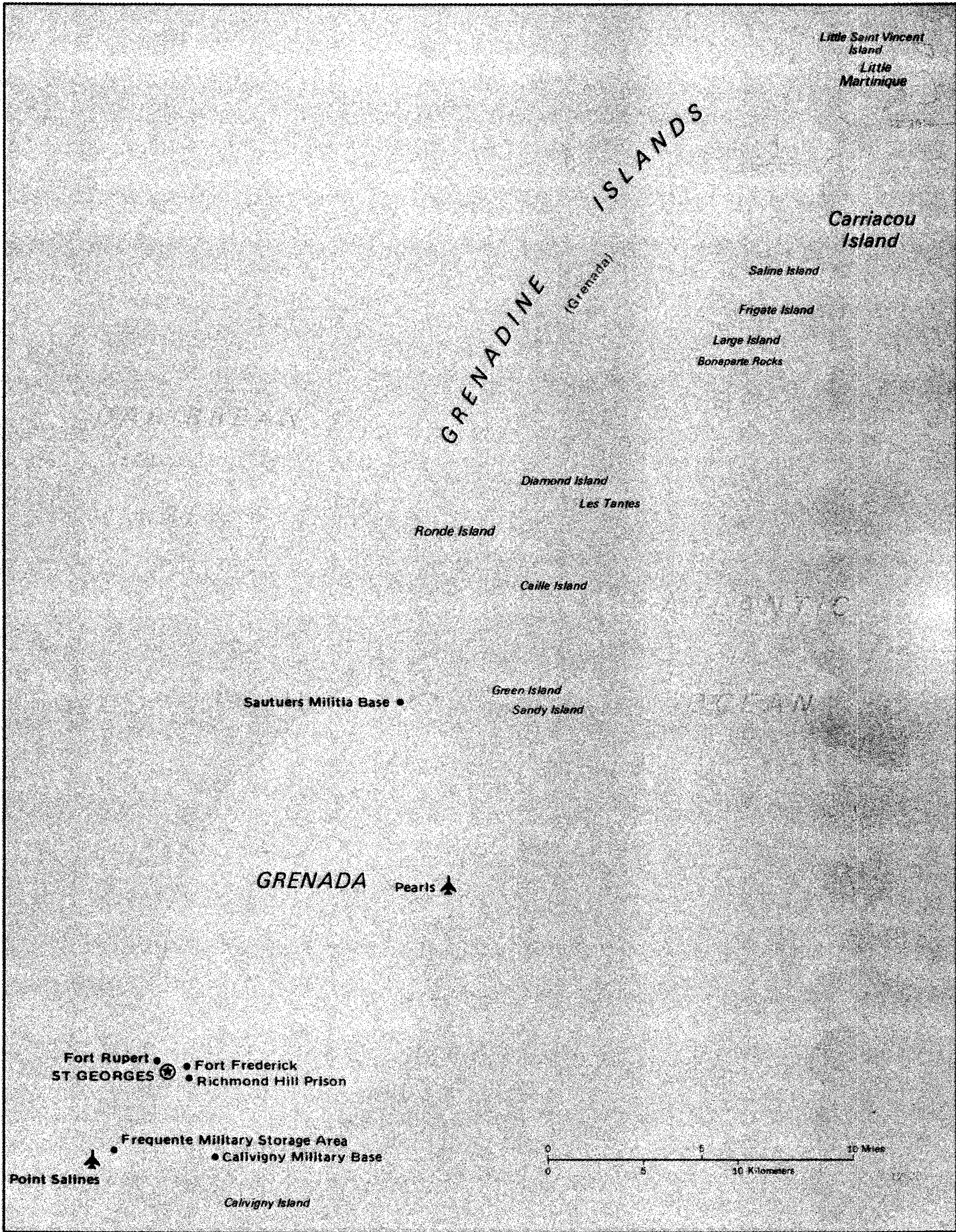




# **GRENADA:**

**October 25 to November 2  
1983**



# 1 ■ Overview

**The situation:** 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. The force includes contingents from Jamaica and Barbados plus four OECS member states: Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The objectives of the collective security force were to restore peace, order and respect for human rights; to evacuate those who wish to leave; and to help the Grenadians re-establish governmental institutions.

**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.

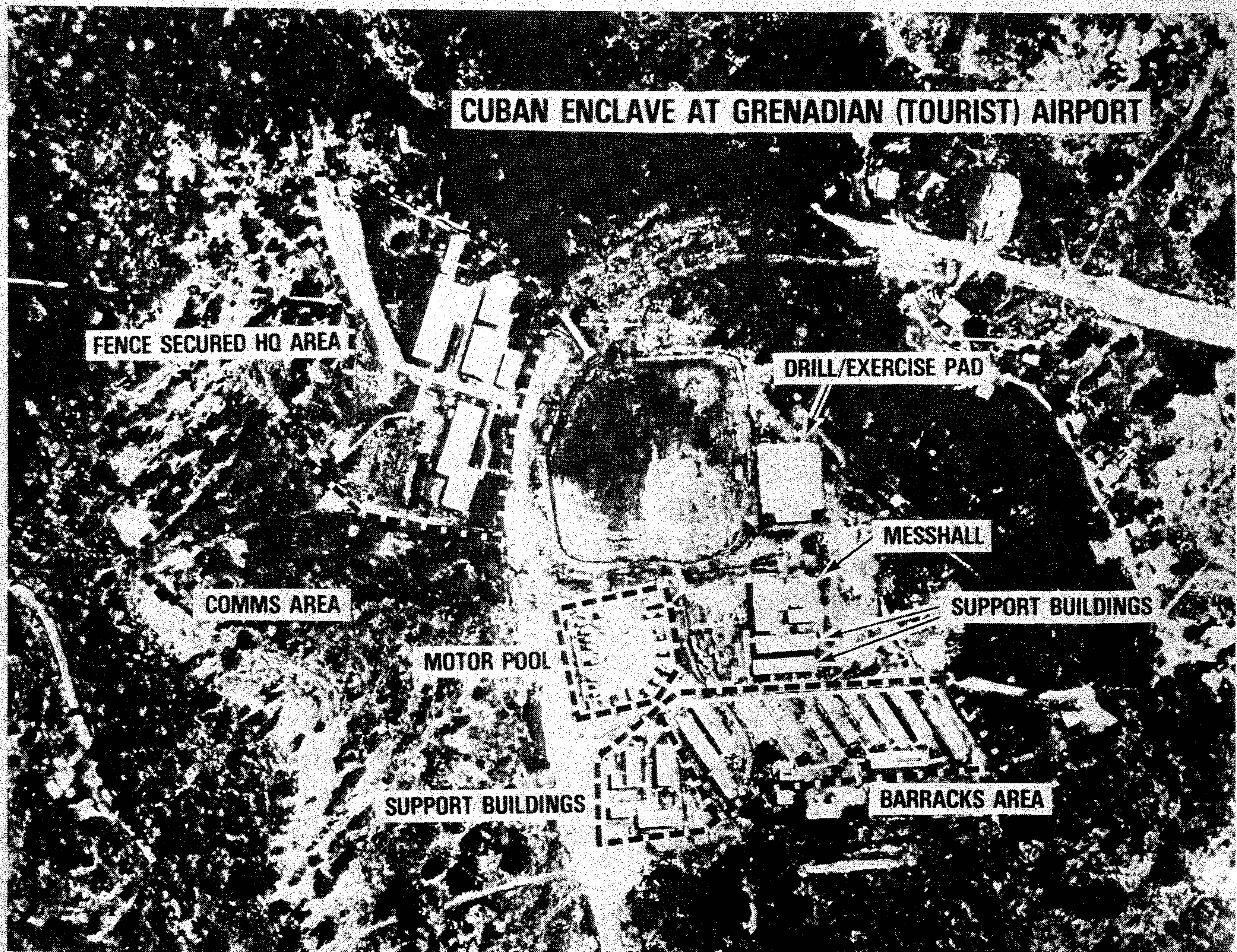
**Why Caribbean States and U.S. acted:** The Eastern Caribbean States saw the violence and the disintegration of political institutions in Grenada as an unprecedented threat to peace and security of the region. With 800-1,000 U.S. citizens (many, students at the St. George's Medical

School) to protect, we shared their concerns. Inaction would have increased the dangers of the crisis in Grenada.

**Legal authority:** The OECS acted pursuant to collective security provisions of the 1981 OECS Treaty of Establishment and after receiving a confidential appeal from the Governor-General of Grenada. The OECS states are not party to the Rio Treaty; the OECS Treaty is their regional equivalent, and is consistent with the purposes and principles of U.N. 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.

**Cuban/Soviet role:** Cuban military units had secretly established fortifications, arms caches, and military communications facilities. Cuban troops were the backbone of resistance to the collective action. Captured documents indicated the USSR and North Korea, as well as Cuba, had made secret treaties with Grenada, calling for the provision of arms and equipment free of charge worth over 37 million dollars.

Taken together, the Soviet and Cuban plans for Grenada amounted to turning this peaceful spice island from a tourist paradise into what President Reagan aptly called "a Soviet-Cuban colony being readied as a major military bastion to export and undermine democracy."



## Outline History of Grenada

- Grenada, formerly a British colony, attained internal self government in 1967. From the 1950s, politics had been dominated by Sir Eric Gairy, whose flamboyant populism and strong-armed tactics were combined with interest in unidentified flying objects and unconventional religion.
- On February 7, 1974, Grenada became independent despite objections from opposition parties, who feared Gairy's intentions, and later accused him of winning the elections of 1976 by fraud. The major opposition party by this time was the New Jewel Movement, formed in 1973 from the merger of two groups and led by Maurice Bishop. It protested economic and social conditions in Grenada and abuses of power of the Gairy regime. Its program stressed socialist and nationalistic ideals.
- The New Jewel movement overthrew the Gairy government in a nearly bloodless coup on March 13, 1979. Bishop became Prime Minister.
- The new government was initially welcomed by Grenadians and promised to hold early elections and respect basic human rights.
- These promises were never honored. The Bishop regime suspended the country's

constitution, refused to call early elections, ridiculed English-style democracy as "Westminster hypocrisy" and turned instead to the Cuban model of "revolutionary democracy," which it tried to implement with Cuban aid.

- Human rights were regularly violated. Habeas corpus was abolished for political detainees. In 1982, there were 95-98 such political prisoners. Freedom of the press and political freedom were abolished.
- Bishop established close ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba. In January 1980 Grenada was the only Latin American country other than Cuba to vote against a U.N. resolution condemning the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Five secret treaties with the USSR, Cuba and North Korea were signed.
- By 1980, there were approximately 100 Cuban military advisors in Grenada. There were also several hundred "construction workers" ostensibly engaged in helping to build a new airport in the southwestern corner of the island. Much of this construction was military in nature, and many of the "construction workers" had military training.
- The October 19, 1983 murder of Bishop and most of his Cabinet was part of a power-struggle resulting from Bishop's reluctance to move more quickly to socialize the economy.

## **Chronology of Events — October 6-24, 1983**

### **October 6-8**

- Bishop meets in Cuba with Fidel Castro following a one-week tour of Eastern European capitals in which he sought support for his faltering regime.

### **October 12**

- Longstanding conflict between Bishop and Deputy 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, Bishop is placed 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. 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; and Unison Whiteman, Foreign Minister.
- Whiteman says 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 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 Education Minister Creft, also held prisoner there. Group proceeds to the downtown area toward Fort Rupert (also Police Headquarters), where Radix was believed imprisoned. Once there, troops loyal to the Central Committee, some in armored personnel carriers, 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 (CANA, EFE) from St. Georges report 50 casualties from troops firing on demonstrators.
- Radio Free Grenada announces deaths, formation of a Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) headed by Army Chief General Hudson Austin, and a round-the-clock, shoot on site curfew until October 24 at 6:00 a.m.
- Journalists from international press arrive at airport and are immediately deported.
- Alister Hughes, Agence France Presse and CANA correspondent and 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."

## 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 so wide a range of 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 New Jewel Movement 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 liberalization 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.
- Montserrat 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, describes the killings of Bishop and his ex-ministers as "executions" and said his government viewed with horror the importation of such executions into 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 in-

fluence through coordinated 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 OECS, plus Jamaica and Barbados, called for Barbados on October 21.

### **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 Montserrat) 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 the 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**

- Caribbean Community (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 previous 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.”
- RMC announces RMC Lt. Ashley Folkes had been replaced. The RMC states 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 the hours from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- RMC issues series of bulletins on Caricom actions, calls for militia mobilization.

### **October 23**

- Fort DeFrance (Martinique) radio reports Grenadian army divided and indicates another coup is possible. Heavy weapons fire is reported.
- Special U.S. Presidential emissary McNeil arrives in Barbados to confer with Caribbean leaders (Adams of Barbados, Seaga of Jamaica, Charles of Dominica).

### **October 24**

- Prime Minister Adams informs Milan Bish, U.S. Ambassador to Barbados, that the Governor-General of Grenada, Paul Scoon, has appealed, in a confidential communication, for OECS action to restore order.
- A charter flight to pick up Canadian citizens is reported unable to land in Grenada.
- The RMC presents a note requesting assurance that the United States does not plan an invasion.
- The Grenadian press reports that the OECS, plus Jamaica and Barbados, is preparing an invasion.



On the morning of October 25, Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica and head of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, discusses the landing of U.S. and Caribbean peace forces in Grenada with President Ronald Reagan and senior officials at the White House. From left: J. J. Simmons III, Dominica Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Prime Minister Charles; James Jenkins, Deputy Counselor to the President; Langhorn Motley, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs; George Schultz, Secretary of State; and President Reagan.



# 2 ■ Official U.S. Statements

## **The Legal Basis for U.S. Action in Grenada**

*(From the testimony of Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, October 27)*

The collapse of governmental institutions in Grenada began the evening of October 12 with an attempt by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard to force out Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. . . .

On October 19 the power struggle exploded into violence. Troops opened fire on Bishop supporters who had freed him from house arrest and accompanied him to Fort Rupert, the Army headquarters. Bishop, several Cabinet members and union leaders were taken away, then brutally executed. Education Minister Jacqueline Creft was reportedly beaten to death. At least 18 deaths were confirmed. Many more were reported, including women and children.

In the wake of these murders, the People's Revolutionary Army announced the dissolution of the government and the formation of a 16-member Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) of which Army Commander General Hudson Austin was the nominal head.

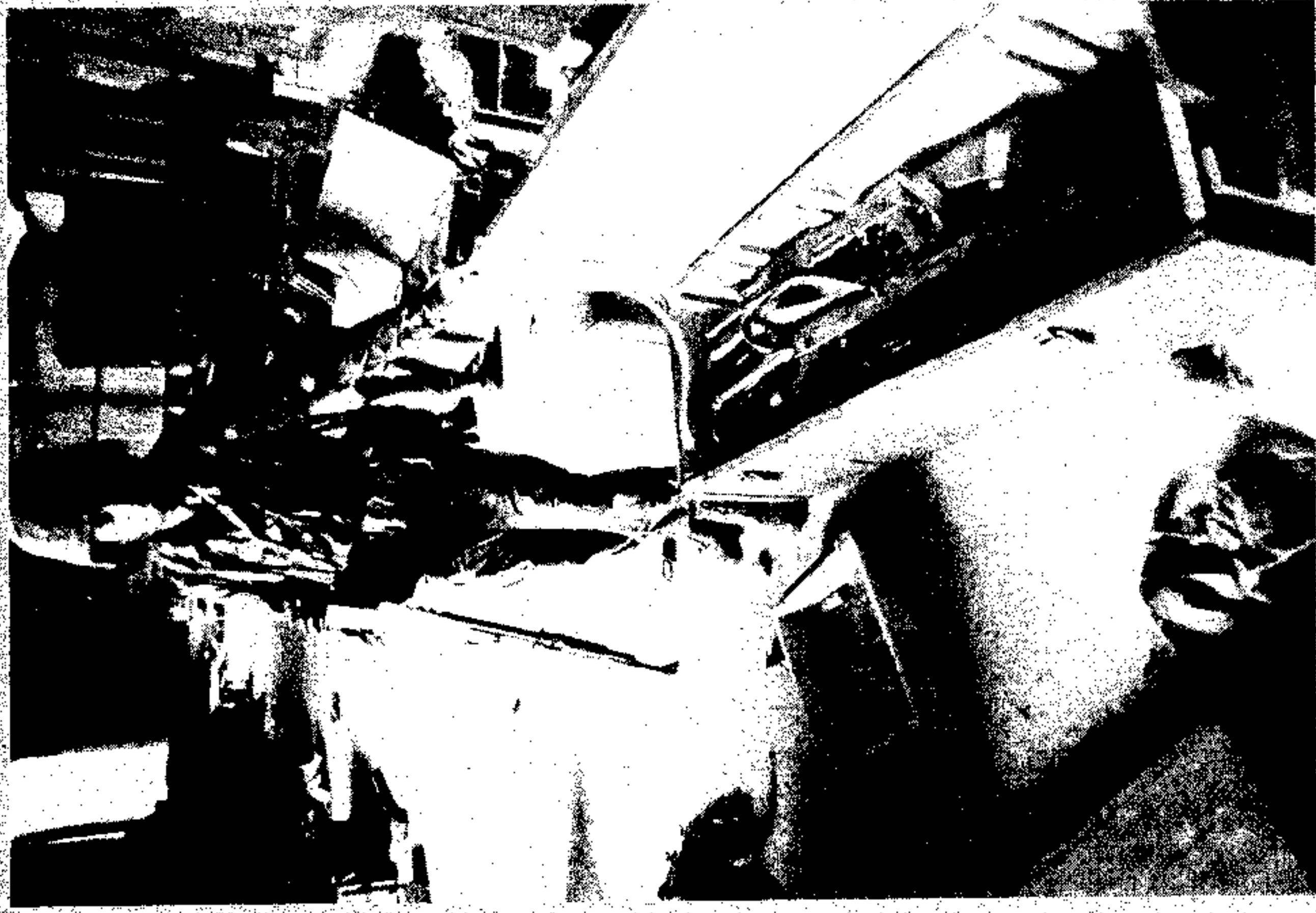
I say nominal head, because it was never clear that Austin or any coherent group was in fact in charge. The RMC indicated no intention to function as a new government. RMC members indicated only that a new government would be announced in 10 days or two weeks. It cannot be said whether or when some governmental authority would have been instituted.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Coard, who had resigned on October 12, was reported under army protection, whether for his own safety or as a kind of detention was not clear. . . .

Against this background, the urgent appeal from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) took on decisive weight. The OECS is a sub-regional body created in 1981 by the Treaty Establishing the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Among the purposes of the Treaty are the promotion of regional cooperation and collective security.

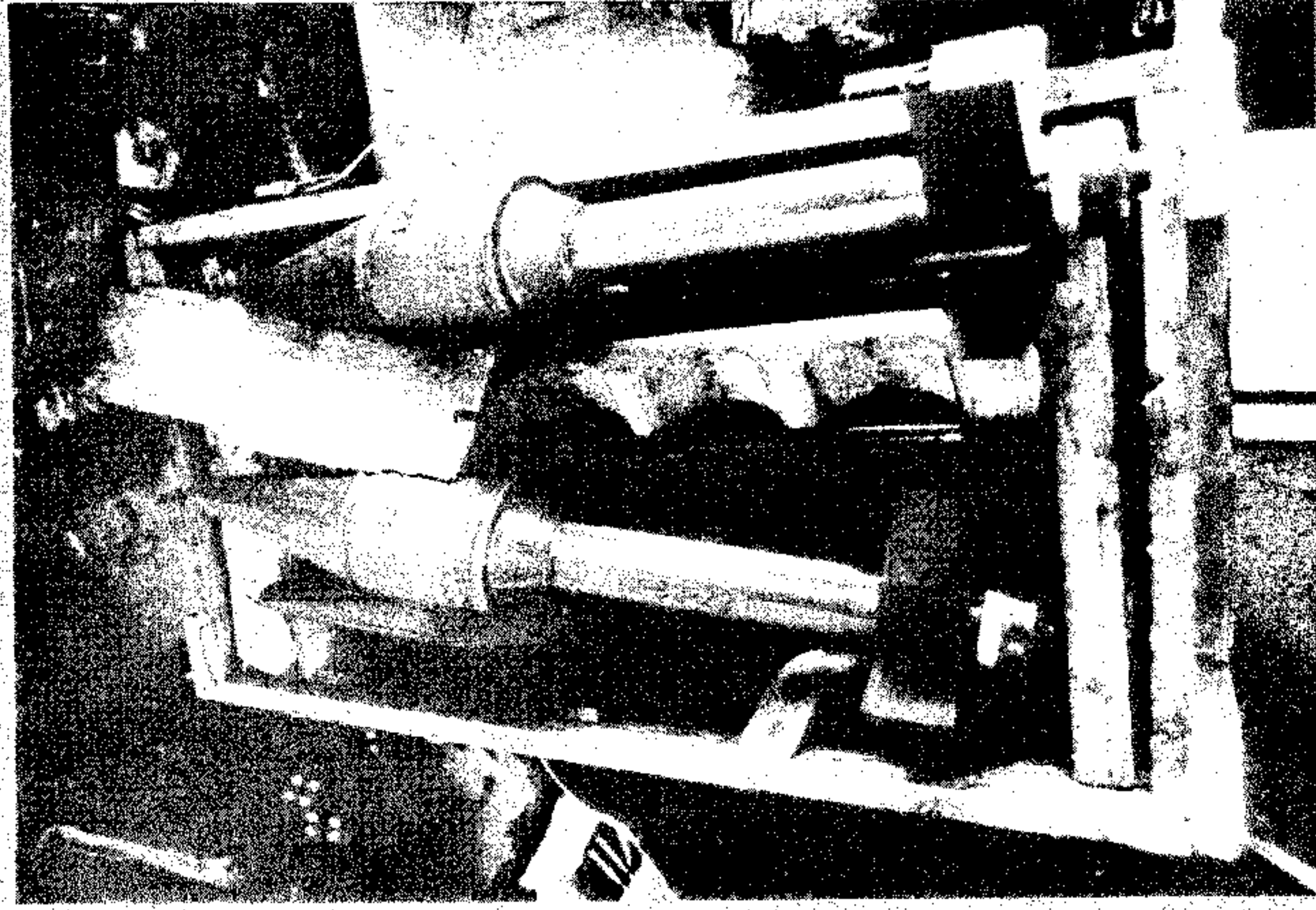
The OECS determined that the collapse of government and disintegration of public order on Grenada posed a threat to the security and stability of the region. The OECS members decided to take necessary measures in response to this threat, in accordance with Article Eight of the OECS Treaty. They sought 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 the government of Grenada, his appeal for action carried exceptional moral and legal weight.



### **Soviet Assault Rifles Discovered in Grenada**

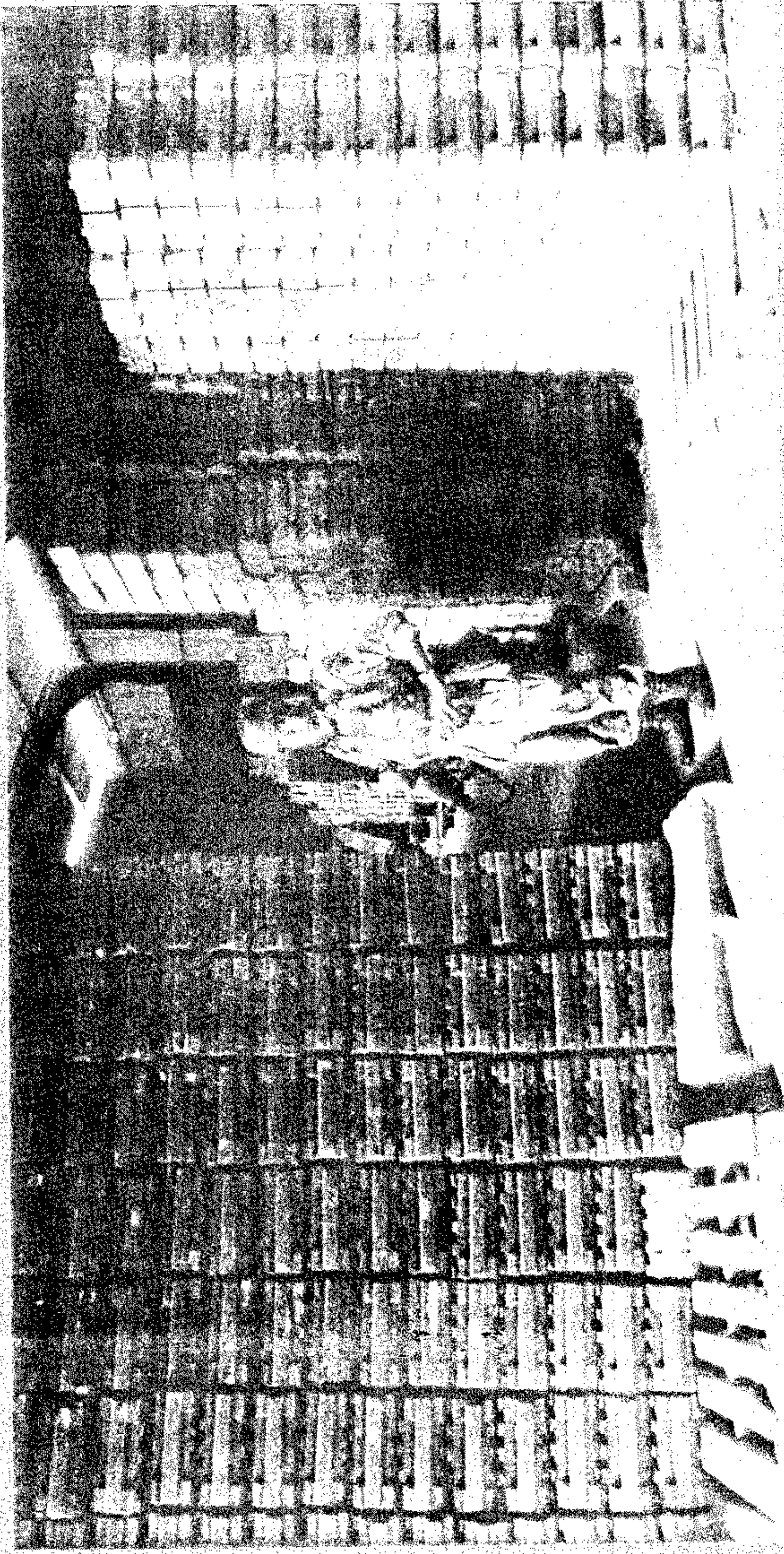
Rocket propelled grenades, 90 mm. recoilless rifles, thousands of small arms and ammunition were rounded up and guarded by U.S. Marines at the local race-track that was being used as a landing zone for helicopters. USMC PHOTO by Sgt Christopher Grey



### **North Korean Rocket Propelled Grenades Discovered in Grenada**



### **Soviet BTR-60 Armored Personnel Carriers in Grenada**



### **Warehouse of Ammunition Discovered in Grenada**

The deteriorating events in Grenada since October 12, taken together, demonstrated the brutality of the RMC and the ominous lack of cohesion within the Grenadian military. The RMC 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 RMC 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 United Nations and Organization of American States (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 United Nations Charter expressly permits regional arrangements for the maintenance of peace and security consistent with the purposes and principles of the

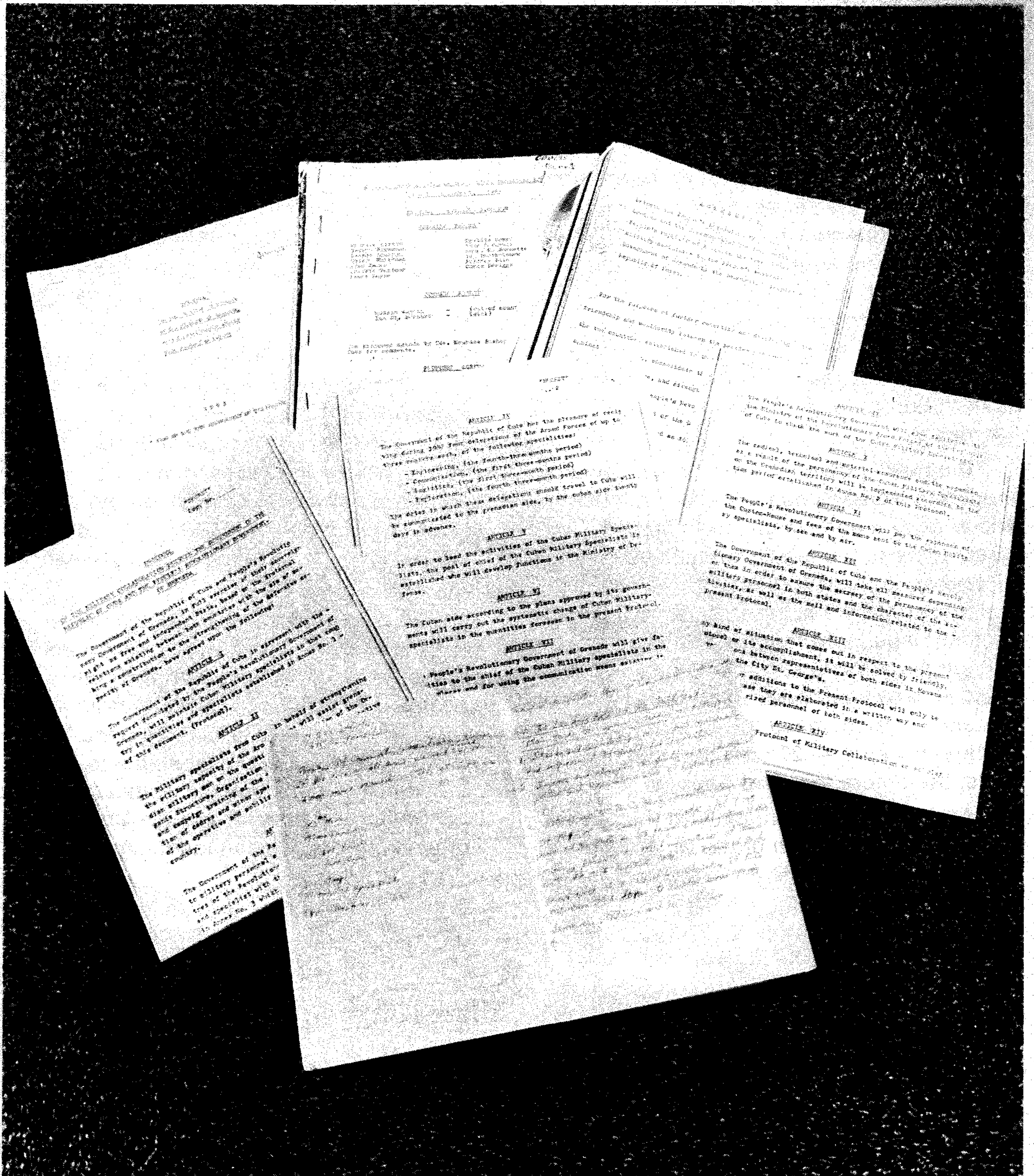
United Nations. The actions and objectives of the collective security force, in the circumstances described by the President and Secretary of State, are consistent with those purposes and principles.

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. . . .

The President's orders to the U.S. military forces are to cooperate with the OECS in entering Grenada, to facilitate the departure of all U.S. and foreign nationals who wish to leave, and to help Grenada's neighbors work with the people of Grenada to restore order. U.S. support of the OECS military action will be for these purposes only. . . .

We do not at this point know just what steps the provisional government will take. This is for the Grenadians themselves to determine.

One thing is certain: All governments participating in this collective action will withdraw their forces just as soon as circumstances permit.



Shown are five documents from the more than one thousand captured in Grenada. Included in this photograph are the itinerary of General Hudson Austin to Cuba, minutes of the Central Committee of the Grenadian New Jewel Movement discussing the removal of Prime Minister Bishop, a "secret" treaty with Cuba calling for permanent advisors to be stationed on Grenada, and the notebook of Austin detailing the need for arms and ammunition to bring the Grenadian Armed Forces to a strength of 6,800 men.

## Grenada's Links to the Soviet Bloc

*(Excerpt from Deputy Secretary Dam's statement before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, November 2)*

The United States had been concerned — well before the series of unique events which brought about the Caribbean Peace Force collective action — that Grenada could be used as a staging area for subversion of nearby countries, for interdiction of shipping lanes, and for transit of troops and supplies from Cuba to Africa, and from Eastern Europe and Libya to Central America.

We now know that the Soviets, Cubans and North Koreans had a military relationship with Grenada which led to signed agreements to donate \$37.8 million in military equipment. Artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, armored personnel carriers, small arms and abundant ammunition were to be furnished to an island touted by its suppliers as a tourist haven. The signed secret agreements also called for 40 Cuban military advisors — 27 on a permanent basis, the others for short periods.

An October 1980 treaty with the USSR called for the provision gratis of, among other things, 1,500 7.62 mm carbines, 1,000

7.62 mm submachine guns and 18 anti-aircraft mounts. The agreement called for Grenadian military personnel to be trained in the USSR at Soviet expense.

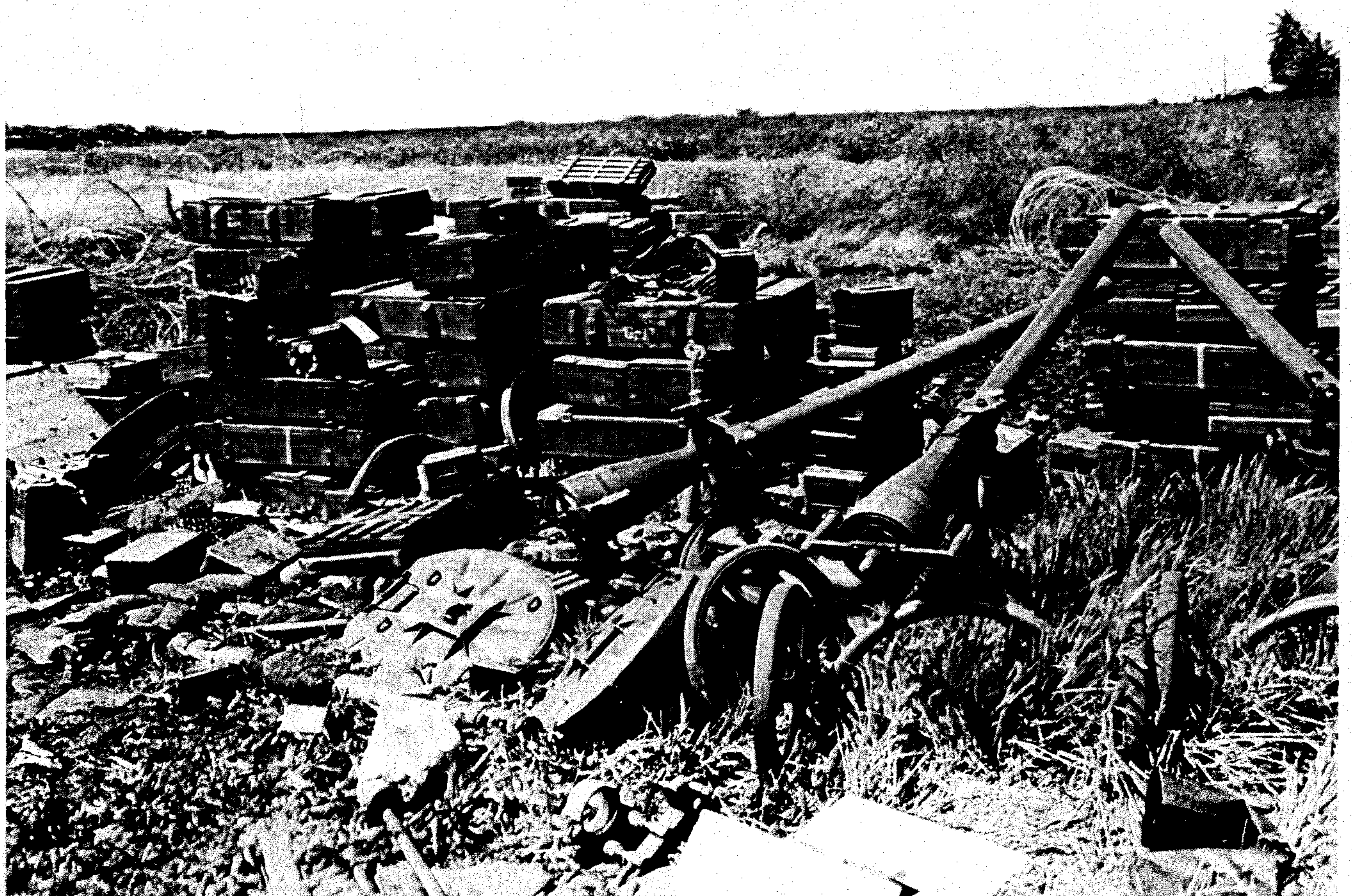
Moscow tried to keep the arrangements secret by obliging the Grenadians to treat them as secret, routing their supplies through Cuba, and delaying the establishment of diplomatic relations with Grenada until 18 months after entering into the military supply relationship. . . .

I should like to note that the fact that Moscow was willing to provide military equipment and training free-of-charge is unusual [when compared to] most of its Third-World arms deals. It is one indication of the importance the USSR attached to the toehold Grenada afforded in the eastern Caribbean.

What has been found in Grenada — secret military fortifications, extensive arms caches, and communications facilities all controlled by non-Grenadians — dramatizes just how important it is that Grenada have governing institutions responsible to its own people. That is precisely what Grenada's neighbors — and the United States — had in mind in launching our joint rescue operation.



# Warehouse of Ammunition Discovered in Grenada



# 3

## ■ Captured Weapons and Equipment From Grenada

Large amounts of Soviet weapons and equipment, supplied by the Soviets through Cuba to Grenada under the Bishop regime (since 1979), were found by the multi-national force. The following is a complete

list of those weapons and equipment. To place this weaponry in proper perspective, it is sufficient to equip two Cuban infantry battalions for 30-45 days of combat.

### Rifles and Machine Guns

- 1,626 — Soviet AK-47 Assault Rifle
- 1,120 — Model 52 (Czech)
- 58 — Enfield
- 4,074 — KS Rifle (SKS)
- 3 — MK-3
- 2 — Bren Rifle
- 6 — M-16
- 2,432 — Mosin Nagent (7.62 mm Soviet Rifle)
- 32 — M-3A1 Submachine Gun
- 7 — Sterling Machine Gun
- 55 — M-23 Submachine Gun
- 17 — Sten Mark 2
- 180 — Soviet M-1945 Submachine Gun
- 300 — Miscellaneous Sidearms
- 31 — .22 Caliber Rifles
- 300 — Shotguns

### Crew Served Weapons

- 9 — Soviet 7.62 mm PKM Machine Gun
- 8 — 73 mm SPG-9 Recoilless Gun
- 12 — ZU-23 mm Anti-Aircraft Gun
- 1 — DSHQ 12.7 mm Machine Gun
- 10 — 82 mm Mortar

### Ammunition

- 5,516,600 RDS — 7.62 mm
- 162 RDS — 73 mm
- 8,962 RDS — 82 mm Mortar
- 2,320 RDS — 14.5 mm
- 29,120 RDS — 12.7 mm
- 86,332 RDS — 23 mm Anti-Aircraft Gun Ammunition
- 366 RDS — 57 mm Rocket Propelled Grenades
- 940 RDS — 75 mm
- 1200 sticks — Dynamite
- 24,768 — Flares

### Miscellaneous Weapons

- 6 — RPG 7 (Rocket Propelled Grenade)
- 46 — RPG 2 (Rocket Propelled Grenade)
- 8 — Riot Gun Tear Gas
- 8 — Flare Guns
- 1,824 — Grenades

### Vehicles

- 2 — Armored Fighting Vehicles



Hundreds of rifles and ammunitions are loaded on U.S. Marine helicopters found on the island of Carraicou. Marines found a small military camp here known as The Belair House. USMC PHOTO by Sgt. Christopher Grey.





A Grenadian rejoices as a U.S. Marine convoy passes him. "Praise God and you Marines, we are free," he shouted.  
USMC PHOTO by Sgt Christopher Grey.



82nd Airborne Trooper with American Medical Students



Cover: Box labeled Cuban economic office contains Soviet 7.62 small arms ammunition. Large caches of weapons and munitions have been discovered at locations throughout Grenada.

All photographs from the U.S. Department of Defense except The White House

**Department of Defense**