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## BIG STICK SLAMS GRENADA

- Contrary to Shultz disclaimer, U.S. Military action in direct violation of O.A.S. charter*
- Grenada is a member of little-known Organization of Eastern Caribbean States*
- Reagan administration using international covenants to suit its political, military interests*
- Precedent for occupation set during joint U.S.-Caribbean nation "Ocean Venture" exercises held in 1981*
- Action a not-so-veiled warning to Sandinista leadership in Nicaragua*
- Possible replay of Dominican Republic '65 intervention raises questions concerning whether Reagan administration is leveling with Congress*

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In a knee-jerk action going far beyond any apparent justification, the Reagan administration, by ordering the Marine occupation of Grenada in a lightning-swift operation yesterday morning, has displayed a blatant disregard for binding international covenants, including the Organization of American States (OAS) charter, while conjuring obscure provisions of the little-known Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)--of which Grenada is a member--to prop its defense of the return of gunboat diplomacy.

It is now apparent that the operation had been planned several days before last weekend's meeting of leaders from six Caribbean nations and U.S. officials in Barbados. COHA has learned that, in fact, the decision to land in Grenada was made last Thursday, at the time that the Pentagon had announced that elements of what eventually became a 21-ship flotilla sailing from Norfolk, Virginia, for Lebanese waters had been diverted to the vicinity of Grenada. Secretary of State George Shultz confirmed part of this chronology at a press conference that he gave yesterday. The groundwork for the invasion had been laid out over two years ago, during U.S. military maneuvers in the region, dubbed "

Congress.

### Treaty Manipulations

The invasion of Grenada contradicts Articles 18, 19 and 20 of the OAS charter, which came into effect in 1948. Article 20 specifically states that "The Territory of a State is inviolable; it may not be the object, even temporarily, of military occupation or of other measures of force taken by another state, directly or indirectly, on any grounds whatsoever. No territorial acquisitions or special advantages obtained either by force or by other means of coercion shall be recognized."

During his Foggy Bottom briefing on Tuesday, Secretary of State George Shultz claimed that the Caribbean nations which had allegedly requested the U.S. intervention invoked their own OECS treaty charter, which provides for their collective security. He discounted a possible infraction of the OAS charter by stating that "Some of them (the Caribbean nations involved) are OAS members but they are not signatories of the Treaty of Rio." That compact, signed in 1947, provides for the collective defense of American countries against outside aggression. In any event, there were no outside powers involved in aggression against the Caribbean states, so the Rio Treaty could not apply in principle, even if the states involved were signatories of the pact. Despite Shultz's somewhat distorted reasoning, the occupation was a clear violation of the OAS charter, as was confirmed by OAS Chairman Salazar Paredes yesterday.

The OECS charter allegedly invoked by the Caribbean countries involved in the invasion (St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Jamaica, Dominica, Antigua and Barbados), was initiated in July of 1981, and included Dominica, Montserrat, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua and St. Kitts. The invading countries were not even all members of the OECS, and it was not mentioned by Secretary of State Shultz that Grenada was a member.

### U.S. Solicits OECS Invitation to Invade

COHA has learned that the Reagan administration actually made the decision to invade the island immediately following Bishop's assassination on October 19, before the OECS meeting in Barbados this past weekend, and proceeded to urge some OECS members that are signatories of an OECS security pact to request formally U.S. intervention in order to provide a veil of legitimacy for the anticipated U.S. action. Negotiations over extension of President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), with its trade incentives, are underway. The economically-strapped Caribbean Basin countries currently are weathering between 20- and 30 percent unemployment rates, and high rates of inflation, and they view the CBI's trade incentive provisions as essential to lifting their economies out of the region-wide recession. In addition, the Caribbean governments eligible for the CBI benefits are known to anticipate that the Reagan administration is contemplating offering another round of development-assistance allocations under the CBI. In 1982, Congress passed the CBI development aid funds, totalling \$350 million, for disbursement to beneficiary countries. Eager to secure another share of the no-strings-attached assistance, the OECS members would be more than willing to solicit formally a U.S. intervention long desired by the Reagan administration.

### Ocean Venture '81 Exercises Preparations for Marine Invasion

The invasion of Grenada was modelled after a joint military-naval exercise between the U.S., and several of its NATO and Latin American allies over two years ago, entitled "Ocean Venture '81." That operation was described at the time as the largest show of U.S. naval power since World War II, involving about 1,000 aircraft, 250 ships, and 120,000 troops.

The Caribbean phase of the Ocean Venture '81 maneuvers took place between August 3 and August 20, 1981, involving Puerto Rico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Grenadian government charged at that time that the exercises, which included a mock invasion of a "hostile" island, Vieques,

"...The reasons for the proposed invasion of Amber and the Amberdines is directly linked to propaganda themes used consistently by the Reagan administration against Grenada. These are:

- a) To take power from the Amber government, which is described as 'unfriendly'.
- b) To station troops in the island until an election is called.
- c) To install a government favorable to Washington's brand of democracy.

"Rear Admiral Robert P. McKenzie, of the Caribbean contingency joint task force emphasized the importance that his Government placed on 'protecting Atlantic sea lanes along which travel 65 percent of U.S. imported oil, 65 percent of the bauxite and other strategic imports.'

"McKenzie described Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada as 'practically one country' and referred to the situation as a 'political-military problem!'

"McKenzie stated that the objective of the exercise was to 'reinforce in the eyes and minds of those watching our military commitment around the world-- to give an example of one facet of the U.S. capability to respond in the Caribbean Basin.'"

Then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig responded to the Caribbean charges by stating that "the U.S. conducted its own training exercises...to develop a quick reaction capability for a hypothetical hostage rescue mission. To date the (State) Department has received no formal complaint from any country." Clearly, "Ocean Venture '81" constituted a near-exact practice run for yesterday's invasion and occupation of Grenada, on trumped-up U.S. charges that the other Caribbean states involved in the invasion had formally requested, of their own initiative, the Marine intervention.

#### Same Stretch for Legitimacy as in 1965 Dominican Republic Intervention

The Grenadian intervention has striking similarities to the 1965 U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic. In that case, President Lyndon Johnson personally directed the State Department to draft a formal request in the name of Dominican army commander Gen. Wessin y Wessin for the U.S. to intervene. That draft request indicated that the safety of American citizens and other foreigners on the island was endangered by the coup against the Triumvirate government. The Dominican military then used the draft request, along with a cable from the U.S. ambassador, as a formal request for U.S. intervention, and within the span of two weeks, over 23,000 U.S. Rangers and Marines were occupying the country. As in the Grenadian invasion, members of the U.S. 82nd Airborne were employed in the Dominican occupation.

At the same time, the United States convened the O.A.S. to gain support and legitimacy for its invasion, and token military forces from Brazil, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador were quickly added to the force.

The Dominican Republic action set the precedent for the joint U.S.-OECS invasion of Grenada. It is therefore likely that the U.S. has used the same tactics, and actually masterminded, the OECS request to invade the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada.

#### Why Won't State Tell Whether Austin Assured Safety of U.S. Citizens?

Despite repeated assurances by Grenadian General Hudson Austin over Radio Free Grenada that the safety of U.S. medical students in Grenada was not in jeopardy by events there, and despite the administration's statements to that effect last week, President Reagan justified the invasion by stating that the students were, in fact, in continuing danger. But two U.S. officials from the