



~~TOP SECRET~~
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

#2

23 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: NSPG - Grenada 1800 hours, 23 October 1983 (U)

1. (S) During the NSPG meeting on Grenada, the President was briefed on the reconnaissance mission scheduled to take place tonight on Point Salinas, Grenada. The President was briefed on the general outline of the plan, composition of forces, objectives, and missions. He was told that the present plan called for another reconnaissance tomorrow night at Point Salinas and Pearle with the main body of troops to go ashore 0500 Tuesday morning, 25 October.
2. (S) I told the President that there were plenty of cover stories if tonight's reconnaissance were found out but he should know that the recon was a first act of war. However, up to the time of insertion the President can recall if he wanted.
3. (S) I then told the President that the decision was primarily a political issue. Should we go with the Grenada operation after the bombing incident in Lebanon? The President wrestled with this question. He then asked me "would it be a success?" I answered that it depends if the political objectives were achieved. The President asked if we can take the airfield and our other objectives? Would we take minimum casualties? I said "yes" to both questions but did tell the President we do not have enough intelligence nor had we enough planning time. But the forces involved were professional and well trained to do this particular job. However, things can make it go wrong.
 - a. An accident; for example, a helicopter or airplane crash.
 - b. Austin can open Grenada to TV cameramen and expose us as doing something which is not warranted.
 - c. We can get into a tough fight and take sizable casualties or may inflict sizable casualties.

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NDU, Vessey Papers, Grenada, box 129

18-M-1975

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MFR

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~~(S)~~ The President then went around the room and asked if anyone objected. No one did. He then approved the plan. I told the President that we will know a lot more tomorrow and recommended we review our options in 24 hours. The President agreed.



JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. §652
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
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