

No 10
Prime Minister

GRENADA: SITREP No 1 25 OCTOBER 1983 (2030 hours GMT)

Military Action

1. The State Department informed us that a contingent of US marines landed in Grenada at 05.30 hours local time (0930 GMT) 25 October. There was some shooting but it was not heavy. 11 CI30s went in with at least 1 helicopter group. There was some resistance in the Port Salines area and particularly round the prison. US Forces secured the US medical school and Salinas and Pearls airports. There were 800 US troops on the ground at Salinas and 1,000 US marines landed at Pearls.

2. 2 CI30s with Caribbean forces numbering 300 landed later at Pearls.

President Reagan's Statement

3. At 1300 GMT President Reagan issued a statement outlining the reasons for the invasion. The US responded to an urgent formal request from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to assist in a joint effort to restore order and democracy in Grenada. There were three reasons:

1. to protect innocent lives (1,000 US nationals)
2. to forestall further chaos
3. to assist in the restoration of democracy

4. This evening it was reported that the US marines encountered unexpectedly stiff opposition in St George's itself. But they were making progress compatible with keeping civilian casualties to a minimum.

Casualties

5. 20 Americans were reported wounded and it is believed 1 helicopter was lost. No civilian casualties have been reported.

Cubans and Russians

6. There was stiff Cuban resistance at Pearls Airport and elsewhere. 20 were captured and 2 killed. There was no confirmation of a Reuter report that some Russians may have been detained.

/Governor

Governor General

7. US Rangers entered the Governor-General's residence after the 10.45 landing at Pearls Airport. The Governor-General was not there. It was reported at 2000 hours GMT that he was safe and well in his residence with US marines present but the house was surrounded by Armoured Personnel carriers of the Grenadan regime.

Foreign Reactions

8. a) Soviet Union. Tass put out a statement beginning 'Foreign armed intervention guided by the US administration was unleashed....' Later it condemned the attack as 'an act of banditry and terrorism'.
- b) Cuba. Only a brief factual statement so far.
- c) Nicaragua. Condemned the attack.

Security Council

9. Nicaragua has asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council. It is likely that this request will be considered by the Council in informal consultations at about 2100Z this evening and that a formal meeting will be held tomorrow. We have learned from Belize that Guyana is seeking the support of Belize. Trinidad and Bahamas for a resolution critical of the United States.

10. Sir J Thomson has been instructed to adopt a low profile in the informal consultations, taking no initiative. He is to raise no objection to the holding of a formal meeting and to avoid being drawn on the substance at this stage.

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