

EDITORIAL

The Rape Of Grenada

It was with deep revulsion and dismay that the world experienced the mighty US war machine pouncing on little Grenada in the Caribbean. All along since the March 1979 revolution which toppled the regime of the US puppet Sir Eric Gairy, US strategists were saying that Grenada posed a "threat" to the Caribbean and "US vital interests". These "vital interests" of the USA are everywhere it would seem. Plans for armed intervention in Grenada were duly drawn up, but kept in cold storage until the right time, and possibly until the right adventurer came into the White House. Reagan did what Carter did not do. He raped Grenada!

Besides upsetting the Caribbean as a whole, the US action (aided by 6 puppet regimes in the Region) has shattered the tenuous unity which existed in Caricom, and has all but wrecked that organisation. Today there is talk by the puppets of a "Caricom Two." Such a creature can only be a servile tool of US imperialism—to be used for similar interventions in the hemisphere, and should be opposed vehemently. It must not exist.

The Bishop government was the most dynamic and democratic in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and was rapidly and surely showing the way to socialist orientation in the area. It was becoming for Caricom the type of shining beacon that Cuba has been for Latin America since 1959 when Fidel Castro overthrew another US puppet, Fulgencio Batista. To this day, the USA has not reconciled itself to the loss of its Cuban flunkie, Batista, and has been extremely hostile to the Cuban revolutionary government headed by Castro.

It is difficult to see what "military threat" little Grenada posed to the mighty armed-to-the-teeth US imperialism. It is also spine-chilling to realise that in this day and age, the USA can get away scot-free with the invasion and rape of a sovereign country! How many countries therefore are safe? And which country is next on the hit list?

The US government, piqued over the international outcry at its criminal act, has announced its intention to draw up a list of names of states at the UN and elsewhere "which consistently criticise the USA". These vic-

tims of reprisals would not get aid it is supposed, and would also be subject to assorted pressures. The condemnatory vote at the UN General Assembly was a scathing indictment of US aggression. Out of 156 member states at that world body, those who were present voted 108 in favour and only 9 against the resolution.

The great progress revolutionary Grenada was making was generating serious fears in the capitals of Caricom, particularly those similar small states in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Grenada was demonstrating that even small states can move positively, energetically, and deliberately towards socialism, and can have a vibrant and sound economy... so sound that the World Bank issued a memorandum in 1982 in commendation of the achievements of the Grenada government.

The set-back of the Grenada revolution is a sad blow to the revolutionary movement in the Caribbean and the world at large. This is an experience which must be carefully analysed; and vigorous steps must be taken to see that there is no repetition anywhere. Imperialism thrives on disunity, and US imperialism is waiting to pounce again.

Progressive leaders everywhere in and out of government must learn a stern lesson from the rape of Grenada. Social revolutions should not be considered the personal property of national leaders, national parties, or nation states. This is not only un-Marxist, but is a flagrant violation of the principles of Proletarian Internationalism.

Internal squabbles can be pounced upon by imperialism (the ever vigilant CIA) to either drive a wedge in the echelons of power or launch a military adventure. There is a trite but true maxim: A house divided against itself cannot stand!

A social revolution (particularly a socialist revolution) in any nation state is a vital link in the chain of progressive nations and economies around the world, and signifies not only a steady weakening of imperialism/capitalism, but further positive changes in the balance of forces between the two opposing social systems. Imperialism will therefore try to smash this chain at its weakest link, which is why serious differences in ruling parties ought not to be brushed under the carpet, but must be me-

diated early and settled promptly before they escalate to disaster as in Grenada.

Reaction is now running amok in the Caribbean, riding a new wave of anti-communism, anti-Sovietism, and anti-Castroism. Having threatened Suriname and swallowed up Grenada, US imperialism is furiously gnashing its teeth at Nicaragua, and stepping up feverish military interference in El Salvador. More threats are being hurled at Cuba, fresh naval manoeuvres are taking place, and naval fleets are being reinforced in the hemisphere. Reaction in the Region is seeking to place the whole blame for the Grenada bloodshed on "communism" which they despise. They must not succeed.

Let the grim Grenada lesson be learnt by all progressive forces. Imperialism is ever watching, plotting and lurking furtively; waiting for a chance to pounce, restore the old order, and reverse the tide of history.