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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS *S.U.S.C. § 552*

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Current Situation in Grenada (U) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

General Situation.

Grenada remains calm with the Caribbean Peacekeeping Forces carrying out routine security patrols. Although there have been recurring reports of Cubans on the island; there have been no confirmed sightings to date. The U.S. Peacekeeping contingent consists of 275 Army personnel and 97 Coast Guard (95 afloat) personnel. Additionally there are 450 personnel from the other Eastern Caribbean nations serving with the Peacekeeping Forces.

The Grenada Advisory Council continues its efforts to improve the economic situation. A council team has visited Trinidad with a request for technical assistance in economic planning and legal matters. The Governor General has asked the Caribbean Development Bank to convene a special donors meeting for Grenada on February 6 prior to the economic and aid discussions at the annual Caribbean Group meeting in Washington the following week.

There is currently no formal political activity in Grenada. Former Prime Minister Eric Gairy is reportedly attempting to return, but there is strong opposition because of his previous erratic behavior. Most other potential leaders are still overseas. This vacuum is a problem to be resolved. Meanwhile, the Grenada Advisory Council has taken over most of the executive functions from Governor General Scoon who now has basically reverted to his previous ceremonial role.

Canadian Initiative.

The Canadian Government has told the State Department that the Canadian High Commissioner in Barbados plans to travel to Grenada and offer the services of 100 Mounted Police to the Advisory Council. Reportedly the Grenadians are ready to respond positively. However, if the Canadians tie the offer to a requirement for the withdrawal of "foreign forces" (i.e., US military) as proposed by visiting Commonwealth Council officials earlier this month, then the Grenadian reply will be negative.

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④ Police Issues.

The Grenadian Police Commissioner, a Barbadian, told American Embassy Grenada that he eventually plans a 625-man force within which there would be a 125-man Special Service Unit. The force now consists of 307 men and is not well-trained nor disciplined. A 20-week course for the first group of 30 police is scheduled to begin in early January at the Regional Police Academy in Barbados. A group of 20 police NCOs will begin a 4-week refresher course within the next few weeks. The UK will fund training at the Police Academy in Barbados, refurbish Grenada's Police Headquarters and outlying police stations and provide 6 vehicles. The UK will also provide assistance in criminal investigation matters.

In response to a request from the Police Commissioner, American Embassy Grenada has forwarded a request for possible training assistance from DEA, FBI, or Customs. Funding for this training will have to be provided by these agencies since Section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act prohibits the use of Foreign Assistance Funds for police training.

④ Status of Bernard Coard:

Coard is still in Richmond Hill Prison as the investigation into the murders of Maurice Bishop and his companions continues. So far no formal charges have been made against him or the other detainees. Two Scotland Yard officers will arrive in January to advise the Police in their investigations into the murders. There have been rumors of plots to free Coard and his friends; however, there has been no hard evidence of the existence of such plots.

④ Role of Jamaica:

The Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) is contributing the bulk of the non-US forces to the Peacekeeping operation. They are considered to be the best of the non-US military personnel. Their personnel are being trained by MTTs both on station in Grenada and in Jamaica prior to their departure for duty in Grenada. Personnel of other participating countries are receiving similar training. The JDF is properly feeding its soldiers and providing \$5.00 per day subsistence allowance. The other participating countries are not providing similar care for their personnel and the JDF is currently feeding them. State Department has directed our Embassies in the other countries to request that host governments correct this situation.

④ Late Police Developments:

American Embassy Barbados reports that Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles enthusiastically supports the Canadian Mounted Police initiative. St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton, however, has expressed misgivings and feels the Mounted Police are inappropriate for Grenada. Barbados Defense Force Commander Lewis also is not particularly supportive. Compton is willing to consider the Mounted Police in a training mode; however, British training efforts are already underway. This issue, among others, will be addressed at an OECS meeting now scheduled to be held in Grenada on January 5 or 6.

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