurse had taken him through the rubble of the hospital, where some Cuban soldiers had taken refuge before the bombing. He said the nurse had told him that there was no way that any attacker could have identified the institution as a hospital. The Defense Department spokesman said, "We have no information to confirm or deny that report."

Civilian Casualties

The spokesman also said that the department had no official figure on the number of civilian casualties that might have resulted from the fighting in Grenada but that reports showed there were "almost none."

Senior military officers said that Army Rangers, trained in operations to rescue civilian hostages after Americans were held for 444 days in Iran, had been largely responsible for holding civilian casualties in ground action to a minimum.

The Defense Department reported tonight that the latest casualty figures from United States forces in Grenada showed 16 killed in action, 77 wounded and three missing. Four of those listed as killed on today's casualty list had previously been listed as missing.

Military officers said that United States aircraft were flying reconnaissance missions over small islands belonging to Grenada just north of the main island to see whether armed Cubans were there. The largest of these is Carriacou, about 20 miles north of the main island.

The officers said United States forces could not be withdrawn from Grenada as long as there was a threat of continued Cuban fighting.

Cubans 'Not Soldiers'

On the matter of the Cubans in Grenada, Ramón Sánchez-Parodi, an official in the Cuban Interests Section that acts here in the interests of Cuban citizens, said on the CBS News program that the 784 Cubans "were not soldiers." He added, "They were people who were construction workers."

On Friday, the Cuban Government issued a detailed list of its nationals on Grenada, saying that of the 784, 636 were construction workers, with others working in public health, education, fishing, transport, trade, culture and communications. It said 43 were members of the armed forces, of whom 22 were army officers and the rest translators and other support personnel.

Inadequate intelligence reporting, according to military officers, has hindered the United States operation in Grenada from the beginning. They said the intelligence services had good photographs of airfield construction and Cuban camps but lacked agents on

the ground who could provide eyewitness reports on the numbers and armament of the Cubans there.

The initial United States Government estimate, made before the invasion, held that 600 Cubans were on the island. A Defense Department official said captured documents were the source of the estimate of 1,100 Cubans, many of them armed. The Pentagon has repudiated that figure, but no official number has been issued to replace it.

Referring to the "trove of documents" found on Grenada, Mr. Dam said "the Soviet agreement provided for transshipment of goods through Cuba" but gave no further details. He said the Government was analyzing the documents "because we don't want to misrepresent what they show," and he hoped they would be available to the public later.

Other senior Administration officials said the documents would show that the Soviet Union and Cuba intended to turn Grenada into a supply depot for leftist insurgencies throughout Latin America. They said most of the weapons found in Grenada were light arms, including the Soviet-made AK-47 automatic rifle, that would have been intended for guerrilla warfare. The AK-47, it was noted, was extensively used by the Vietcong guerrillas in the Viet-

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nam War. Reporters who saw the arms stores on Grenada said they included some antiquated arms also.

In addition to Mr. Dam, Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Under Secretary of State, and Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, the chief United States representative at the United Nations, appeared on television programs today to explain President Reagan's decision to land United States troops to the Caribbean island Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who appeared on the NBC News program "Meet the Press," said that the United States had suffered no moral loss with the invasion of Grenada.

"I'm telling you," she said, "that I don't think there's any moral cost to that action."

Defense Department officials were asked if the United States plans to remove marines from Grenada and dispatch them to Lebanon to replace the marine unit there. The officials said the marines in the Caribbean were standing by to be withdrawn, but that move had not yet begun. The department had said earlier that the marines would begin to move "within a few days."

With Army Rangers having been withdrawn, a Pentagon spokesman said today, the total number of American troops on the island had dropped to about 5,000.