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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 November 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith two statements from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cuba dated 28 October and 1 November 1983 respectively, with the request that they be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 145, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Raul ROA-KOURI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Declaration of the Ministry of External Relations of Cuba
dated 28 October 1983

[Original: English]

We inform the People that official Pentagon Statements of today, October 28th, affirmed that there were another 1000 Cubans in Grenada, that close to 500 were fighting in the mountains, and that, therefore, it would perhaps take them weeks to bring the situation under control. These figures and hypotheses made public by the Military Leaders of the United States can only be the progeny of fantasy and panic. Now they think they are seeing Cubans resisting behind every tree, behind every rock.

As has been explained, the total amount of Cubans on the island at the moment of the invasion never reached the figure of 800 and they were made up of 636 cooperation personnel from the Ministry of Construction, 17 from the Ministry of Public Health, 12 from the Ministry of Education, 6 from the Ministry of Agriculture, 6 from the Ministry of Transportation, 6 from the State Committee for Cooperation, 5 from the Ministry of Fisheries, 3 from the Ministry of the Basic Industry, 3 from the Ministry of Culture, 2 from the Ministry of Domestic Trade, 1 from the Ministry of Communications, 1 from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, 1 from the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, 1 from the Central Planning Board, 43 from the Ministry of the Armed Forces, 9 from the Ministry of the Interior, 12 members of the two crews and escorts of the AN-26 aircraft that arrived in Grenville Airport the day before the invasion, 2 passengers who arrived aboard that aircraft: Colonel Tortolo and Comrade Carlos Diaz, from the Department of America of the Central Committee, and 18 members of the Diplomatic Representation, including women and children, all of whom make a total of 784 Cubans, among them 44 women.

Of the 43 cooperation workers of the Ministry of the Armed Forces, only 22 were Officers, the rest were translators and service personnel.

In the figure of 638 is taken to be true, including the wounded, as the number of Cubans held by the US Armed Forces, according to the Pentagon Statement, plus 85 Cubans in the Capital under the control of our Diplomatic

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Representation, then only 61 are left unaccounted for. If from these 61 we subtract those fallen in combat -- a figure we still ignore because the US Government has refused to give any data -- we would merely have to determine the situation of a very small number of Cubans that might have gotten dispersed.

It is even possible that some may have marched to the mountains, but they would be very few, since the Cuban personnel had been instructed to fight in their camps and working areas at the airport under construction if attacked. Their positions were located in a small and narrow peninsula where it was practically impossible to fall back.

Where then could this wild figure of 500 Cubans resisting in the mountains come from? Is the US Army so scared? Don't they understand that they are making fools of themselves and that sooner or later the figures given by Cuba will be irrefutable?

Moreover, the President of the United States, yesterday - shamelessly lying to the people of his country so as to try to justify his criminal behaviour - stated that, in Grenada, a military base was being built and that enormous Cuban arms depots were discovered supposedly meant for other revolutionary movements. These statements are cynical and shameless lies.

The Cuban construction workers' living quarters even lacked fortifications which, although necessary in the face of an aggression, had not been built to bear out the strictly civilian nature of that airport.

The occupied arms depot, consisting of a few thousand rifles, belonged to the Grenadian militia. Unfortunately, those rifles, which were exclusively owned by and under the custody of the Government of Grenada, never reached the People due to the regrettable internal events that had taken place in the country in the days prior to the invasion.

The Cuban personnel had absolutely nothing to do with those weapons.

The Hitlerite fascists have been dwarfed by the desperate lies told by US Government spokesmen to justify its crimes.

Some have even said that silos for strategic missiles were being built in Grenada.

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The fact that the Government of the United States has established full restrictions on the press of their own country to report on the events and confirm the infamous lies of its Government is highly suspicious.

How can they affirm that the construction and cooperaton workers were higly skilled professional soldiers? Wouldn't it have been enough for a dozen journalists to speak to them and question them to confirm the truth?

Events in Grenada prove the fascist, aggressive and mad mentality of the present US Administration.

We expect that the heroic resistance of Cubans and Grenadians before the surprise and treacherous attack has taught them that their adventures in the world will not be military excursions, that the peoples no longer fear them and that, when determined to fight, they will be invincible.

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ANNEX II

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cuba
dated 1 November 1983

[Original: Spanish]

This is to inform the People that the International Committee of the Red Cross is encountering serious obstacles in its efforts to arrange for the evacuation of the Cuban dead and wounded from Grenada.

Yesterday, the International Committee of the Red Cross received only partial and fragmentary reports on those dead, wounded and taken prisoner. There is no reliable information on the situation of the Cuban wounded who may be aboard American ships or in hospitals in Barbados and Puerto Rico, only bits of information filtered to the press or the Red Cross. However, the Red Cross has asked the Cuban Government not to disclose the partial reports received thus far. We have abided strictly by that request.

Yesterday, Monday, 31 October 1983, at 3.00 p.m. local time, the United States Ambassador in Grenada, accompanied by an Admiral and an Army General, met with the Cuban Ambassador to that country. At that meeting, the United States Representative refused to provide the information requested by the Cuban Ambassador on the dead, the prisoners and the wounded. Virtually all he said was that the Red Cross would take care of the dead and wounded and that the rest of the people could only be evacuated "when hostilities ceased".

In effect, the United States is using the Cuban co-operation workers it seized as hostages for a cessation of hostilities. On the other hand, there is no way of knowing whether hostilities are still going on, who is involved and in what part of the country they are taking place.

Yesterday morning, two officials of the State Committee for Economic Co-operation attached to the Cuban Embassy were detailed and sent to the prisoner camp in the old boarding-house of the Cuban construction workers in Point Salines and later sent back to the Embassy. At the camp they found out that there were a number of wounded being attended by the Cuban doctors and that there were 34 Cuban women among the prisoners. Some time in the afternoon, two more officials attached to the Embassy were detailed while they were making indispensable and essential arrangements for our Diplomatic Mission. There has been no further news of them to date.

Although it was expected that contacts between the Representatives of Cuba and the United States in Grenada would continue in the days following, since 5.45 a.m. today, Tuesday, our Embassy in Grenada has been surrounded by Yankee troops and they were not allowing anyone to enter or leave. At 12.45 p.m., a note was received at the Embassy from Paul Scoon, self-styled Governor of Grenada acting as puppet representative of the Yankee occupation forces, saying that Cuban Diplomatic Personnel had to leave the country within 24 hours.

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In view of the seriousness of those developments, at 5 p.m. the Cuban Government handed the Interests Section of the United States Government in Havana, the following notes:

"1. Mr. Paul Scoon, who has absolutely no legal right of representation or legal authority and was obviously acting on instructions from the United States Government, ordered Cuban Diplomatic Personnel in Grenada to leave the country within 24 hours.

"2. Cuban Diplomatic Personnel, except for women and children, are under instructions not to leave the country until such time as all co-operation personnel working in Grenada, including prisoners, dead and wounded, leave.

"3. Such an order can only be carried out by force and by the intercession of the United States troops.

"4. The Cuban Embassy is surrounded and is being harassed by United States troops, which are not allowing anyone to enter or leave.

"5. The Cuban Government places full responsibility for what may happen to Cuban Diplomatic Personnel and the Cuban Embassy in Grenada on the Government of the United States."

These facts were brought to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the British Government - Mr. Paul Scoon presumably represents the Crown - as well as the President of the Spanish Government and the President of Colombia, who have been arranging for the evacuation of Cuban dead, wounded and prisoners and the remaining co-operation personnel from Cuba and other countries. The two Presidents also insisted on the need for contacts between the Representatives of Cuba and the United States in Grenada to discuss and settle the matter.

In connection with these shady manoeuvres by the United States and its provocations against our country, today a cable from AFP reported:

"United States diplomats accredited to various countries in Central and Latin America were put on the alert following 'threats apparently emanating from Cuba', the State Department announced today in Washington.

"The United States Government took those threats 'very seriously' and 'viewed the matter with the gravest concern', said the State Department spokesman, John Hughes.

"Without giving further details, the United States spokesman referred to recent 'anti-American terrorist acts in Bolivia, Colombia, Puerto Rico and Venezuela'.

"Any incitement by Cuba to terrorist acts against United States targets, if proved, will constitute 'an extremely serious development', the State Department spokesman added."

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On that same subject, some time in the afternoon on 29 October, the following Memorandum from the United States was delivered by the Head of the Interests Section of the United States in Cuba:

"We have received reports that Cuba has ordered terrorist acts to be carried out against United States citizens residing abroad. We hope that those reports are false, but we cannot overlook the possibility that they may not be.

"The United States will not tolerate any terrorist act against its citizens or against any United States installation, whether Government or private. As a result of the report received, we regard any terrorist act, if it should occur at the instigation of Cuba, as the responsibility of the Cuban Government.

"The Cuban Government must realize that the United States will not hesitate to take appropriate steps to respond to such acts."

Cuba replied to that Memorandum this afternoon in the following terms:

"1. The idea that Cuba has ordered terrorist acts against United States citizens abroad is the product of fantasy or panic in the United States Government created by bad conscience over its crimes, or wrong information or another blatant lie by the United States Government, since the demonstrations of solidarity that Cuba solicits are always political in nature.

"2. What may happen to United States citizens elsewhere has nothing to do with Cuba or alleged orders from Cuba since at no time have such orders been issued nor could they be issued; instead, it may be the result of the anger aroused in millions of people in the world by the barbaric and brutal acts being committed by the United States Government. Cuba has always been opposed to retaliation against innocent people.

"3. The threat implied by the United States Memorandum is superfluous and does not intimidate us in the slightest. If there are United States aggressions against Cuba, they will be met with the response they deserve from our entire People."

Inasmuch as the United States Government considered that it had the right to make those provocative allegations public, the Cuban Government considers it appropriate to make this exchange of messages public too.

As of the time of writing of the report, no further news has been received from the International Committee of the Red Cross on the evacuation of the Cuban dead and wounded.
