

Multiracial study pioneer in Grenada coup

Mr Bernard Coard, Grenada's deputy prime minister involved in the coup that overthrew the government of Mr Maurice Bishop last week, first made his name as a teacher in London in 1971.

His book, *How the West Indian child is made educationally subnormal in the British school system*, caused an uproar, but opened the door to the multi-ethnic initiatives in authorities as disparate as Inner London, Berkshire and Bradford.

Drawing from a three-year survey of placements at ESN schools, Mr Coard argued that many bright black children were being wrongly labelled as subnormal and consigned to a form of schooling that later caused them to become emotionally disturbed.

As a founder member of Teachers Against Racism, he also claimed that streaming policies in secondary schools were racist because they led to a preponderance of black children in the bottom forms.

This week educationists recalled Mr Coard's contribution. Dr Peter Mortimore, director of research and statistics for the ILEA said: "In a sense he was ahead of his time - a trail blazer. The whole idea of institutional racism and teachers' low expectations of black kids began with his work."

Mr Max Morris, former president of the National Union of Teachers and until 1978 head of Willesden High in Brent, where three out of four pupils are black, disagreed. Mr Coard's book was "provocative trash" and he persistently ignored the efforts of many

teachers to help black children, Mr Morris said.

"He believed in some sort of system of proportional representation whereby kids in ESN schools had to be exactly proportional to the colour of their skin."

"What he did was to set the stage for an orchestrated campaign against teachers for being racists."

Since the coup and the American invasion, the fate and whereabouts of Mr Coard, aged 39, remain a mystery. Earlier his Moscow-style Marxism was reported to have triumphed against the populist revolutionary politics of Mr Bishop, who seized power in 1979.

Nick Wood



Bernard Coard . . . fate a mystery

Grenada fugitives' new base

from E. Patrick McQuaid

WASHINGTON

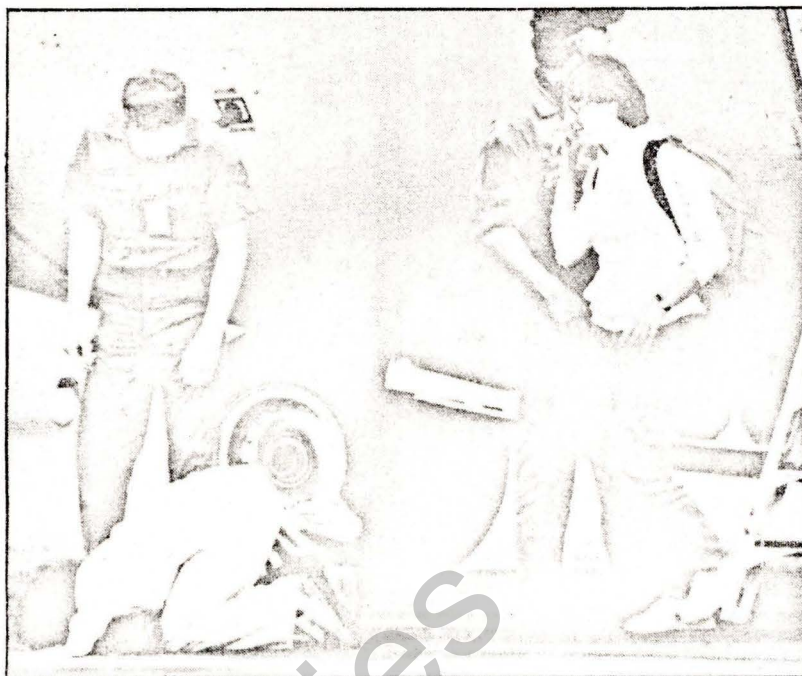
Refugees from St George's University School of Medicine on Grenada are continuing their studies at two campuses near New York and at sites elsewhere in the Caribbean. Arrangements for a six-week term at Long Island University's Brooklyn Centre and the St Barnabas Medical Centre in Livingston, New Jersey, were made by Senator Alfonse d'Amato, a New York Republican, and the governor of New Jersey, Mr Thomas Kean.

All but seven of the 631 medical students enrolled at St George's have left Grenada and are accounted for, according to university officials. The "off-shore medical school", one of several established during the last decade primarily for American medical college rejects, has its corporate headquarters in Bay Shore, New York.

Chancellor Mr Charles Modica said: "The tremendous enthusiasm and loyalty of students, teaching staff, and parents was combined with an equal amount of support from government and educational institutions to provide St George's with a unique opportunity to continue."

The facilities, provided on a temporary basis from the two institutions, will be used until the end of this year. University officials will then determine if they will return to their two campuses on Grenada or relocate to another Caribbean nation, said Mr Modica. The Grenadan facilities suffered "some damages" during the conflict but repairs have not yet been estimated.

While first and second-term students will continue their studies in the States,



Medical students thankful to be back on US soil

senior members of the class will be transferred to the Kingstown Medical College on the island of St Vincent's, where the university has a cooperative arrangement.

As with the programme at St George's itself, none of the studies are accredited by US academic agencies. The university has, in the past, been criticized by the association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association. Graduates must take special examinations for admission into internship and residen-

cy programmes at American teaching hospitals. A cheating scandal recently set back that process.

Across the country, dons and students continue to protest the military invasion, signing petitions and holding demonstrations. The rescued students, however, cheered President Reagan and the troops during a White House reception for them recently. Before leaving for an Asian tour, Mr Reagan chastised the media for referring to the action as "an invasion". He prefers to call it "a rescue mission".

LETTERS



Cuban prisoners in Grenada

Island view

Sir - We would like to correct some of the distortions surrounding the American justification for the invasion of Grenada. We are a group of teachers and students from an East London technical college who spent a month in Grenada last Christmas.

There was no sense of a Cuban military presence anywhere on the island. We met many Cubans who were working and teaching on new industrial projects. Some of them were offering their technical expertise as volunteers.

All visitors are taken to the site of the new international airport which to Grenadians is a symbol of prosperity to come from the increase in trade and tourism. The idea of building the airport dates from the British colonial administration in the 1950s. Most of the aid did indeed come from Russia and Cuba - the American and British governments refused to help.

Bishop's government was a Socialist one, but as the Grenadians continually impressed on us it was a specifically Grenadian Socialism. Everyone was encouraged to participate, for example, the 1982 budget proposals were discussed in all the village councils. Government ministers in this tiny community were called

before village councils to account for their actions. Young people (60 per cent of the population) were encouraged to take part in the decision-making.

The success of this involvement was evident from the enthusiastic way that young people volunteered for such community projects as painting schools and digging ditches. We notice that few young people have been interviewed by the American "liberators"!

Our impression was that the Grenadian revolution was a genuinely popular one. The test of this was that people were not leaving the island but were returning from their exile under Gairy's dictatorship.

The American invasion has destroyed what we saw as the fundamental achievements of Bishop's government. The material achievements like the radio station, housing and hospital service have been bombed and we wonder what has happened to the feeling of excitement and pride in national independence which so impressed us everywhere in Grenada.

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