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October 4, 1983

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ision Directive 105

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BY RW NARA DATE 7/10/13

EASTERN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SECURITY POLICY (S)

The principal objective of the United States in the Eastern Caribbean is to promote economically viable, independent democratic governments friendly to the United States and free of Cuban and Soviet influence. U.S. policy for this subregion should also help generate support for U.S. objectives and efforts in Central America. Increased economic assistance and the recently enacted Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) are expected to have a positive impact on the economic independence of these island states. The security situation, however, is a continuing concern; the small island states of the Eastern Caribbean are vulnerable to both internal and external threats. None of the nations, with the possible exception of Barbados, has security assets and organizations that are adequate to meet the challenges posed by forces hostile to democratically oriented, pro-U.S. governments. (S)

Grenada, with increasingly closer ties to Cuba, serves as a location from which anti-democratic elements of each of the other islands receive encouragement, training, and financial support. In the face of Grenada's growing military potential and the possible use of the island as a base for subversion, and Cuban/Soviet strategic outreach, the Eastern Caribbean states entered into a regional security arrangement in late 1982. (S)

U.S. Interests

A significant portion of our imported oil and U.S. commercial shipping transits through the sea lanes of the Eastern Caribbean. U.S. military logistic support and reinforcements essential for use in a Persian Gulf contingency must also pass through the region. Should the small states of the area fall under the control of radical groups with anti-U.S. orientation, the U.S. would face a significant threat to our economic and security interests. (S)

To meet our own security needs and those of the democratically oriented Eastern Caribbean states, the U.S. should increase assistance to the area's security forces and bolster elements dedicated to the enhancement and/or preservation of democratic institutions. The conclusions of the interagency policy review of

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Eastern Caribbean regional security contain the specific provisions of a program to address the area's security problems. Accordingly, and using the policy study as a basis, the following measures will be undertaken, commencing immediately:

- Until the Eastern Caribbean states are able to do so themselves, the United States should assist the members of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System--currently consisting of Barbados, Antigua, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica--in responding to emergencies on other islands. The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, should review requisite contingency plans, be prepared to provide emergency air/sealift as necessary, and identify the funding and military assets required to provide this assistance. This plan should be developed and forwarded through the established interagency process. (S)
- The Secretary of State will develop a plan for the United States to signal our support for the democratic Eastern Caribbean nations through enhanced public diplomacy and private assurances. This approach will be implemented in concert with the availability of the improved security program called for above. (C)
- To meet longer term needs, the United States should use security assistance that will enable the Eastern Caribbean security forces more adequately to address internal or external threats to their stability and security. Accordingly, U.S. materiel and training assistance should be earmarked to upgrade the effectiveness of both the regional security forces and those of the individual states. The Departments of State and Defense, in concert with the Director, OMB, should develop a coordinated plan for the implementation of this security assistance. (C)
- In coordination with the Eastern Caribbean states, the U.S. should approach the UK, France, Canada, the Netherlands, and Venezuela to seek additional contributions for training, equipping, and supporting the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System. The Department of State, in concert with the Department of Defense, will develop a coordinated plan for this approach, which includes direct military-to-military contacts. (S)

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- The United States should maintain sufficient military presence in the Eastern Caribbean to deter aggression to the various pro-democratic states and to respond to any such aggression, as necessary. U.S. military exercises should be continued at an appropriately high level and contingency plans for force deployment should be maintained current. The Department of Defense, in coordination with the Department of State, will develop a plan to meet this objective. (S)
- [Redacted]

The coordinated, diplomatic, military, intelligence, resource, and contingency plans called for in the items above should be forwarded for review by the President by October 15, 1983. (S)

Ronald Reagan

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