

# Grenadians plan to revive economy, U.S. official says

From Herald Wire Services

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — The head of a White House task force said Grenada's new leaders plan to revive its stalled economy by easing government controls and completing the new airport once assailed by President Reagan.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers searched Grenada and its surrounding islands Friday for snipers among about a dozen "hard-core" Cuban and Grenadian soldiers still loose in outlying areas, military officials said.

Jay Morris, deputy administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development, did not give specific figures but said the Marxist government toppled after the Oct. 25 U.S.-led invasion had hurt Grenada's growth.

The economy of the impoverished spice-producing island is "a lot less healthy than it was four or five years ago," he said.

Morris, heading the nine-member White House task force studying Grenada's financial needs, said the Grenadian private sector was "very interested" in seeing the Point Salines airport, begun by Cuba, completed.

"The embassy here is studying that question," Morris said, "since

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businessmen we have met consider the airport an important part of their plans."

Morris also said that American businessmen are interested in Grenada. Private businessmen in the task force will brief agency officials upon their return to Washington. They will then be able to furnish information to other private businessmen, who have submitted some 200 requests for information on investment possibilities here, Morris said.

Morris said the three main areas

for private investment opportunities here would be in agriculture, tourism and light manufacturing.

Morris also said Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon told the task force members in a meeting Thursday he intended to "withdraw the government from such a pervasive role in the economy."

Col. Terry Scott, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division's Third Brigade, said troops were searching brush and scrub areas of Grenada after two unidentified American soldiers were slightly wounded Thursday morning while on patrol on Green Island, 3 miles northeast of Grenada.

"They stumbled on a man lying on the ground holding an AK-47" rifle, he said. "The man on the ground fired and grazed one of the soldier's arms."

The assailant was himself wounded and helped away by companions and then a second sniper opened fire, hitting the second American while the pair dragged off their wounded comrade.

"There are probably a dozen or so hard-core guys still running loose" on Grenada, Scott said, most Cubans, adding, "these are people who for one reason or another have chosen not to give themselves up."