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GRENADA/COUP

BROKAW: And American intelligence agencies acknowledged today that there was a good deal that they did not know about what was happening in Grenada before the invasion. However, as Marvin Kalb reports tonight, the administration says that information only provides more justification for the invasion.

KALB: Administrations do not usually like to admit intelligence failures. This one is no exception. But top officials do admit they were quite surprised by the size and strength of the Cuban contingent on Grenada. A CIA estimate said there were 4-600 Cubans on the island; most of them manual laborers, some reservists with military experience in Angola. Actually, there were over 1,000, masquerading as construction workers on an airport runway, but in fact serving in a combat engineer brigade--well entrenched and well equipped, even with anti-aircraft weapons that fired at and hit approaching U.S. helicopters. Oddly, the White House acknowledges not an intelligence failure, but a total intelligence gap, but still proceeded with the invasion. ROBERT MCFARLANE (National Security Adviser): When you don't have any intelligence resources there at all, uh, something can't fail if it isn't there.