

The Bear in the Back Yard

Moscow's Caribbean Strategy

Timothy Ashby



Lexington Books

D.C. Heath and Company/Lexington, Massachusetts/Toronto

Contents

Foreword viii

Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D.

Introduction ix

1. Historical Soviet Interest in Latin America and the Caribbean 1
 - Genesis of a Strategy* 1
 - The Comintern and Latin America* 2
 - The Role of the Cominform* 8
 - A New Sophistication* 12

2. Cuba's Role in Soviet Strategy 19
 - The Revolution* 19
 - The Coming of Soviet Influence* 23
 - A Military Foothold* 28
 - The Missile Crisis* 31
 - Soviet Preeminence* 36
 - The Utility of Revolution* 39
 - The Taming of Fidel Castro* 44
 - Cuban Vassalage* 51

3. Cuba: A Base for Soviet Power Projection 57
 - Espionage and Subversion* 57

- A Military Bastion* 65
- A Soviet Military Surrogate* 75

- 4. Grenada 81
 - Background to a Revolution* 81
 - A Strategy of Deception* 84
 - Cuban Militarization* 88
 - Growing Soviet Influence* 89
 - Grenada's Role in Soviet Caribbean Strategy* 93
 - Dissolution of the People's Revolutionary Government* 98
 - Grenada's Military Potential* 99

- 5. The Role of Nicaragua in Soviet Strategy for the Caribbean 103
 - A Revolution Betrayed* 103
 - Sandinista Ideology and Strategy* 105
 - Cuban Assistance* 109
 - Soviet–Nicaraguan Relations* 112
 - Strategic Implications* 117
 - The Export of Revolution* 124
 - Nicaragua's Future* 126

- 6. The Cases of El Salvador and Honduras 129
 - El Salvador* 129
 - Honduras* 134

- 7. Jamaica, Guyana, and Suriname 139
 - Renewed Soviet Interest* 139
 - Jamaica* 140
 - Guyana* 142
 - Suriname* 149

8. Summary and Conclusion	153
<i>A Soviet Strategy for the Caribbean</i>	153
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	155
<i>Elements of the Strategy</i>	161
<i>Conclusion</i>	177
9. A U.S. Counterstrategy	179
Notes	191
Acronyms	223
Index	229
About the Author	241