

According to the Cuban Government, when U.S. forces landed in Grenada on October 25, 1983, there were 784 Cubans in Grenada, including diplomatic personnel, women and children. Reportedly, 24 Cubans died fighting against the American troops. An analysis of information published in Cuba on the background of the 24 men who were killed in combat revealed that only four of them were old enough to have participated in the revolution against Batista. These men were 51, 49, 45 and 44 years of age when they were killed. Their ages in 1959 when Batista was overthrown ranged between 17 and 24 years. Three were members of the Communist Party and one was "aspirante" to become a member. Twelve of the men killed in combat ranged in age from 28 to 41 years. This means that they were from one to 14 years of age in 1959. Four of them were members of the Communist Party and one belonged to the Young Communist Union. The rest, 8 in total, were born after 1959 and ranged in age from 23 to 27 years. Three were members of the Young Communist Union.

The highest ranking official killed was Carlos Andrés Díaz Larrañaga, 41 years old, and Chief of the Caribe Section, of the America Department of the Central Committee of the Communists Party. He had only been in Grenada a few hours before the landing of U.S. forces. At least two officers in the Armed Forces were among the men killed in combat. Sergio Erico Grandales Nolasco, 49 years old, was a member of the CCP and a captain in the transportation corps of the MINFAR. Oscar A. Nuñez Gil, 30 years old, was a first lieutenant in the reserves. However, all the men in Grenada at the time of the landing had been members of the Armed Forces at one point or another, since a compulsory military service law has been on the books in Cuba since 1963.

The racial composition of the 24 men killed is also interesting. Four appear to have been black. Two may have been mulattoes, but the other 18 were caucasian. They were fairly representative of the racial composition of Cuba. From the pictures, which must have been taken months before they were sent to Grenada, they seemed to be older than their ages when they were killed. They obviously suffered some hardships in their lives.

Ranking members of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT) were being fired, demoted or had their membership in the Central Committee of the party stripped from them. These men included Minister Ramiro Valdés, who was replaced, and General José Joaquín Méndez Cominches, who was ousted from the Central Committee. They were blamed for the intelligence failure in detecting the coup against Bishop and activities leading to the American landing. Failure is not tolerated in Cuba.