

# Negative reaction dominates world opinion

From the Reuter News Report

Reaction to the U.S. invasion of Grenada Tuesday ranged from condemnations to strong support, but most nations reacted negatively to the military action.

The invasion drew strong attacks from Cuba and from the Soviet Union, which branded the attack as an act of banditry and terrorism and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the invading forces.

The Soviet News Agency, Tass, said the attack by U.S. and Caribbean troops on the island had exposed U.S. leaders as aggressors before the whole world.

Soviet officials indicated U.S. Charge d'Affaires Warren Zimmerman had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry over the events in Grenada, but no details of the meeting were revealed.

The Tass commentary said Tuesday's events in Grenada showed that Washington "relies entirely on armed might to impose its diktat (unilateral decree) on other countries and nations."

"This (invasion) is an act of open international banditry, of international terrorism, by those in Washington who aspire to sit in judgment on the world and use armed force as their main political weapon," it added.

The British government distanced itself from the U.S.-led invasion as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Parliament Tuesday she warned President Reagan of her "very considerable doubts" about the action.

Thatcher said she told Reagan Monday night of Britain's doubts and asked him to weigh several points very carefully before making a final decision.

Thatcher said no British troops were involved in

the invasion of Grenada, a former British colony, and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said the 6,000-ton British destroyer Antrim, which was standing off Grenada, had been ordered to stay clear of the area of operations.

Well-placed government sources said Britain had turned down a request from the Organization of East Caribbean States to join the invasion force of U.S. and Caribbean troops attacking the island where military leftists seized power last week.

Nicaragua, apparently fearful it could be a future target of U.S. military action, condemned the invasion as a demonstration of "imperial arrogance" and called for the immediate withdrawal of the invading force.

The Foreign Ministry issued a sharply worded communique after Nicaragua formally requested an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the operation on Grenada.

"We call on the international community to request the immediate withdrawal of United States invasion troops from the sovereign territory of Grenada and on the Non-aligned Movement to mobilize all its political and moral means to defend the sovereignty of a brother nation," the communique said.

U.S.-backed right-wing guerrillas fighting the Nicaraguan government, praised the invasion.

"We think the United States has finally abandoned its policy of drift and indecision in Central America and is ready to take decisive action to put an end to Soviet expansionism in the area," Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force, told Reuters.

The French government expressed surprise at the U.S.-led invasion, implying the attack was a violation

of international law.

A strongly worded government statement added that no state had the right to intervene militarily in another country without being asked to come by the legal authorities or the United Nations Security Council.

"The French government was not informed about the latest events in Grenada," the statement said.

"It therefore cannot pass judgment on the reasons which provoked such a surprising action with regard to international law, but it wishes to recall the constant position of France in affirming the principle of nonintervention."

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau refused to justify or condemn the invasion.

President Reagan, announcing the invasion this morning, said one U.S. objective was to protect about 1,100 Americans on the island.

Trudeau told Parliament "That is not enough for me to justify or condemn the action. Were there other ways of ensuring the safety of the Americans there than by proceeding by invasion? In the case of Canada we had authority from Grenada to take our citizens out."

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a statement expressed "grave concern" over the landing on the island.

He said he was "particularly disturbed over the possibility that the escalation of tensions could further complicate an already complex situation in the region."

A U.N. spokesman said the secretary general was seeking more information on the landing. "In the meantime, he appeals to all parties involved to exercise the greatest restraint."

## Events in Grenada to time of invasion

From the Reuter News Report

Brief history of Grenada:

1650 — French settlements begin.

Feb. 10, 1763 — French rulers cede island to Britain.

1795-6 — Rebellion Against British rule; governor and 47 other British subjects massacred.

Feb. 7, 1974 — Grenada becomes independent.

March 13, 1979 — "People's Revolutionary Army" led by lawyer Maurice Bishop takes over power while Prime Minister Eric Gairy is abroad.

March 22, 1979 — Britain and United States recognize new government.

April 9, 1979 — Bishop says he will seek arms from Cuba.

May 2, 1980 — Three people arrested and 15 soldiers suspended as Bishop says group of extreme leftists planned to seize army barracks.

March 23, 1983 — Bishop puts armed forces on alert, says he discovered U.S.-backed attack plan by Grenadan, Cuban and Nicaraguan exiles operating from an island a few miles away.

Oct. 13 — Bishop placed under house arrest.

Oct. 14 — Official radio reports that Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard has resigned because of rumors that he plotted to kill Bishop. But in other reports, Coard, a radical hardliner, is said to have taken power.

Oct. 15 — Government Minister Kenrick Radix calls for general strike if Bishop not released. Radio Free Grenada says people organizing pro-Bishop demonstrations in the capital, St. George's, have been arrested.

Oct. 15 — Grenada's ambassador to Cuba says Bishop had failed to implement decisions of the ruling New Jewel Movement and the government.

Oct. 17 — Army chief, Gen. Hudson Austin, says Bishop has been expelled from party for refusing to share power with Coard and for having disgraced the revolution. He denies there has been a military takeover.

Oct. 19 — Thousands of Bishop supporters free him from house arrest, demonstrate in front of army headquarters. But Bishop and three ministers, as well as two union leaders, are killed as army takes over.

Oct. 20 — Army imposes round-the-clock curfew, says it will govern through military council, guarantees foreigners' safety.

Oct. 20 — Cuba condemns killing of Bishop, says it had no part in upheaval but leaves door open for close relations.

Oct. 21 — Military rulers say island in danger of attack. U.S. task force of 2,000 Marines led by carrier Independence heads for region for possible evacuation of 1,000 Americans. Whereabouts of Coard remain mystery.

Oct. 22 — Officials from United States, Britain and Canada visit island. Military rulers say they want better relations with United States.

Oct. 23 — Leaders of 13-nation Caribbean Community decide on suspension of Grenada from membership, but decision said not to be binding. Summit divided on military intervention.

Oct. 24 — Rulers relax curfew, pledge to form civilian government, U.S. Marines arrive in Barbados.

Oct. 25 — Grenada authorities say island under invasion. Reagan announced that U.S. forces joined by troops of six Caribbean countries invaded to restore democratic institutions.

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