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U.S., Caribbean States Invade Grenada; Cuban Resistance Stronger Than Expected

- [World Leaders Condemn Action](#)
- [Reagan Announces Invasion](#)
- [Shultz Describes Power Vacuum](#)
- [Background to the Invasion](#)
- [Marines, Rangers Launch Attack](#)
- [More Paratroopers Join Battle](#)
- [Resistance Dwindles](#)
- [Panel Votes War Powers Resolution](#)
- [International Reaction Negative](#)
- [Soviets Condemn Reagan](#)
- [OAS Delegates Condemn Invasion](#)
- [Congressional Reactions](#)

World Leaders Condemn Action

United States Marines and Rangers and a small force from six Caribbean nations invaded the island of Grenada Oct. 25. President Reagan said the U.S. was responding to an Oct. 23 request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to help restore law and order in Grenada, where the government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop had been overthrown by hard-line members of the ruling New Jewel Movement the previous week. Reagan added that his administration was concerned about protecting the lives of 1,100 U.S. citizens on Grenada. Jamaica and Barbados had also been approached by the OECS and had contributed troops to the invasion force. U.S. administration officials said Great Britain, Canada and France had refused to participate in the action. [See 1983 [Grenadian Prime Minister Killed in Power Struggle: Military Council Takes Over](#)]

World leaders reacted negatively to the attack, as did many Democrats in the U.S. Congress. Questions were raised about the legality of the invasion with regard to international law, and members of Congress complained that they had not been consulted in advance. The issue of the applicability of the War Powers Resolution was also raised.

Administration officials expressed the hope that Grenada would be brought under control quickly and said U.S. forces would be removed as soon as possible. However, as fighting progressed it became clear that there were more Cubans on Grenada than had been thought, and they put up a stronger resistance than had been expected. Most major pockets of Cuban and Grenadian resistance were wiped out by Oct. 26. The U.S. troops opened Pearls Airport, which had been closed since the coup, and began evacuating U.S. citizens Oct. 26.

The invasion was the first large-scale U.S. military intervention in the Western Hemisphere since the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965.

Reagan Announces Invasion

President Reagan announced the U.S. invasion at a news conference just after 9 a.m. on Oct. 25.

The President said the U.S. had received an "urgent, formal request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States" Oct. 23, asking the U.S. to "assist in a joint effort to restore order and democracy" in Grenada. Reagan said the OECS had also approached Barbados and Jamaica for assistance, and that the U.S. agreed "to become part of a multinational effort with contingents from Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, [and] St. Vincent."

Reagan said the landing had been necessary to restore law and order after "a brutal group of leftist thugs violently seized power." He maintained that the combined military action was "forced on us by events that have no precedent in the eastern Caribbean and no place in any civilized society." Reagan added that the

request from the OECS and reports that U.S. citizens were trying to escape the island convinced him that "the United States had no choice but to act strongly and decisively."

Reagan said the U.S. objectives were to protect U.S. citizens, facilitate the evacuation of anyone wishing to leave and "to help in the restoration of democratic institutions in Grenada."

Reagan then presented Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica, who was the chairman of the OECS. Charles commented that Prime Minister Bishop "was on the way to having elections" and that this was probably the reason he was killed. She said Grenadians "have not been given the chance to choose for themselves the country that they want. And, therefore, it is necessary for us to see to it that they have the opportunity to do so." Charles said an interim government had to be ensured that would put the country "back on the democratic status, so that elections can take place as soon as possible." In response to a reporter's question, Charles said she had information that the Cubans and Soviets were behind the recent coup in Grenada. She denied that the OECS and U.S. action was an "invasion," claiming that, "We [the Eastern Caribbean nations] are one region," and that it was "a question of our asking for support."

Shultz Describes Power Vacuum

In a news conference on the afternoon of Oct. 25, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz enlarged on the President's earlier announcement. He referred to "an atmosphere of violent uncertainty" in Grenada and said, "We see no responsible government in the country." Shultz went on, "We see arrests of leading figures, we see a shoot-on-sight curfew in effect." He said that apart from the danger to U.S. citizens, the administration had been moved by a request from the OECS Oct. 22 under Article 8 of the treaty that brought the OECS nations together. (The OECS initially requested aid Oct. 22 and made a formal written request Oct. 23. The written request was reportedly drafted by Washington.)

The article, in the 1981 treaty creating the OECS, specified that OECS members could take collective action against external aggression provided the members acted unanimously. According to U.S. officials, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis and Grenada had not voted for the joint action in Grenada.

Article 8 set up a Defense and Security Committee with "responsibility for coordinating the efforts of member states for collective defense and the preservation of peace and security against external aggression . . . including measures to combat the activities of mercenaries, operating with or without the support of internal or national elements, in the exercise of the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations."

The Washington Post Oct. 26 cited a U.S. State Department spokesman who was unable to explain how Article 8 applied to Grenada, where internal, not external factors had been at the root of the turmoil.

Shultz denied that the U.S. was in violation of the Organization of American States charter, which prohibited intervention in the internal or external affairs of other states in the group. The secretary explained that the OECS nations were not members of the Rio Treaty and that their request to the U.S. had been made under their own 1981 treaty. The Rio Treaty of 1947 was a mutual defense pact signed by over half the OAS members but not by Grenada or the OECS nations that requested U.S. assistance. Five of the seven OECS nations--Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Antigua--belonged to the OAS. (The other OECS members were St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat.)

Shultz said U.S. troops would leave Grenada "as soon as they possibly can" and that it would be up to the other Caribbean nations involved in the action to help Grenadians establish law and order. He suggested that the British-appointed governor general of Grenada was the "logical person" to look to in establishing authority. He said that there was currently a "vacuum of government responsibility."

In response to a question on whether the Soviets and Cubans were responsible for the overthrow of the Bishop government, Shultz said, "We don't have any direct information on that point." He said the Soviets and Cubans had been informed once the operation got under way and that the U.S. had pledged to "look to the safety of their people on the island." Shultz said the Soviet citizens there had been identified and were safe.

Shultz said that the invasion was not intended to be a signal to Moscow and Havana that the U.S. was prepared to protect its own security. However, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said in briefing reporters Oct. 25 that if the operation were a success, "the message would be clear" regarding the U.S. stand on Cuban and Soviet expansionism in the Caribbean. (Speakes had told reporters late Oct. 24, when asked if an invasion of Grenada was in progress, that the idea was "preposterous." Speakes said Oct. 25 that his denial resulted from guidance from National Security Council officials, who told him to "knock [the question] down hard" and deny it. Speakes was reportedly not told of the invasion until the morning it took place.)

Background to the Invasion

A 10-ship U.S. Navy task force that left Norfolk, Va. Oct. 19 and was on its way to relieve Marines in Beirut, Lebanon had been diverted to Grenada Oct. 21 in the wake of the military coup.

The 1,900 Marines in the task force were to protect Americans on Grenada, according to Pentagon sources cited in the press who said the Marines had no intention of landing. The force was headed by the helicopter carrier Saipan. The same day, a 16-ship battle group led by the aircraft carrier Independence and the amphibious assault ship Guam were also reported on their way to Grenada. Radio Free Grenada accused the U.S. of inventing reports that U.S. citizens were in danger to justify military intervention.

An administration official cited in the Washington Post Oct. 23 acknowledged that the Pentagon had been "dusting off contingency plans" for an invasion or an evacuation of Grenada. In 1981, U.S. naval and Marine forces had staged a mock invasion of an island near Puerto Rico called "Amber in the Amberdine." Grenada's Revolutionary Military Council Oct. 23 said it expected an invasion by neighboring Caribbean states, and Radio Free Grenada called on all militia units to report for duty immediately. The radio broadcast said some Caribbean forces were already congregating in Barbados. It continued that the council had "made it clear that the people of Grenada are prepared to fight to the last man to defend our homeland," but said the council was willing to hold discussion with any of the neighboring states "to find a peaceful solution." Radio Free Grenada repeated assurances that U.S. citizens and property were being "fully protected."

About 50 U.S. Marines arrived in Barbados Oct. 24 in a naval transport plane and flew off in three helicopters. U.S. spokesmen in Barbados and Washington said they did not know why the Marines had landed or where they had gone. Defense Department officials said the Marine force that was diverted from Beirut had left for Lebanon but did not say the entire task force had left Grenadian waters.

Two diplomats from the U.S. and one from Great Britain had been permitted to land in Grenada Oct. 22. The British diplomat, David Montgomery, the deputy high commissioner to Barbados, said Oct. 23 that the situation in Grenada was "calm but tense and volatile." The three were invited by army commander Gen. Hudson Austin, chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council.

A U.S. diplomatic plane landed in Grenada Oct. 24 and took out three Americans. Several charter flights also left that day. To challenge Reagan's assertion that U.S. citizens had been prevented from leaving Grenada, opponents of the invasion later cited the fact that Pearls Airport had been opened, as promised by the military council.

Marines, Rangers Launch Attack

The Oct. 25 attack was launched by a 1,200-man Marine unit and 700 Army Rangers. The landing began at about 5:30 a.m. eastern daylight time when 600 Marines taken by helicopter from the Independence task force landed at Pearls Airport on the east coast. A group of Rangers parachuted into the Point Salines airport in the southwest from Air Force jet transports. They secured the perimeter and cleared obstacles from the runway, allowing the remaining Rangers to land by plane.

Local militias and what the U.S. had thought to be about 600 Cuban construction workers at the Point Salines airport put up an unexpectedly strong resistance. (The Reagan administration had expressed concern about the construction of the airport, which it charged would be used as a staging point for Soviet and Cuban aircraft. The Rangers ran into some anti-aircraft fire on the way in, but that was suppressed by a U.S. Air Force AC-130 Hercules gunship. The U.S. forces reportedly came under mostly small arms fire, including machine guns and mortars. Defense officials in Washington described the Cuban workers as more like engineering combat teams and said they had probably been armed since the coup. [See [1983 Grenada: U.S.-Backed Coup Plot Charged](#), 1983 [Reagan, in Address to Joint Session of Congress, Urges Increased Military and Economic Aid for Central America: Excerpts from Reagan's Address to Congress on Central America](#), 1983 [Reagan Seeks Development of Antimissile Technology; Cites Soviet 'Offensive' Buildup](#)])

The troops that landed at Point Salines advanced on the St. George's University School of Medicine campus at True Blue, east of the airport, and secured it. They also marched north toward a second campus at Grand Anse and the capital, St. George's, five miles (eight kilometers) north of the airport. More than half of the 1,100 U.S. citizens in Grenada were associated with the medical school.

Once the major objectives were achieved--the securing of the two airports and the main campus of the medical school--the 300 members of the Caribbean task force landed at about 10.45 a.m. The Caribbean personnel, who were mostly policemen, were reportedly to be used for security purposes.

In a telephone interview, Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga said that 22 Cubans and three Grenadian civilians had been killed in the Point Salines takeover and 22 Cubans had been captured. He reported that the main objectives--the airports, the medical school campus, the radio station and the power station--had been secured. Seaga said sporadic fighting still continued in St. George's, particularly around Government House and Fort Frederick. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corp. in Barbados quoted sources in Grenada who said that two U.S. helicopters had been shot down and at least one pilot was injured. Pentagon officials confirmed that one helicopter was on the ground but would not state the cause.

The invasion force quickly began broadcasting to Grenadians. The announcer said, "U.S. forces have intervened in Grenada at the request of your Caribbean neighbors to protect American citizens and other foreign nationals." He warned citizens to stay indoors. The government-run Radio Free Grenada had gone off the air soon after reporting the invasion. The radio station called on Grenadians to report to militia offices and asked nurses and doctors to report for work.

Fort Frederick was captured late in the day as U.S. troops fanned out from the two airports. The fort was thought to have been the headquarters of the military council, but after its capture the whereabouts of Gen. Hudson Austin, the council head, and other council members remained unknown.

Troops from the 82d Airborne Division had joined the fighting during the day. The largest battles occurred at the Grand Anse campus and at Richmond Hill to the east of the capital. The Grand Anse campus was secured late in the day. Fighting continued on into the evening.

Meanwhile, the Cuban government said that, "Cuban workers and helpers in Grenada are continuing to resist heroically the attack of the American Marines." Havana said the workers, who were led by a Cuban army colonel, had been ordered not to surrender under any circumstances.

The Pentagon issued its first communique on the situation in Grenada at 9 p.m. The statement said that two U.S. troops had been killed in the first hours of fighting, 23 had been wounded and 3 were missing in action. The Pentagon said that of the 600 Cubans thought to be on the island, perhaps as many as 50 were military advisers. Most of the information on the fighting was provided by Grenadian radio, ham radio operators and officials in Barbados and Washington. U.S. reporters were not permitted to go to Grenada until late Oct. 27.

More Paratroopers Join Battle

Some 800 U.S. paratroopers from the 82d Airborne Division were airlifted into Grenada Oct. 26. The U.S. forces, backed by helicopter gunships, appeared to have overrun most major positions late in the evening, but pockets of resistance remained. Cuba had announced on the afternoon of Oct. 26 that all resistance had ended with the death of "all combatants of the last outpost."

At an early morning news conference Oct. 26, President Fidel Castro had said that there had been 700 Cubans in Grenada, mostly construction workers. He claimed that 40 were military advisers. According to Castro, the Grenadian Revolutionary Military Council had requested his assistance the previous week, when the U.S. began its troop mobilizations in the area. Castro said that he told Grenada that he would not send any reinforcements, but because of the U.S. advance, "it became morally impossible to think of evacuating Cuban personnel." Castro reiterated his earlier criticism of the organizers of the coup against Bishop.

Resistance Dwindles

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said at a news conference Oct. 26 that Grenadian and Cuban resistance continued, primarily at Richmond Hill just east of St. George's. He said this was the only remaining major pocket of resistance. Opposing forces using small arms, antitank rockets and anti-aircraft guns were thought to be holding political prisoners hostage at a prison at Richmond Hill, according to Gen. John W. Vessey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who also attended the news conference.

Both Vessey and Weinberger acknowledged that U.S. forces had met much more resistance than they had expected. Vessey said they had not anticipated meeting Cuban combat units. However, Weinberger said the invasion was progressing "extremely well."

Weinberger said U.S. forces had not yet encountered the 20 or 30 Soviet personnel on the island, whom he described as "spies, KGB people." Concerning how long U.S. troops might stay in Grenada, Weinberger said, "I hope we're talking about days and weeks." He said 600 Cubans had been captured, 20 of whom were wounded, and caches of Soviet-made arms had also been found. He said the U.S. had overrun what he described as a "major Cuban installation containing communications equipment and secret documents" and had captured the colonel who commanded it.

Weinberger could give no figures for Cuban or Grenadian combat deaths but said that, as of 5 p.m. that day, six U.S. servicemen had been killed, 33 wounded and eight were missing.

Weinberger said the U.S. was in touch with Havana regarding the return of the captured Cubans. The secretary also disclosed that Governor General Sir Paul Scoon had been rescued Oct. 25. Scoon had been under house arrest since the coup. Weinberger said that Scoon would play a role in forming a provisional government.

U.S. forces said Oct. 27 they had captured the Richmond Hill prison, located on a high ridge overlooking St. George's. U.S. officials had said about 100 political prisoners had been held hostage during the fighting, slowing down the advancing forces. However, word of their fate was not reported.

Confirmed U.S. casualties Oct. 27 rose to eight dead, eight missing and 39 wounded. Cuban casualties were placed as high as 42 by some reports, although Prensa Latina, the Cuban news agency, said only 18 had died. Eighteen Grenadians civilians were reported to have died.

Meanwhile, transport planes reportedly continued to fly supplies and paratroopers to Grenada. In a story datelined Oct. 27, the Washington Post cited Tom Adams, the prime minister of Barbados, who said six East German military advisers had been captured.

The Pentagon Oct. 27 showed videotapes said to have been made earlier in the day in Grenada. The videotapes showed six warehouses full of Soviet-made small arms ammunition and weapons discovered five miles (eight kilometers) north of the Point Salines airport.

A senior administration official briefing reporters Oct. 27 said 1,100 Cubans were on Grenada and that several hundred remained at large. He said the military preparations on the island were "enough to sustain a significant ground force or terrorist operation." He added that the Cubans apparently intended to use Grenada as a "forward Cuban base."

Panel Votes War Powers Resolution

The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Oct. 27 voted, 32 to 2, to approve a declaration that the War Powers Resolution applied to the Grenada invasion. The vote meant that U.S. troops would have to leave Grenada by Dec. 24. The resolution stated that the war powers law took effect the moment the invasion began. The law barred a president from keeping U.S. troops in hostile situations for longer than 60 days without congressional approval.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth W. Dam told Congress that the administration would refuse to concede the validity of the 60-day provision. However, he said he thought it unlikely that U.S. troops would still be in Grenada 60 days hence.

On the evening of Oct. 25 President Reagan had formally notified Congress under the provisions of the War Powers Resolution that U.S. troops had landed in Grenada. President Reagan did not, however, report that the U.S. troops had been introduced "into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances," as he was required to do under the resolution when circumstances so indicated. The President had similarly not acknowledged that U.S. Marines in Lebanon were involved in "hostilities."

International Reaction Negative

The U.S.-led invasion provoked a negative response from world leaders Oct. 25, and even the closest allies of the U.S. were critical.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Parliament Oct. 25 that she had expressed "very considerable doubts" to President Reagan regarding his planned invasion of Grenada. Thatcher said her government had advised Reagan to reconsider after learning of the plan the day before. The prime minister spoke to Reagan by telephone early Oct. 25.

Grenada was a member of the British Commonwealth and had received independence from Britain in 1974. There were currently about 200 British subjects on Grenada.

Thatcher's announcement of the invasion in Parliament aroused considerable criticism of both the U.S. and the British governments by opposition Labor Party members and some members of Thatcher's Conservative Party. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, answered numerous questions about the invasion in the wake of assurances he gave to Parliament the day before that there was no reason to anticipate military intervention. Howe said the whereabouts of Grenada's governor general, Sir Paul Scoon, who represented Queen Elizabeth II, were unknown.

Howe and Thatcher refused to condemn the U.S. action. Thatcher said, "We understand that what weighed heavily with the United States was the view taken by a number of Caribbean states who undoubtedly see

things in a very different perspective than we do." She indicated that Britain had declined an invitation to participate in the invasion. That invitation reportedly was made by the OECS.

Denis Healey, the Labor spokesman on foreign affairs, said Britain had been deceived by the U.S. and some Caribbean Commonwealth nations. He maintained that, "None of the objectives stated by President Reagan justifies the invasion of an independent state." He referred to the U.S.'s "quite unpardonable humiliation of an ally."

The French government Oct. 25 described the invasion as "a surprising action in relation to international law." It said France had not been informed of the latest events, despite U.S. administration statements that France had been asked to participate. The government reaffirmed France's "principle of nonintervention" and commented, "No state or group of states has the right to intervene militarily on the territory of another state without having been expressly invited by the legitimate authorities of the latter or without having the [United Nations] Security Council formally and explicitly authorize it."

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada said Oct. 26 that his government "regretted" the invasion and that substantial evidence had not been provided to show that the U.S. acted to protect its citizens.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Oct. 27 in a special parliamentary debate on Grenada that, "Had we been given the opportunity to do so, we would have advised against the intervention because in all regions we advocate political solutions to conflicts, and not military ones." He said the situation in Grenada "affects us both politically and psychologically." That statement was taken to refer to the imminent deployment of U.S.-built Pershing II missiles in West Germany. [See 1983 [Mass Rallies Oppose Arms in Western Europe; Brandt Speaks to Bonn Crowd](#)]

Soviets Condemn Reagan

The Soviet government news agency, Tass, Oct. 25 condemned President Reagan, holding him personally responsible for what it described as an "act of undisguised banditry and international terrorism."

Tass said, in a series of reports on the situation unfolding in Grenada, that the U.S.-led invasion was intended to "subordinate Grenada to U.S. neocolonialist rule." The news agency described the intervention as a "direct, unprovoked aggression" against an independent state.

In a further statement Oct. 26, Tass said, "What can be more cynical and hypocritical than . . . when, under the pretext of concern for 'human rights,' an attempt is being made to drown in blood the right of a whole people to free and sovereign existence."

Moscow had reportedly not mentioned the recent military coup in Grenada and referred to those resisting the U.S. invasion force as "Grenadian patriots" assisted by Cubans.

The government of Nicaragua also condemned the invasion Oct. 25, claiming that it was "a new manifestation of the imperial arrogance that the government of the United States constantly shows toward the norms of international law and the United Nations charter."

The government statement, issued by the foreign ministry, said that despite the recent "lamentable domestic events . . . nothing justifies the intervention of U.S. troops." The junta Oct. 21 had declared three days of national mourning for Bishop.

One government official claimed that Nicaraguans felt that "part of the motivation" for the invasion "was to breed terror in the hearts of revolutionary movements throughout the area." In Washington, Nicaragua's deputy foreign minister, Victor Hugo Tinoco, told reporters that Reagan's argument justifying the U.S. action could be similarly used against Nicaragua. He said the U.S. was "using the pretense of establishing democracy in Grenada, and next they could call upon other Central American countries and decide to . . . reestablish democracy in Nicaragua--and that is an unacceptable violation of international law."

The government demanded an immediate session of the U.N. Security Council to consider the invasion. And in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly, the Cuban representative Oct. 25 denounced the U.S. and urged all nations to condemn the "imperialist aggression." The representative, Raul Roa Kouri, said Grenadians and Cubans in Grenada had been "grossly attacked" and were "resisting heroically." He warned that "the blood thus shed in the defense of Grenada will be a constant condemnation of those who are committing this aggression and their collaborators."

The president of the Assembly, Jorge Illueca of Panama, described the invasion as "regrettable" and urged a solution in accordance with the principles of the U.N. charter. (The U.N. charter barred "the threat or use of force" except for individual or collective self-defense against armed attack.)

OAS Delegates Condemn Invasion

At a meeting of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. Oct. 26, the majority of delegates condemned the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada.

OAS delegates heard a recording made by Dessima Williams, the Grenadian ambassador to the organization, calling the U.S. intervention a "flagrant and barbaric act." Williams was currently in hiding. Her place was taken at the meeting by Ian Jacobs, who blamed the U.S. for the "massive casualties" suffered in the fighting. He claimed that the U.S. had prohibited reporters from covering the events in Grenada to "hide the atrocities" there. He maintained that the U.S. was "deliberately lying" about its reasons for "unleashing terror and death on the people of Grenada." Describing the attack as an international outrage, Jacobs said, "Who is next that the United States does not like. . . ?" Jacobs claimed that two days before the invasion the Grenadian military council had informed the U.S. that its citizens on the island would not be harmed and were free to leave. He also claimed that the new council had been planning to hand over power to a civilian government within 10 to 14 days. Fifteen of the 28 member nations present joined Jacobs in condemning the U.S. Several nations argued that the OAS charter had been violated, and the Mexican ambassador said the invasion would leave "deep and persistent wounds." Colombia's ambassador compared the U.S. intervention to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in World War II. The delegate from the Bahamas accused the U.S. of exhibiting a "double standard of international morality." Only the six Caribbean nations that participated in the invasion defended the action. Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica said the landing was a "pre-emptive strike" to remove a "dangerous threat to peace and security" in the eastern Caribbean. She asserted that Governor General Paul Scoon had requested assistance from the OECS. Charles argued that the recent military buildup in Grenada had created a disproportionate military strength between Grenada and other OECS states and that OECS members were concerned that Grenada would be used as a "staging post for acts of aggression" against neighboring islands.

Charles said elections would probably be held in Grenada in six months. She added that former Prime Minister Eric Gairy and "other undesirable political elements" would not be allowed to return. Gairy had been overthrown as prime minister of Grenada in 1979, and was succeeded by Bishop. [See 1979 [Grenada: Gairy Ousted by Opposition Party](#)]

The chairman of the OAS, Salazar Paredes of Bolivia, had said Oct. 25 that the U.S.-led invasion was a clear violation of the organization's charter. Article 18 of the 1948 charter stipulated that, "No state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state. The foregoing principle prohibits not only armed force but also any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of the state or against its political, economic and cultural elements."

Article 20 of the charter added, "The territory of a state is inviolable; it may not be the object, even temporarily, of military occupation or of any other measures of force taken by another state, directly or indirectly, on any grounds whatever."

Congressional Reactions

Members of Congress Oct. 25 were reported to be stunned by the news of the invasion. The House of Representatives put off a scheduled floor debate on the status of Marines in Lebanon. While several members of Congress refused to pass judgment until more information was available, others were harshly critical.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D, N.Y.) said the U.S. did not have the right to invade Grenada. He called the invasion "an act of war," adding, "I don't know that you restore democracy at the point of a bayonet." Moynihan said, "I would like to shout from the rooftops that the President must explain what legal grounds exist for the action he took."

Rep. Olympia J. Snowe (R, Maine) said she was dismayed, "especially on the heels of Beirut." Snowe commented, "The two events raise a lot of concerns about exactly what we're doing. To what extent are we involved in so many situations that we could get into a war?" [See 1983 [Over 200 U.S. Marines Killed in Beirut Suicide Bomb Attack; 2d Blast Kills More Than 40 French](#)]

Sen. Lawton Chiles (D, Fla.), referring to the news of the Marine deaths in Beirut, said, "Are we looking for a war we can win?"

Rep. Michael D. Barnes (D, Md.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs, said, "In no case, in my judgment, have the Congress' questions about these deployments [in the Middle East, the Caribbean and Grenada] been adequately answered. In no case has Congress been adequately consulted."

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D, Calif.) ridiculed Reagan's "cowboy mentality." Another unidentified senior Democrat scorned the President's "1940, old-time movie view of the world," in which U.S. troops march into a country "and are greeted with garlands of flowers."

Rep. Paul Simon, (D, Ill.) complained that, "The military solution seems to be an automatic reflex with this administration, and that is a deeply disturbing characteristic of the White House's foreign policy formulations."

Sen. Alan Cranston (D, Calif.), the assistant Senate Democratic leader, remarked that he found it "incredible that we are involved in a fight in still another place." Walter F. Mondale said he believed congressional leaders should have been consulted. Sen. John Glenn (D, Ohio) said that if the U.S. mission was to protect Americans, then those who wanted to leave should be evacuated quickly. "If there is a larger strategic mission," he added, "then the President should inform the Congress and the American people as to the nature, scope and duration of that mission." George McGovern described the invasion as "utterly irresponsible," and Sen. Gary Hart (D, Colo.) introduced a resolution calling for the War Powers Resolution to be invoked.

At the other end of the spectrum, conservatives from both parties welcomed the invasion. Sen. Steve Symms (R, Idaho) rejoiced that, "This could be Ronald Reagan's 'Falkland Islands' victory, signaling a welcome change in foreign policy." He said, "It is the first time in 20 years that we have tried to enforce the long-neglected Monroe Doctrine."

Rep. Phil Gramm, (R, Texas) asserted that, "We must end the open season on Americans which has been declared by every terrorist and criminal element in the world."

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D, Mass.) said that the administration had not asked for the advice of members of Congress but he refused to criticize the invasion "Now, when our Marines are in action."

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