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LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1983 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SAINT LUCIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you, upon instructions from my Government, a statement from the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, in respect of the Grenada situation.

May I request, Excellency, that this statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Donatus St. AIMEE
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Statement by the Secretariat of the Organization of
Eastern Caribbean States

"The Member Governments of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Montserrat) met at Bridgetown, Barbados on Friday, 21 October 1983 to consider and evaluate the situation in Grenada arising out of the overthrow of the Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the subsequent killing of the Prime Minister together with some of his Cabinet colleagues and a number of other citizens.

The Member States were deeply concerned that this situation would continue to worsen, that there would be further loss of life, personal injury and a general deterioration of public order as the military group in control attempted to secure its position.

Member Governments considered that the subsequent imposition of a draconian 96 hour curfew by the military group in control was intended to allow them to further suppress the population of Grenada which has shown by numerous demonstrations their hostility to this group.

Member Governments have also been greatly concerned that the extensive military build-up in Grenada over the last few years had created a situation of disproportionate military strength between Grenada and other OECS countries. This military might in the hands of the present group has posed a serious threat to the security of the OECS countries and other neighbouring States.

Member Governments considered it of the utmost urgency that immediate steps should be taken to remove this threat.

Under the provisions of Article 8 of the Treaty establishing the OECS concerning Defence and Security in the sub-region, Member Governments of the Organization decided to take appropriate action.

Bearing in mind the relative lack of military resources in the possession of the other OECS countries, the Member Governments have sought assistance for this purpose from friendly countries within the region and subsequently from outside.

Three Governments have responded to the OECS Member Governments' requests to form a multi-national force for the purpose of undertaking a pre-emptive defensive strike in order to remove this dangerous threat to peace and security to their sub-region and to establish a situation of normalcy in Grenada. These Governments are Barbados, Jamaica and U.S.A. Barbados and Jamaica are members of Caricom and Barbados is linked to some of the OECS Member Governments in a sub-regional security agreement.

It is the intention of the Member Governments of the OECS that once the threat has been removed, they will invite the Governor-General of Grenada to assume executive authority of the country under the provisions of the Grenada Constitution

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of 1973 and to appoint a broad-based interim Government to administer the country pending the holding of general elections.

It has been agreed that while these arrangements are being put in place, the presence of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy and other undesirable political elements would complicate the situation and that they would therefore not be welcome in Grenada.

It is further intended that arrangements should be made to establish effective police and peace keeping forces in order to restore and maintain law and order in the country.

After normalcy has been restored, non-Caribbean forces will be invited to withdraw from Grenada.

Member Governments of the OECS wish to solicit the diplomatic support of all friendly countries for this initiative."
