



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

4 DEC 1983

Grenada

Mr. Edward M. Downey
Publisher
Downey Communications, Inc.
1732 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ed:

Thank you for your November 14 letter expressing support for the manner in which press activities were handled during the Grenada rescue mission. I also appreciate your kind comments concerning my remarks at the National Press Club.

The need for secrecy dictated our procedures in handling the press during the Grenada rescue mission. It was planned on very short notice and in strictest secrecy to ensure the safety of the American citizens on the island and the military forces participating. To have told the press in advance of the operation on some kind of embargo basis could have risked the lives of the American students and of our military personnel. This was a risk we were not willing to take.

I am grateful for your good wishes and your offer of assistance in support of a strong defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Jay M. Rosenberg".

51044

12/83