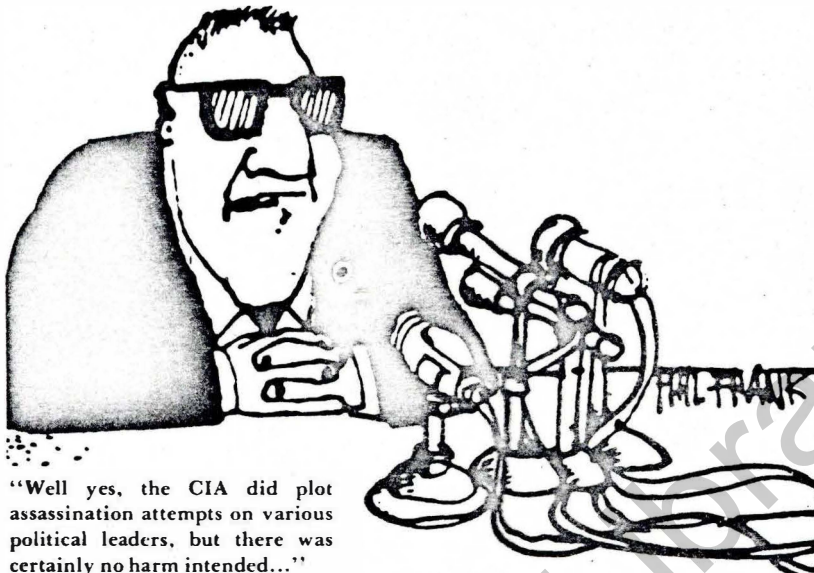


**CARIBBEAN UPDATE**

social life and the 85 years of U.S. colonial rule, the United States has failed in its attempts to eradicate the Puerto Rican people's loyalty and devotion to their country as a nation. The Puerto Rican people have a tradition of heroic struggle and are determined to fight for their independence. They deserve worldwide support in their struggle against an obsolete regime that hangs on solely by reason of U.S. imperialism.

**Case Two**

# How the CIA Prepared Grenada for invasion



"Well yes, the CIA did plot assassination attempts on various political leaders, but there was certainly no harm intended..."

By Chris Searle

IN MAY 1979, two months after the birth of the Grenada revolution, the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) discovered a 'pyramid' plan for CIA destabilization in Grenada, direct from a State Department source. At the bottom of the 'pyramid' was a plan to destabilize the young revolution by a hostile regional propaganda blitz through U.S.-backed radio stations and newspapers, targeting Grenada's tourist industry and the popular support for the revolution. This would be followed by the fomenting of arson and violence (two tourist installations had already been burnt), and if this failed to dislodge the revolution, a final move would be to assassinate the leadership. Thus a three-pronged attack of US destabilization was developed: military threat from outside, economic squeeze and isolation plus the fostering of internal disruption by disaffected elements directly bankrolled by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) of the USA.

Together with this State Department strategy, group of mercenaries began to organise counter-revolutionary initiatives within the US. Gairy, the corrupt premier deposed by the Revolution, was soon arranging a direct intervention with Frank Mabri, a notorious mercenary recruiter, and gangs of mercenaries were openly trained in Florida and Georgia, boasting of their intentions on US television. In April 1981, one Michael Perdue, a Ku Klux Klan protege and Gairy associate, was discovered to be organising a direct mercenary invasion of Grenada, using Dominica as a staging post.

**Invasion rehearsed**

This mercenary activity was complemented by US sabre-rattling on a huge scale, through a series of military manoeuvres in the Caribbean. 'Solid Shield 80' was followed by the direct dress rehearsal 'Ocean Venture 81' for an invasion of Grenada in August 1981, at Vieques Island off Puerto Rico - very similar in its geographical features to



**KINGSTON - Jamaica's snap election spurned:** Opposition parties in Jamaica boycotted a snap general election called at the end of last year by Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Mr Seaga, leader of the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), dissolved Parliament in November and called an election for 15th December 1983 - two years before his government was obliged to go to the country. But in protest at the lack of electoral preparation, neither



Manley Seaga Munroe

the official opposition People's National Party (PNP) led by Michael Manley, nor the minor Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), headed by Dr. Trevor Munroe, nominated candidates for the election, with the result that all 60 parliamentary seats went to the JLP.

The PNP strongly protested that Mr Seaga had broken an agreement reached in 1980, under which no election was to be called until up-to-date electoral lists had been finalised.

It is now widely speculated that Mr Seaga will be forced into another election within a year or so, by which time the new voter identification system should be in force.

**KAMPALA - Opposition party boycotts election in Uganda:** By-elections held in eight constituencies here late last year were boycotted by the opposition Democratic Party (DP).

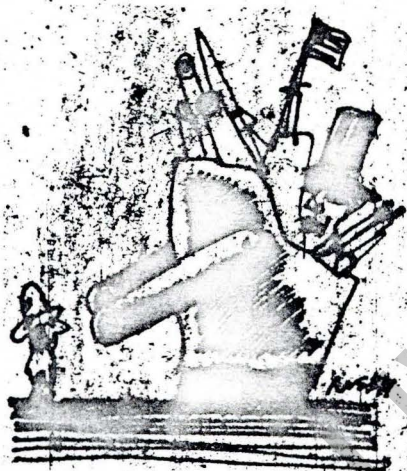
Among the reasons given by the DP for the boycott of the elections were insecurity and the electoral laws. They claimed that the security situation obtaining in all the eight constituencies was not conducive to holding elections, and that the electoral laws had not been amended to their satisfaction.

Westindian digest no 102 January 1984

Grenada.

The objective was to capture the phantom island state of 'Amber and the Amberines' (Grenada's full national name is 'Grenada and the Grenadines'), hold 'elections' and instal 'a government friendly to America'. The commander of the exercise, Rear Admiral McKenzie, at a Press Conference, declared that he considered Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua as 'one country' and 'Amber' was being attacked because it was 'exporting terrorist activities to the neighbouring islands'. 'Amber' is, in fact, an area of south western Grenada directly adjacent to the international airport site of Point Salines, where the US forces actually landed in October, 1983.

Further manoeuvres continued in November 1981 with 'Red X 183' and more recently during March 1983, when the fourth anniversary of the Revolution celebrations were disturbed by an invasion threat and the appearance of US warships just six miles off Point Salines.



**Internal dissension**

As the US armed forces demonstrated their military hardware all around the Caribbean Sea, the CIA were hard at work trying to foment internal dissension within Grenada. In November 1979 it was involved in alliance with elements of the local commercial class and ambitious marijuana traffickers in a plot led by a local police corporal, Wilton de Raveniere, to plunge the country into internal chaos in preparation for a mercenary invasion. Then on June 19th 1980 at a rally at Queen's Park, St. George's, three young women were killed and over 90 injured during a bomb blast intended to assassinate the revolutionary leadership. Again, CIA

The National Newspaper of Grenada, Carriacou & Petit Martinique

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**ATTACK WILL COME IN DAY OR WEEKS**

Be prepared, says PM

THE Grenada Revolution is in danger of physical attack over the next couple of days or

These counter-revolutionaries, based in Honduras, were airlifted

involvement was detected, and a particular stooge, Stanley Cyrus, one of imperialism's prime candidates for a neo-colonial role in Grenada, broadcast over the CIA-controlled Radio Antilles, praising the murderers as 'heroes'.

United States interests within the Caribbean trade union movement were kept alive by those trade union officials who had been trained by the American Institute for Free Labour Development (A.I.F.L.D.). Such elements held key positions in some Grenada trade unions, and although some ran back to their godfathers after the Revolution, others stayed to be a source of destabilization to the workers' movement which was being revitalised and democratised after the quarter-century of Gairy's ugly grip. Gairy himself had been president of the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers' Union.

The AIFLD graduates, however, soon revealed their loyalties. One such element within the leadership of the Technical and Allied Workers' Union was desperately trying to incite his members to cut off the electric current at the power station during the De Raveniere plot, and another, who was actually *salaried* by the AIFLD via the Caribbean Congress of Labour, busily tried to foment dissatisfaction at the docks when shiploads of free Cuban cement arrived shortly after the Revolution. Other backward officers of the Public Workers Union tried to engineer a sick-out in March 1981 to coincide with the Second Anniversary of the Revolution, but this faded away with pressure from the rank and file of the union and the people themselves.

**Counter-revolution**

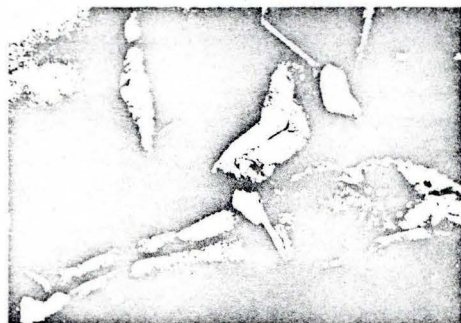
Simultaneously, the CIA were

industriously trying to set up a counter revolutionary newspaper, the 'Grenadian Voice' sponsored by elements of the Grenadian plantocracy, the commercial class and the AIFLD stooges. The paper was shut down by the government, understanding the destabilization role of 'El Mercurio' in Allende's Chile and the 'Daily Gleaner' in Manley's Jamaica, in the midst of mass anger against those who were responsible for its publication.

Internationally, the US campaigned to isolate Grenada diplomatically and economically. There was no recognition or security given to Grenadian diplomats in the US and a continuous snubbing of Grenada by US diplomats in the Caribbean. The immigration authorities in Barbados harassed Grenadian government ministers as they passed through Grantley Adams International Airport, and Grenadian nationals were insulted and provoked as they tried to enter the US or pass through Barbados. Propaganda destabilization, organized directly through the United States International Communications Agency, (U.S.I.C.A.), the propaganda arm of the CIA plumbed unprecedented depths in relation to the Grenada Revolution.

**Press campaign**

In May 1981 there was the extraordinary spectacle of the convening of a Washington Conference, to which were invited the editors of all the major Caribbean newspapers: the 'Gleaner' of Jamaica, the 'Express' and 'Guardian' of Trinidad and the 'Nation' and 'Sun' of Barbados. The objective of the



Carnage caused by 1980 bomb blast in St. Georges

CARIBBEAN UPDATE



conference was to discuss the situation in the Caribbean, with 'How to deal with Grenada' as an unlisted item on the agenda.

The conference was followed a few days after, by the appearance of identical front-page editorials attacking the Grenada Revolution in all these newspapers. As the Barbadian novelist George Lamming declared at the time: 'These national newspapers are not concerned with human rights or even press freedom. Their assignment is to destroy, by any means possible, the Government of Grenada'.

Radio stations like Radio Antilles joined in the slander, at one point announcing that a whole regiment of dead Grenadian soldiers, killed in El Salvador, were piled in a Cuban boat anchored off St. George's harbour! Other extraordinary stories about Russian MIGs, nuclear submarine bases and missile launchers perched on Grenada's highest ridges, and of course, the entire apocrypha surrounding the Port Salines airport, appeared in international journals like *Time*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Times* of London and the *Daily Telegraph*.

Thus had the U.S. government employed a spectrum of destabilization methods against the Grenada Revolution from March 1979 to October 1983. But through the unity of the people and the benefits they gained, their determined militia, the Revolution's emphasis upon political education, direct people's democracy and mass mobilization, through the diplomatic victories and the gradual disengagement of the Grenadian

economy from the imperialist economic stranglehold - it could not break through and turn back the advance of the people. As Maurice Bishop declared in words which were to become watchwords for the people: 'A united, conscious, organized, vigilant people can never be defeated'.

**Military intervention**

But with all its varied and demonic ingenuity, imperialist destabilization had never abandoned the option of outright military intervention. It only waited for a pretext, an opportunity, a breach in the armour of unity through which it could force its machine of disgust and death. That opportunity came in Grenada through the events and divisions of October '83, and it was not missed, giving to the struggling people of the world perhaps the most terrible lesson of our times.

Now, as the Grenada Revolution still survives and struggles in the physical and ideological resistance still boiling in the bodies and minds of the Grenadian people, and in the institutions that the Revolution built and succoured, it is the responsibility of all progressive people everywhere to call loud and clear and mobilise all our democratic strength to insist that all foreign forces leave Grenada, to refuse to acknowledge any imposed government, and to guarantee the safety and security of all Grenadian militants and New Jewel Movement party members. The Grenada Revolution lives on: its profound influence can never be reversed in the determination of the Caribbean people to achieve true freedom and independence. - CS.

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