

Grenada Invasion

Professors: Invasion illegal, unjustifiable

By Christopher Galen

The invasion of Grenada by U.S.-backed forces is illegal and unjustifiable, a UNL political science professor said Tuesday.

David Forsythe, an expert in international relations, said the invasion was "apparently contrary to a great deal of international law. The Reagan administration is on very weak ground."

President Reagan justified the action in part by saying that the United States was requested to participate in the invasion by nations in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

But the United States and the other countries participating in the invasion were not invited in by the Grenadian government, and the OECS requests don't make the invasion legal, Forsythe said.

"Reagan seized upon a moment of political instability to change the government. We're clearly trying to control the politics of Grenada," he said.

Forsythe said a kind of selective anarchy now exists in the world, by which outside countries use force to change the governments of other countries. He said the Grenada invasion closely parallels the conflicts in Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Both the Syrians in Lebanon and the Russians in Afghanistan claim their troops are occupying those respective countries to stabilize and assist the local governments, Forsythe said.

"The only way the administration can make this action legitimate is to conduct free and fair elections under international supervision," he said.

Although Reagan said the primary reason for the invasion was to safely evacuate 1,000 American citizens, 500 of whom are medical students, Forsythe said that justification probably was not valid.

The use of military force will reduce our diplomatic position in the world to an even lower level, Forsythe said.

"Now we're at the same level as the U.S.S.R. and Cuba," he said.

Another UNL political science professor, Philip Dyer, also questioned the legitimacy of U.S. actions in Grenada.

"I'm not sure it's America's task to interject law and order into a country," he said.

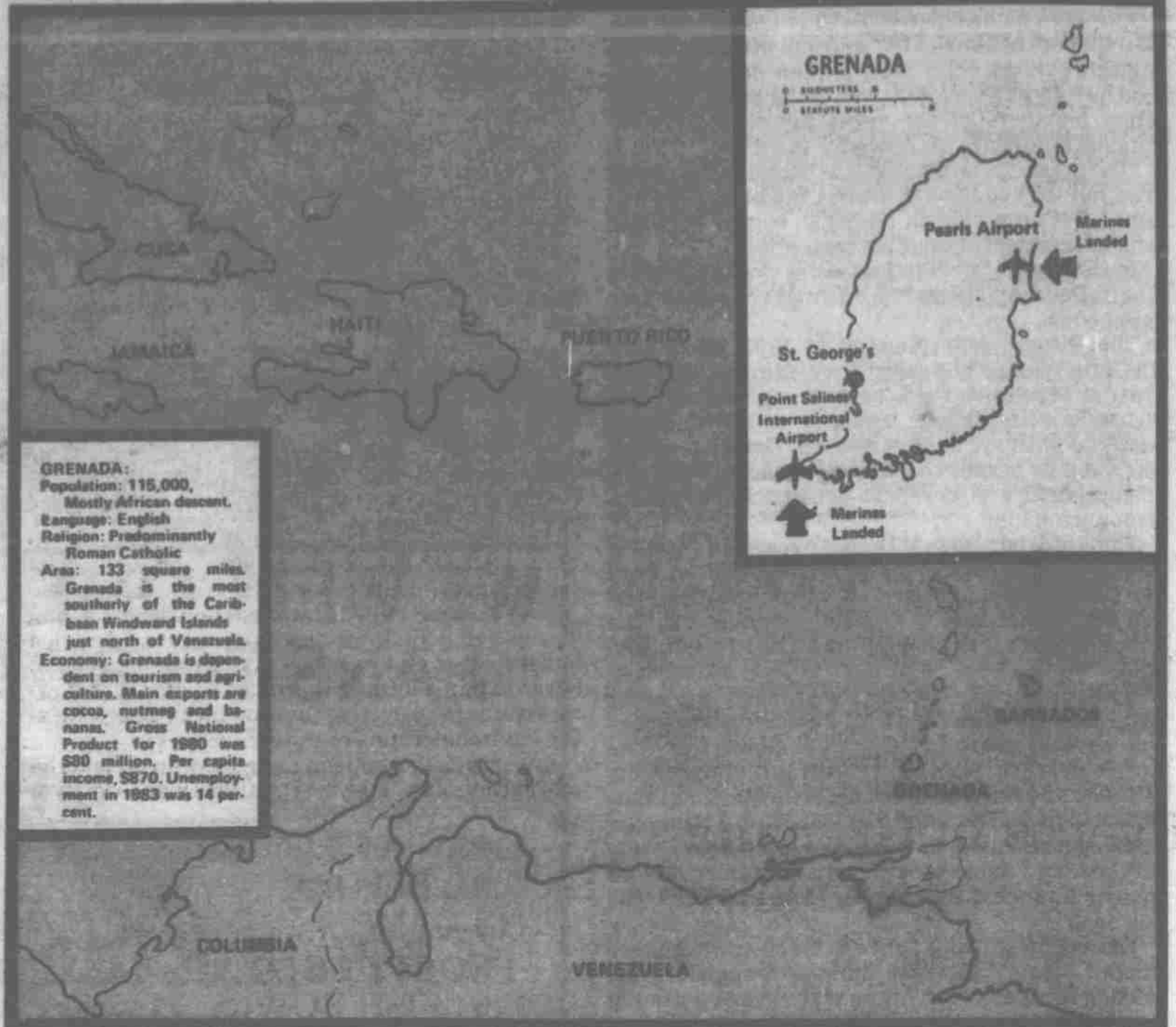
Dyer said little law and order exists in two other countries the United States supports, Lebanon and the Philippines.

"There's no requirement that America has to invade other countries to protect its citizens there. We don't send Marines into other countries with problems," he said.

Although Reagan probably objected to the Marxist regime that resulted from a 1979 revolution in Grenada, United States leaders should remember that their country was one of the first to be founded by a revolution, Dyer said.

Once order has been established in Grenada, U.S. forces will likely stay there as long as necessary to set up a regime more to the administration's liking, Dyer said.

"It sort of looks like we're the world-wide policeman again," he said.



Invaders . . .

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He also responded to an appeal from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States as well as Jamaica and Barbados for help to restore order and democracy in Grenada.

Secretary of State George Shultz said the island was gripped by "an atmosphere of violent uncertainty" but he stressed U.S. troops had invaded only for the reasons given by Reagan and not to send a broader warning to the Soviet Union and Cuba against spreading Marxism in the region.

"Those who want to receive a message will have to receive it. That was not the purpose of this operation," he said.

Shultz added that the United States had no evidence of Cuban or Soviet involvement in Bishop's overthrow.

Neither Reagan nor Shultz mentioned the president's frequent assertion Cuba was helping to build a 10,000-foot runway on Grenada which could serve as a Soviet and Cuban military staging area.

Reagan has cited the Marxist threat in Grenada to justify his policy of supplying U.S. military aid to help Central American governments fight Soviet

bloc efforts to spread communism in the region.

He said a Cuban and Soviet presence in the Caribbean would threaten U.S. oil shipping lanes and could block the movement of American arms to Europe in the event of a war.

The United Nations Security Council, at the request of Nicaragua, met overnight in emergency session to consider the invasion.

Nicaragua's request for the meeting had the support of the Soviet Union, Guinea and Zimbabwe, all council members.

Diplomatic sources said a heavy anti-U.S. vote was likely if the assembly took up the matter.

There was no immediate resolution made to condemn the United States but diplomatic sources said such a move was likely sometime today.

The United States has veto power in the council.

Ali Treiki, the delegate of Libya, who supported the Nicaraguan initiative, told reporters that if the council were hamstrung by veto the Grenada problem would be taken to the General Assembly, where each member has the same voting rights.

Student Reaction

What do you think of the invasion of Grenada?



Diane Adkinson
senior
business

"I don't believe the safety of the Americans is the total reason for the invasion. It's not Reagan's top concern. I think it's really because of their undesirable government."



Monica Martinez
freshman
undeclared

"I'm not really sure what to think. I didn't pay much attention to it."



Dave Erickson
graduate student
educational psychology

"I don't think we should be invading them. Grenada is a sovereign country. There's no proof the Americans were in danger."



Steve Scarff
junior
life sciences

"As the world's been going lately, it's not surprising I don't know exactly why they went in."



Richard Kay
graduate student
business

"I think they could have taken the students out of Grenada without invading the country. The amount of soldiers we landed was more than the number of soldiers in Grenada. I don't think it's the right idea."



Fred Gerber
sophomore
business

"I think it was a good idea. It was an appropriate time for Reagan to go in and get the people out of there."