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File Folder GRENADA BRIEFING, 10/31/1983 (1)

FOIA

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WILLIAMS

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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	OF ATTENDEES	27	10/27/1983	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

3:30 Indian Treaty Room

(202) 456-1414

10/17/17
11:00 AM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1983

BRIEFING FOR FREEDOM FEDERATION
AND ETHNIC LEADERS
ON GRENADA

26 →

12:30 p.m., Room 474 EOB

- 12:30 Welcome -- Linas Kojelis, Associate Director,
Office of Public Liaison
- Opening remarks -- Faith Whittlesey,
Assistant to the President for Public
Liaison
- 12:35 The situation in Grenada and the importance
of the Caribbean -- Constantine Menges,
Special Assistant to the President and
Senior Director for Latin America,
National Security Council
- 1:00 Central America and public opinion -- Peter
Romero, Assistant to the Ambassador for
Public Diplomacy, Department of State
- 1:30 Remarks -- The Honorable George Bush, Vice
President of the United States

Students
↓
Comments

#

76 - Grenada brief

NEWS RELEASE

Freedom Federation

October 31, 1983

Contact: Heba El-Shazli
(202) 783-5547

4000 Tunlaw Road, N.W., #505
Washington, D.C. 20007

: Freedom Federation Members Briefed by White House Officials

Member Organizations

- Afghanistan
- Afghan Refugee Association
- Angola
- Friends of Angola
- Cuba
- Abdala Cuban Movement
- Cuba Independent and Democratic
- Vietnam
- Vietnam Freedom Movement
- Laos
- Lao Union Organization
- Cambodia
- Free Cambodia
- Cham Ethnic Minority, Inc. (Champa)
- Estonia
- Estonian American National Council
- Latvia
- American Latvian Association
- Lithuania
- Lithuanian American Community
- Lithuanian American Council
- Byelorussia
- Byelorussian-American Association
- Ukraine
- Ukrainian American Coordinating Council
- Russia
- Congress of Russian Americans
- Czechoslovakia
- Czechoslovak National Council of America
- Bulgaria
- Bulgarian National Front
- Hungary
- Coordinating Committee of Hungarian Organizations
- Poland
- POMOST Socio-Political Movement

Over 100 representatives from the member organizations of the Freedom Federation met on Monday, October 31, for a high level briefing at the White House on United States policy and actions in Grenada. The Freedom Federation is a formal coalition joining 19 organizations representing 16 nationalities whose native lands have been taken over by the U.S.S.R. or Soviet proxies.

Vice President Bush expressed his gratitude to the members of the Freedom Federation for standing up for the principles of freedom, stating "not only do you stand for freedom, you work effectively with Congress. That's something a lot of people just don't do. . ." Referring to the "total, brutal, murderous anarchy" of the now-deposed Grenadian government, Bush declared "We cannot turn our backs to anarchy but must respond when there is a cry from the heart by a tiny handful of democratic countries" pleading for American help.

Constantine Menges of the National Security Council, citing the request by eight democratic states in the area that America help restore democracy to Grenada, defended the legality of the invasion as consistent with the international political framework for the collective security of the region allowed for in the OAS and U.N. charters. Under these provisions Menges stated that "when there is a proximal threat to life and safety, regional collective security measures may be implemented through a single organ" to restore stability and peace.

Menges quoted a Marine commander as estimating the number of arms found stacked in warehouses

Board of Directors

- Dimiter Baharoff**
President, Bulgarian National Front
- Dr. Algirdas M. Budreckis**
Chairman, Lithuanian American Community
- Dr. Pradith Chounlarath**
General Secretary,
Lao Union Organization
- Dr. Mikulas Ferjencik**
President, Czechoslovak National Council of America

- Pham Duong Hien**
Former Director General for Overseas Information Republic of Vietnam
- Dr. Wahed Karim**
Former Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States
- Gustavo Marin**
National Chairman,
Abdala Cuban Movement
- Dr. Andrus Pogany**
Chairman, Coordinating Committee of Hungarian Organizations

- Professor Edmund V. Pribitkin**
President, Congress of Russian Americans
- Christopher Rac**
Coordinator, Executive Committee, POMOST
- Visvaldis Klive**
President, American Latvian Association
- B. O. Shebunchak, M.D.**
President, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

- Anton Shukieloyts**
Chairman, Byelorussian-American Association
- Juhan Simonson**
President, Estonian American National Council
- Pheach Srey**
President, Free Cambodia Inc.
- E. Gene Vosseler**
Director, Californians for a Strong America

Freedom Federation

news release, p. 2

4000 Tunlaw Road, N.W., #505
Washington, D.C. 20007

on the island at 85,000 - one weapon for every man, woman and child on the island. In addition, 12,000 army uniforms were discovered, even though the Grenadian militia numbered only 2,000 men. This evidence, along with the military capabilities of the 10,000 foot airstrip (commercial aircraft require a maximum 7,000 feet), strongly supports the contention that Cuba intended to use the island as a supply depot for guerrilla operations in the Caribbean involving El Salvador, Guatamala, Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama.

Menges further pointed out that "there are very competent democratic leaders" in Grenada who, along with the reestablishment of trade unions, form a strong institutional basis for the return to a democratic government. The new Governor General is now a legal figure in the interim government set up under the guidelines dictated by the British Commonwealth Constitution of Independence.

Faith Whittlesey, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, closed the briefing by praising the aggressiveness and competency of the Freedom Federation that has made it "a very effective organization. . . Effective during the Korean airline massacre in trying to educate the American people as to the implications of that incident, and increasingly effective in its actions and responses concerning Central American issues." Whittlesey declared that the Federation's continued work in "helping mold the opinions of your communities will come back to have an impact in Congress."

→ File - Grenada

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1983

TO: MARY ANN
FROM: LINAS *Linas*
SUBJECT: Briefing on Grenada for Freedom Federation, Monday,
October 31, 12:30 p.m., Room 474, EOB

(Note: Mary Ann, I will be in New York Sunday night at a Greek event and will fly in as early as possible Monday morning. I may be a little late for the staff meeting.)

At the request of the Freedom Federation, we have scheduled a special briefing on Grenada for its Board of Directors and Assembly members on Monday, October 31, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 474. I have also invited other concerned ethnic leaders so that total attendance will be about 80.

The program is as follows:

12:30	Welcome -- Linas Kojelis
12:35	The situation in Grenada and the importance of the Caribbean -- Constantine Menges, NSC
1:00	Central America and public opinion -- Peter Romero, State
1:30	Drop-by -- Vice President Bush

Would it be possible for Faith to drop by for 5 minutes at 12:30 to help welcome the group? They have worked hard in the past in support of the Administration on Central America and overseas radio broadcasting.

Attached are briefing papers for Faith if it is decided that she can participate. I will prepare talking points first thing Monday morning.

SPEAKING REQUEST

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: JENNIFER A. FITZGERALD
INVITATION FROM:

EVENT: Briefing for Ethnic Leaders on Grenada

DATE: Monday, October 31, 1983

TIME: Arrive: 1:30 p.m. --- Depart: 1:40 p.m.

PLACE: Indian Treaty Room, OEOB

AUDIENCE: 80 Leaders of the Freedom Federation, a coalition of 16 major East European, Asian and Cuban organizations united to oppose Soviet aggression.

COMMENTS:

SPEECH/REMARKS: 5-10 minutes --- remarks

TOPIC:

POLITICAL:

MRS. BUSH PARTICIPATION: none

PRESS: OPEN _____ CLOSED XXX

DRESS: Business Suit

DECISION

POLITICAL

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Press Secretary _____

(3 cys)

OTHER _____

SENATOR _____

Speechwriter _____

Hill Liaison _____

Domestic _____

MEMBER OF CONGRESS FOR DISTRICT _____

Counsel _____

Advance _____

Mrs. Bush's Office _____

CONTACT: Linas Kojelis --- x2741

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1983

He

linas
pls deny if yr
the copy

MEMORANDUM FOR VICE PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *Jac*

SUBJECT: Briefing for Ethnic Leaders on Grenada
12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Monday, October 31

On Monday, October 31, in Room 474 of the Indian Treaty Room, the Office of Public Liaison will host a briefing for 80 leaders of the Freedom Federation, a coalition of 16 major East European, Asian and Cuban organizations united to oppose Soviet aggression. They have worked hard on behalf of the President's policies in Central American and in efforts to upgrade U.S. overseas broadcasts.

After the EOB briefing, the group will meet on their own to plan strategy for public campaigns in the media and Congress to support the President.

If your schedule permit, I would like to request your participation in this briefing for a drop-by and remarks.

Attachment

Outline of Briefing:

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Date: Monday, October 31

Place: Indian Treaty Room - 474 OEOB

Briefers: Constantine Menges and a State Department briefer
yet to be determined

Remarks: Thank the group for their support of the President's
actions in Grenada; thank them for their general
support of his policies in Central America; and
to emphasize that their continued active, vocal
and public support will be necessary to ensure
the success of the President's policies.

Time Required: 5-10 minutes

D-96

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1983

BRIEFING FOR FREEDOM FEDERATION
AND ETHNIC LEADERS
ON GRENADA

12:30 p.m., Room 474 EOB

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- 12:35 The situation in Grenada and the importance
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National Security Council
- 1:00 Central America and public opinion -- Peter
Romero, Assistant to the Ambassador for
Public Diplomacy, Department of State
- 1:30 Remarks -- The Honorable George Bush, Vice
President of the United States

#



B-76

October 25, 1983

TO: FAITH
 FROM: LINAS *Linas*
 SUBJECT: Ethnic Reaction to U.S. in Grenada

Faith, as I mentioned briefly in the morning meeting, reaction from all of the ethnic groups with which I have been in contact has been very supportive of the President's move in Grenada. In fact, there are two major events which are being organized in response to this event.

Rally in Los Angeles: A large rally (minimum 500 people) is being organized in Los Angeles this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The main sponsors are the Coalition Against Soviet Agression and Californians for a Strong Defense. Other groups which are cosponsoring the rally are:

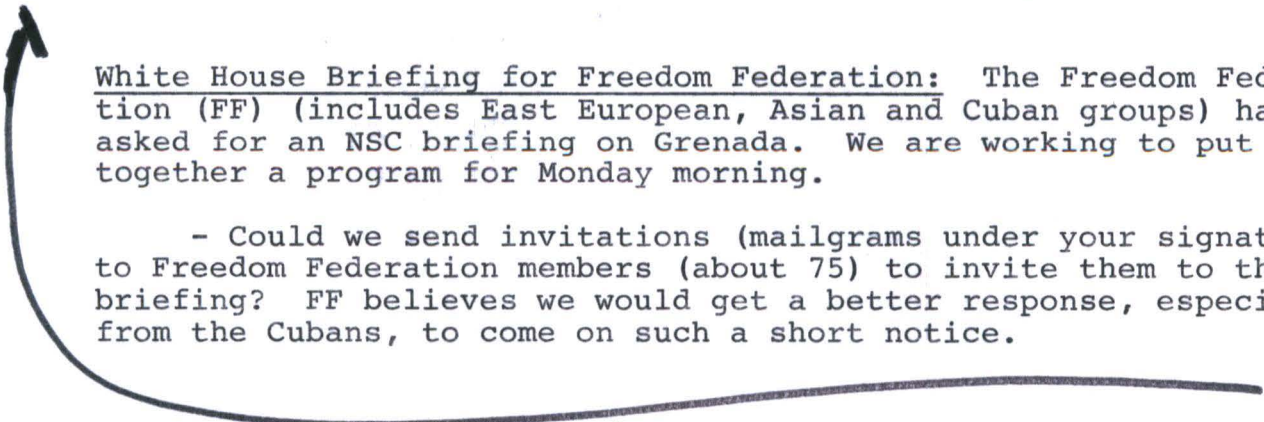
- Polish American Congress (Southern California Division)
- Baltic American Freedom League
- Hungarian Freedom Fighters
- Czechoslovak National Council
- Cuba Independent and Democratic
- Catholics for Peace Through Strength
- Conservative Caucus
- YAF

20 organizations in all have cosponsored the event so far. They would like a top Administration representative to be a speaker, and would cover all travel expenses. Dolf and I are trying to find an appropriate speaker.

- Would you be available to go if necessary?

White House Briefing for Freedom Federation: The Freedom Federation (FF) (includes East European, Asian and Cuban groups) has asked for an NSC briefing on Grenada. We are working to put together a program for Monday morning.

- Could we send invitations (mailgrams under your signature) to Freedom Federation members (about 75) to invite them to the briefing? FF believes we would get a better response, especially from the Cubans, to come on such a short notice.



OK J2C

File → GRENADA

- The President gave three reasons for yesterday's U.S. action in Grenada:
 - to protect innocent lives, particularly the 1000 Americans on the island;
 - to prevent further violence and help restore order;
 - to assist in restoration of democratic institutions in Grenada.
- The United States acted at the urgent request of five democratic nations of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.
- Since the October 12th coup, which ousted Grenadan Prime Minister Bishop (he and five members of his Cabinet were killed by the new regime) the situation in Grenada has been marked by a potential for increased violence.
- After the coup, the new regime murdered officials of the ousted government, killed innocent civilians, and imposed a curfew with authorization to shoot on sight any who violated it.
- There could be no guarantee of the safety of Americans. President Reagan refused to risk a repeat of the Iranian hostage tragedy. He chose to act to ensure nothing like it would happen, rather than to wait and see if it did.
- The other small island nations in the area which asked for U.S. help were urgently concerned that the chaos in Grenada not only denied the people there the freedom to choose their own government but also was a threat to peace and democracy in neighboring nations.
- Cuban and Soviet involvement with Grenada had been well-known. U.S. and Caribbean troops encountered heavily armed resistance from Cuban personnel, erasing any doubts that the Cubans on the island were not benign construction crews but military and para-military personnel.

o The U.S. intends to withdraw as soon as law and order are restored. Results will be:

- Safety for Americans in Grenada;
- Grenadan participation in the region as a democratic partner, not a subversive element;
- On the international scene, recognition that America accepts its responsibilities and can be counted on to respond to violence firmly, if required to do so.

GRENADA
BASIC FACTS

What we are doing: Responding to an urgent and formal request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), six Caribbean States and the United States joined in a collective action to restore peace and public order in Grenada. Elements of the combined force landed on Grenada early on October 25.

Collapse of governmental institutions in Grenada: On October 19, Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and several Cabinet members and labor leaders were brutally murdered by a handful of their former military associates. The physical elimination of most of the Government of Grenada was followed by announcement of a "Revolutionary Military Council" (RMC) and rumors that remaining government members had been murdered. The only visible act of "authority" was the imposition of a shoot-on-sight curfew.

Why Caribbean States and US Acted: The Eastern Caribbean states saw the violence and the disintegration of political institutions in Grenada as an unprecedented threat to peace and security of the region. With 800 - 1000 US citizens to protect, we shared their concerns. Inaction would have increased the dangers of the crisis in Grenada.

What Caribbean States are in the Collective Security Force: The force includes contingents from Jamaica and Barbados plus four OECS member states: Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Objectives: The objectives of the collective security force are clear: to restore peace, order and respect for human rights; to evacuate those who wish to leave; to help the Grenadians re-establish governmental institutions; and to withdraw from the island as soon as possible.

Legal authority: The OECS acted pursuant to collective security provisions of the 1981 OECS Treaty of Establishment. The OECS states are not party to the Rio Treaty; the OECS Treaty is in effect their regional equivalent, and is consistent with the purposes and principles of UN and OAS Charters. U.S. participation is also justified by the need to protect U.S. nationals. U.S. actions have been consistent with the consultation and reporting provisions of the War Powers Resolution.

Duration: U.S. troops will stay the minimum time necessary to help the Caribbean states to restore peace and help the people of Grenada reestablish functioning governmental institutions.

Diplomatic activity: An emergency meeting of the OAS Permanent Council was requested by the Eastern Caribbean countries. The UN Secretary General and President of the Security Council have been informed.

The OECS: Founded in 1981 to enhance regional cooperation, OECS members are Grenada, Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

10/27 0045hrs

CHRONOLOGY OF GRENADA EVENTS

September 28 - October 6

PM Maurice Bishop visits Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

October 6-8

Bishop visits Cuba.

October 12

-- Longstanding conflict between PM Bishop and Deputy PM Bernard Coard erupts in fight in Grenadian cabinet. Coard wants to supplant Bishop and speed up "socialist change."

-- Ostensibly as a result of rumor that he seeks Bishop's assassination, Coard resigns.

Night of October 13/14

-- About midnight, New Jewel Movement (NJM) Central Committee places Bishop under house arrest.

October 15

-- Radio Free Grenada (run by Coard's wife Phyllis) announces arrest of 3 Cabinet ministers. Mobilization Minister Selvyn Strachan announced that Coard had replaced Bishop as PM. An angry crowd of 300 gathered outside the government-controlled newspaper to protest. Justice Minister Kendrick Radix arrested for organizing the demonstration.

October 17

-- Tim Hector, leader of leftist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, announces that his party is concerned about the safety of Bishop and other leaders of Grenada.

October 18

-- Five Cabinet members resign: Jacqueline Creft, Education; Norris Bain, Housing; George Louison, Agriculture; Lyden Rhamdhanny Tourism; & Unison Whiteman, Foreign Minister.

-- Whiteman said that "Comrade Coard, who is now running Grenada, has refused to engage in serious talks to resolve the crisis.....it became clear to us that they did not want a

settlement and seemed determined to use force and provoke violence to achieve their objective."

October 19

-- Grenada Airport is closed, flight from Barbados is turned back. Radio Free Grenada, only source of news, goes off the air. Shops are closed. School children demonstrate for Bishop's return to office. Demonstrators force of restoration of overseas telephone service which had been cut off. Agriculture Minister Louison is arrested.

-- Barbados Government calls emergency cabinet meeting, expresses "deep concern" over events in Grenada.

-- A crowd of thousands, apparently led by Whiteman, marches to Bishop's residence and frees him and Creft, also held prisoner there. Group proceeds to the downtown area toward Fort Rupert (also Police HQ), where Radix was believed imprisoned. Once there, Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA) troops loyal to the Central Committee, some in armored personnel carriers (APC), surround Bishop, Whiteman, Creft, Bain and two union leaders, separate them from the crowd and march them into the fort with their hands over their heads. All are killed - Jacqueline Creft reportedly by beating. Wire services (CANAL, EFE) from St. Georges reports 50 casualties from troops firing on demonstrators.

-- Radio Free Grenada (RFG) announces deaths, formation of a Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) headed by Army Chief General Hudson Austin, and a round-the-clock, shoot on sight curfew until October 24 at 6:00 am.

-- Journalists from international press arrive at airport and are immediately deported.

-- Alister Hughes, Agence France Presse & CANAL correspondent & director of Grenadian weekly, Newsletter, who filed eyewitness report on Fort Rupert events, is picked up at his home by security forces during the night. Hughes was the sole independent news link between Grenada and the rest of the world. His brother, Leonard, and another businessman, Tony Moore are also arrested.

-- Coard placed under "protective custody" - Not seen again.

October 20

-- Barbados Prime Minister, Tom Adams, expresses "horror at these brutal and vicious murders." Describing the new regime he says, "I do not think it will be possible to accommodate wide a range a governments within the Caribbean.

It goes far beyond ideological pluralism. This is the difference between barbarians and human beings."

-- Jamaica breaks relations with Grenada. Opposition leader Manley repudiates RMC, cuts relations with the NJM and recommends its expulsion from the Socialist International.

-- St. Lucia Prime Minister, Sir John Compton, says "Whatever little chance Grenada had in Bishop for the liberalisation of the regime is gone for sometime to come. Coard's regime will try to push the Caribbean Community into the communist camp." He said his government and others would resist any such efforts.

-- Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles condemns the killings in Grenada; says her government would have no dealings with those who now "unlawfully" constitute the government of Grenada.

-- Monserrat Chief Minister John Osborne says events in Grenada had cast a dark shadow over the Caribbean. "The Government of Montserrat feels strongly that we (regional leaders) must meet as soon as possible to consider our future relationship with Grenada under its so-called revolutionary council.....Our sympathy goes out to the people of Grenada."

-- Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St Kitts and Nevis joined other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states in condemning political violence in Grenada.

-- Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago announced trade and other sanctions against Grenada, described the killings of Bishop and his ex-ministers as "executions" and said his government viewed with horror the importation of such executions in the English-speaking Caribbean.

-- In London, Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal issues statement expressing horror at murder of Bishop and his supporters. "I feel sure that Commonwealth Caribbean governments in particular will wish to use every influence through co-ordinated responses to ensure that the will and the interest of the people of Grenada are respected and the integrity of the island-state preserved."

-- The Caribbean Conference of Churches suspends all relations with Grenada's new military rulers after having earlier offered to mediate between Bishop and Coard factions.

-- Emergency meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), plus Jamaica and Barbados, called for Barbados on October 21.

-- U.S. citizen arrested in Grenada, released unharmed.

October 21

-- Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Minister Lester Bird says events in St. Georges (Grenada) threaten the well-being of the Caribbean. "The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will not recognize the regime in Grenada."

-- Except for Grenada, OECS nations (St. Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts/Nevis, and Monserrat) plus Barbados and Jamaica formally and unanimously resolve to intervene by force in Grenada if U.S. will assist. Intervention will conform to OECS charter provision that the heads of government may collectively agree to take whatever measures are necessary to defend the region and preserve the peace.

-- Grenada's Ambassador to OAS resigns.

-- Cuba issues statement asserting its non-involvement, calls for investigation and "exemplary punishment" of anyone guilty of Bishop and other deaths, and reaffirms support for the "revolutionary process" in Grenada.

-- Curfew lifted for four hours to allow food purchases; riots and looting occur.

October 22

-- Caricom Heads of Government meet in Trinidad; resolve 11-1 to expel Grenada from the organization. Guyana, Trinidad-Tobago and Belize have reservations about military resolution.

-- The RMC denies disorder during four-hour lifting of curfew the iprevious day. On the contrary, the RMC says, people formed orderly queues outside shops, youth were seen playing football, and tourists were at the beach.

-- RMC announces "policy statement" on economy, social policy, foreign policy, saying a new cabinet will be appointed "within the next 10 to 14 days."

-- The RMC said RMC Lt. Ashley Folkes had been replaced. The RMC said he had been "erroneously named" as a member of the 16 man council the day before.

-- The RMC announces Pearl's Airport will be open the next day and that the curfew will be reduced to from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

-- RMC strenuously denies reported execution of Journalist Alister Hughes

-- RMC issues series of bulletins on Caricom actions, calls for militia mobilization.

-- U.S. diplomatic representatives arrive.

October 23

-- Forte De France (Martinique) radio reports Grenadian army divided and indicates another coup is possible. Heavy weapons fire is reported.

-- Special emissary McNeil arrives in Barbados to confer with key leaders (Adams of Barbados, Seaga of Jamaica, Charles of Dominica).

October 24

-- Canadian charter flight to pick up its citizens reported unable to land in Grenada.

-- RMC presents note requesting assurance that the U.S. does not plan an invasion.

-- OECS plus Jamaica and Barbados reported in Grenadian press to be preparing an invasion.

3092P

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR U.S. ACTION IN GRENADA

Since the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister of Grenada on October 12, followed by the arrest and subsequent murder of the Prime Minister and several other cabinet members, the deteriorating and anarchic conditions on Grenada posed a serious threat to the continued safety of the approximately 1,000 U.S. citizens there and for peace and stability in the Caribbean. The U.S. watched events with increasing concern.

The regional security implications of the Grenadan situation were also a matter of grave concern for Grenada's neighbors. Grenada is a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a sub-regional body created by treaty in 1981. The members are Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Among the purposes of the 1981 Treaty are the promotion of regional cooperation and collective security.

The OECS determined that the collapse of government and disintegration of public order on Grenada posed a threat to the security and stability of the region. The OECS members decided to take necessary measures in response to this threat, in accordance with Article 8 of the OECS Treaty. They sought the assistance of friendly foreign states to participate in a collective security force. Barbados and Jamaica agreed with the OECS assessment of the gravity of the situation, offered to contribute forces to a collective action and joined in urging the United States to participate in the support of this regional measure.

The Governor General of Grenada made a confidential direct appeal to the OECS to take action to restore order on the island. As the sole remaining authoritative representative of government on Grenada, his appeal for action carried exceptional moral and legal weight.

The deteriorating events in Grenada since October 12, taken together, demonstrated the brutality of the Revolutionary Military Council and the ominous lack of cohesion within the Grenadan military. The Revolutionary Military Council had imposed a 24-hour curfew, warning that violators would be shot on sight, and closed the airport. U.S. citizens were not free to leave. Although the Military Council gave assurances that the airport would be opened on October 24 and foreigners allowed to depart, they then failed to fulfill that assurance. It became clear that delay would intensify both the risk of violence against Americans and a vacuum of authority that would imperil Grenada's neighbors.

Collective action in response to the dangerous situation was consistent with the UN and OAS Charters. Both Charters expressly recognize the competence of regional security bodies in ensuring peace and stability. The OECS states are not parties to the Rio Treaty, and the OECS Treaty, which concerns itself in part with matters of collective security, is their regional security arrangement.

Article 22 of the OAS Charter states that measures taken pursuant to collective security agreements do not violate the OAS Charter provisions prohibiting intervention and the use of force. Similarly, Article 52 of the UN Charter expressly permits regional arrangements for the maintenance of peace and security consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.—The actions and objectives of the collective security force, in the circumstances described by the President and the Secretary of State, are consistent with those purposes and principles.

The OECS states, in taking lawful collective action, were free to call upon other concerned states, including the United States, for assistance in their effort to maintain the peace and security of the Caribbean. Assistance given in response to their request is itself lawful. Moreover, U.S. cooperation with the collective security force permitted the safe evacuation of endangered U.S. citizens. Such humanitarian action is justified by well-established principles of international law.

AFL-CIO

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
202/637-5010

FOR RELEASE:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1983

The AFL-CIO issued the following reaction to events in Grenada:

Again Soviet-Cuban inspired violence has struck the Caribbean.

The AFL-CIO laments the cold-blooded murder of Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, several of his Cabinet Ministers, and at least two union representatives. This classic communist purge was carried out through Stalinist-style executions.

The AFL-CIO was critical of the Grenada regime's refusal to hold elections and its denial of human and trade union rights to its citizens. Nevertheless, we strongly condemn the coup d' etat engineered by military henchmen at the behest of the Soviet Union and its surrogate, Cuba, which can only offer more bloodshed, repression and social upheaval to the unfortunate people of Grenada.

The AFL-CIO calls upon the democratic governments and private institutions of the civilized world to take every possible action to castigate and condemn the lawless military regime.

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