

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction	1
II. Soviet Strategy and the Caribbean Basin	5
1. Methodology	5
2. Objectives	6
III. Soviet Policy in the Caribbean Basin	19
1. Guatemala	20
2. Cuba	25
3. Nicaragua	34
4. El Salvador	48
5. Grenada	51
IV. Conclusions	64
V. Policy Implications	67

This paper is an analysis of the nature and policy implications of Soviet involvement in the crisis in the Caribbean Basin. It is sometimes maintained that the Soviet Union, either directly or through "proxies" such as Cuba and Nicaragua, is the principal source of the region's instability and violence. According to this view, difficulties in the Caribbean Basin are one aspect of a global Soviet strategic threat to the United States and Western civilization, the states of the region being on a "hit list", as the Soviet Union's influence and power gradually close in on the US heartland. The region's conflicts are East-West rather than North-South, or, for