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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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October 4, 1983

National Security
Decision Directive 105

EASTERN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SECURITY POLICY (X)

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.

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.

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. (X)

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. (X)

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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under provisions of E.O. 12958-
by S. Tilley, National Security Council

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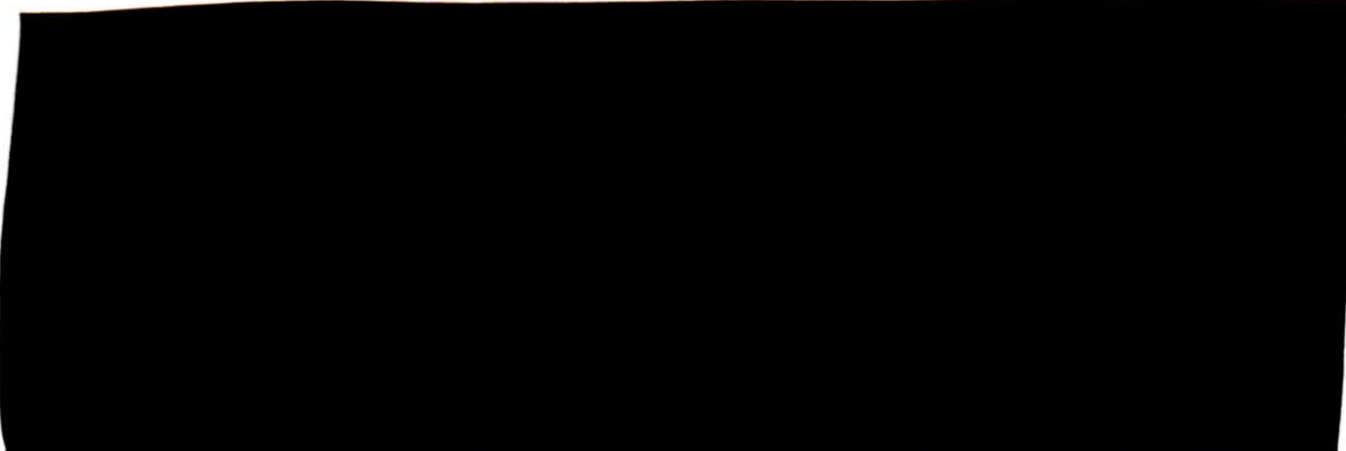
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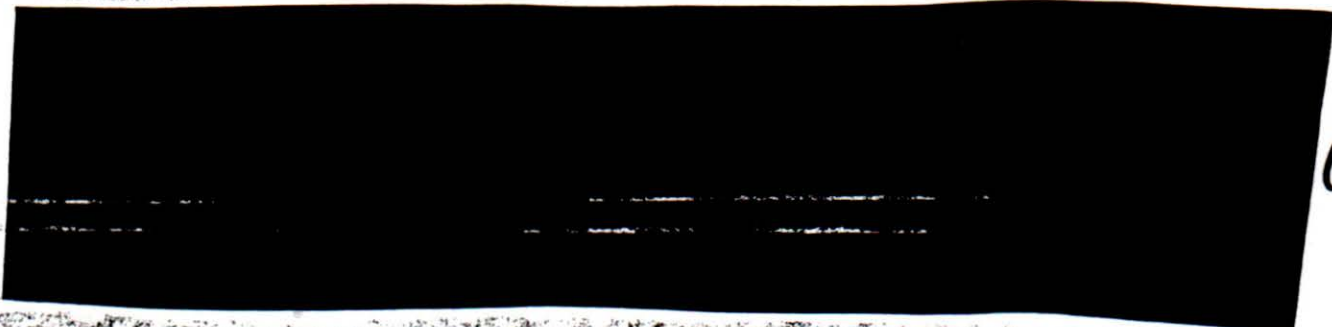
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Eastern Caribbean regional security contain the specific provisions of a program to address the area's security problems. Accordingly, and using the policy study as a basis, the following measures will be undertaken, commencing immediately:



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- 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. (X)
- 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 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. (X)



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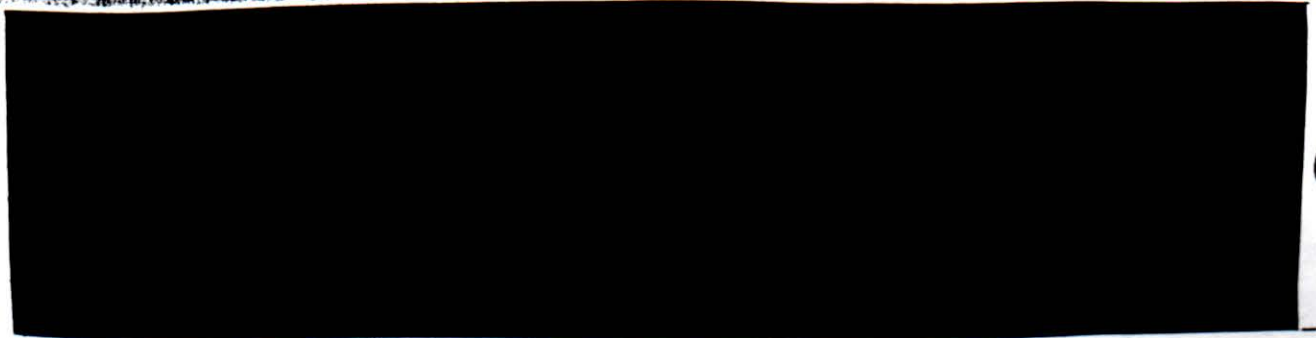
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The Department of Defense, in coordination with the Department of State, will develop a plan to meet this objective. (S)



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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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