

P HT1501-R32

# COMMENT



By John La Rose

## The October Insurrection in Grenada

On October 19, 1983, 20,000 Grenadians took to the streets of St George's, their capital, in defiance of the decisions and dictates of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement.

In spite of his resignation in 1982, and especially from the time of the crisis meetings they had initiated in August 1983, both the Central Committee and the Politburo were manipulated and dominated by Bernard Coard and his OREL (Organisation for Revolutionary Education and Liberation) cadres. They were assisted and reinforced in their control of strategic areas of Grenadian society — the economy and propaganda services — by cadres of the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) led by Trevor Munroe, its General Secretary.

Their general political and organisational perspectives, for Grenada and the rest of the Caribbean, were hammered out in highly secret meetings of Caribbean political groupings — from Jamaica to Guyana — held in Grenada. In these meetings Trevor Munroe was one of the central figures, if not the central figure, and Coard, not Maurice Bishop, was the main representative of their Stalinist political line in Grenada.

Representatives of some of these groupings were present in Grenada during the internal crisis and the struggle for power to determine the direction of the revolutionary process. They came down on the side of Bernard Coard — OREL. From Trinidad to Jamaica they came out openly on the side of Coard-OREL after October 19, when the masses of youth, workers, peasants and unemployed took to the streets in their thousands and released Maurice

Bishop and put their independent stamp on the revolutionary process.

An important plank in their thesis was, and still is, that Maurice Bishop violated the principle of democratic centralism in the NJM, that he began to plot against the decisions of the Central Committee and he, Maurice Bishop, had to be expelled from the NJM and had to be arrested.

They now rightly attack the US invasion and occupation of Grenada on October 25, and the trial of the 19 leaders of the internal counter revolution in St Georges, but say nothing about the execution of Maurice Bishop and other martyrs of the Grenadian revolution, who died at the hands of the Coard-OREL faction of the NJM. They say little or nothing about the violent suppression of the October 19 Insurrection and the Coard-OREL terror which was imposed on the Grenadian people. Nothing about the 100 estimated dead and the wounded. Nothing about how this Stalinist faction covered up their tracks by destroying the evidence of their actions by refusing to give up the bodies of the dead to their relatives who requested them. The dead just disappeared.

But this US invasion and occupation on October 25 aborted the process by which the workers, peasants, youth and unemployed, on the move from October 19, would have defeated the Coard-OREL counter-revolution and set the revolution on the road to workers, peasants and peoples power in the transition to socialism. And it would have set the people in the Caribbean aflame against their oppressors. From all the evidence available the Revolutionary Military Council may have held power for weeks, but not for months.

The crisis and the violent manner of its solution was the logical outcome of the Stalinist politics and organisational method which prevailed. Some people in Grenada referred with insight to a possible bloody confrontation and outcome between the factions as happened in Afghanistan leading to the Babrak Karmal regime.

Grenada was, in Coard's words, in the stage of the national democratic

revolution. This thesis failed to note that the process of the national democratic revolution had begun in the Caribbean with the challenge to the plantation capitalist society based on sugar from the workers and popular insurrections in 1935-1938. The insurrections had brought about the structural crisis and progressive demise of the historic sugar plantation society. Britain's entry into the Common Market wrote the death certificate.

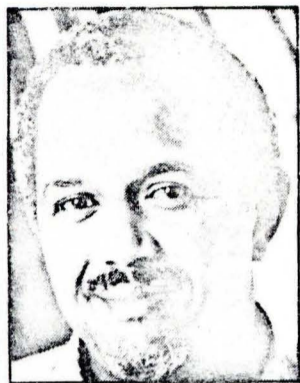
The economic basis for this change was the rapid post-1945 penetration of US capital through the implantation and expansion of bauxite, of oil exploration, production and refining, textiles, tourism and import-substitution assembly industries. Its political expression was the bourgeois democratic constitutional order with universal adult suffrage votes for all over 21, under the control of conservative, middle class, petty bourgeois nationalists who were later given political independence.

I indicated in an interview with *Race Today* December 1976/January 1977 how Jamaica under Michael Manley showed the political impasse in which this radical petty bourgeois expression in politics found themselves.

The role of the revolutionary section of the petty bourgeoisie in the Grenadian revolutionary process undermined and halted the historic movement for workers, peasants and peoples power in the transition to socialism. They believed that the workers and peasants needed their tutoring for power, were unprepared in spite of their historic movement from 1935 to 1970. They could not make the transition to workers power.

That is a critical lesson of the October insurrection in Grenada.

Race



# COMMENT

By John La Rose

## Organising the Revolutionary Workers Peasants and Peoples Power: The Failure in Grenada

The revolutionary seizure of power in Grenada on March 13, 1979 is and will remain an important landmark in the history of the Caribbean. So too the defeat of the Grenada revolution in early October 1983, almost five years later; first by the internal counter revolution led by Bernard and Phyllis Coard and OREL (Organisation for Revolutionary Education and Liberation) and then by the massive United States invasion on Tuesday October 25, backed by Caribbean governments led by Barbados, Jamaica and Dominica.

Grenada is not the first place in this century, following on from the October Revolution in Russia in 1917, that revolutionary power has been seized, then could not be consolidated, and was lost.

The liberating waves of the October Revolution in Russia in 1917 rippled out to other countries and inspired revolutionary uprisings and the formation of soviets in Bavaria, Germany and Hungary in 1919, but power was not held for very long. The power lasted for months, not years as in Grenada.

And now, we are being reminded once again – in Nicaragua, Angola and Mozambique – that even after long painful wars for national and social liberation leading to the revolutionary conquest of state power, popular revolutions are still faced by the power of external intervention as in 1917. In this case, in 1984, it is the United States and South Africa giving aid and support to the classes and groupings which have been routed and dispossessed. Both countries representing the continuing political, economic and military strength of capitalism in the world economy.

These are the hard realities to be faced in the protracted struggle for workers,

peasants and peoples power in the Caribbean and Central America, and in Africa, and for workers and peoples power in Europe.

The rise of the workers and peasants movements in the Caribbean after 1917 led, during the severe capitalist crisis of the 1930s, to the general strikes and insurrections which blazed across the Anglophone Caribbean from 1935-1938. The most threatening were in Trinidad 1937 and Jamaica 1938.

This compelled the British colonial regime to concede political power not to the working class but to a carefully nurtured middle class – African, Indian and European – in various constitutional negotiations leading to political independence in the 1960s and 1970s. The function of this middle class was to preserve the economic basis of the society, while advancing its own interests within the system.

This constitutional assimilation into the process of foreign economic domination was challenged head on and fractured for the first time in Trinidad 1970. A popular movement of the unemployed, the urban poor, joined later by the workers – embracing the African section of the working class which later applied to the Indian section of the workers and peasantry, confronted the African middle class regime led by Eric Williams in a mass struggle for power. It was a popular uprising backed by a section of the army formed after independence in 1962.

The state power crumbled. The world service of the BBC reported that the government had fallen. I heard this news item myself. Eric Williams and his cabinet were in flight by helicopter to the local airport and abroad. But humpty dumpty was put together again by the intervention from US, Britain and Venezuela whose

warships went into action in the area; by the random action of the Trinidad coast guard shooting from the sea to cut off the revolutionary soldiers in Chaguaramas – the Coast Guard boat itself having been spared because the soldiers thought George Weekes, the revolutionary workers and trade union leader, and others were on board; and by the internal weakness of the popular movement. The February Insurrection was beaten back and collapsed.

The main movements which have been challenging for power in Trinidad, (the radical and revolutionary section of the United Labour Front now Caribbean Labour Solidarity [Preparatory]), Grenada (the New Jewel Movement) and Guyana (Working Peoples Alliance) have all been formed since Trinidad 1970. These have all been part of the post-1970 politics, when the constitutionalist mould of Caribbean politics was broken pushing the workers, unemployed, urban poor, peasants and peoples movement into a new historical phase: the revolutionary struggle for workers, peasants and peoples power.

This process was on the agenda since Trinidad, February 1970 and was brought to a conclusion in Grenada, March 1979. But what cannot be avoided after the October 1983 Grenada Counter Revolution and the formation of the Revolutionary Military Council is how that power will be organised. Is it to be the party, the revolutionary organisation OR the mass? Is it to be the party substituting itself for the mass of the workers, peasants, poor and unemployed? Or is it to be the party, the revolutionary organisation *and* the mass, democratically organised in their communities and work places exercising, controlling and defending the new state power, demolishing the old oppressive neo-colonial state – army, police, civil service, legislature – through 'Assemblies of the People', in whatever form in the workplaces and in the communities.

After the Grenada counter revolution the discussion of this question cannot be postponed or evaded. It cannot be evaded only by condemning the external counter revolution launched by the United States

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invasion on October 25; and avoiding the internal counter revolutionary barbarism of the Revolutionary Military Council led by the Coards, Austin and Cornwall which brought about the death of Maurice Bishop and the masses of Grenadian people and suppression of the insurrection on October 19.

In the entire crisis from August to October 1983 the masses of Grenadians could not and did not intervene. They were not involved until Maurice Bishop their mass leader and Prime Minister was arrested. And after this only in a futile effort to convince them that Bernard Coard was the new Prime Minister. They had no way of intervening through the toothless parish and zonal councils. Even less through the Central Committee of only 13 members. The entire membership of the NJM met in September. In a country in which the mass struggles against Gairy had seen demonstrations of 20,000 people in a population of just over 100,000; and massive demonstrations of popular support for the Peoples Revolutionary Government after March 13 1979, there was an entire membership of less than 200 in the New Jewel Movement.

We know now there were only about 48 full members of the NJM. The rest were candidate members, applicant and

pre-applicant members. The Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard Coard, had resigned from the Central Committee in mid-1982 but remained in his post as a minister. The masses of Grenadians had no idea of this and no information on the crisis as it emerged. From the captured minutes of the Central Committee released by the US intelligence services abroad, from the revelations of George Louison, Don Rojas, Kenrick Radix, Fidel Castro in *Intercontinental Press*, we also know that the army, the militia, the civil service, the propaganda services, the party, the main levers of power were controlled not by the NJM as such, but by an OREL – WPJ (Workers Party of Jamaica) faction within the NJM. All this behind the backs of the masses of the Grenadian people who knew and trusted the leaders who had brought them through the fire of the Mongoose Gang and through Gairy from 1973 and 1974 whom they saw at the helm from 1979.

And when the crisis came with the open transfer of power by force to the Coards and OREL in October 1983, the masses refused to accept it and in the course of the insurrection were confronted by the power of the counter revolution – the Coards, Austin, Cornwall, the OREL – WPJ, who were manipulating the state power.

In an address to the 43rd Congress of the powerful Oilfields Workers Trade Union in Trinidad in November 1980 entitled: 'The Struggle for Workers Power from the Caribbean to Poland', I said:

1. the Asamblea Nacional Popular (the national peoples assembly) gathered in a square with a million people who cannot discuss, debate and take decisions is *not* workers power.
2. the massive mass popular meetings addressed by the leaders is *not* workers power.

It is the workers, peasants, the unemployed and the poor at the work places and communities democratically organised to promote and defend their interests against their enemies through the Movement of Assemblies of the People from the bottom to the top.

In Maurice Bishop's interview with *Race Today* in May 1974 which was reprinted in *Race Today* February/March 1979 he focussed on this question of workers and peoples power:

We envisage a system which would have village assemblies and workers' assemblies.

In other words, politics where you live and politics where you work. The village assemblies would in turn elect parish assemblies and the village assemblies would also elect representatives to a National Assembly.

The National Assembly would be the government of the country. But the National Assembly would appoint or elect from its own members a National Assembly Council which would in effect be the present Cabinet you have.

This is what Maurice Bishop and the Grenadian Revolution failed to do and a heavy price was paid for that failure.

## Books

# The Grenada Debate

### Grenada – Whose Freedom?

Published by Latin American Bureau, London

### Grenada – Revolution, Invasion & Aftermath

by Hugh O'Shaughnessy  
Published by Sphere Books

### US Invades Grenada – Nicaragua Next?

Published by Covert Action Information Bulletin, No. 20, Winter 1984

### Reviewed by Gus John

The central and unavoidable issue posed by the revolution in Grenada from the seizure of power on 13 March 1979, to the illegal and murderous occupation and recolonisation of that island by the United States on 25 October 1983, is

the relationship between the people, the vanguard party and the state. How do these three publications, significant additions to all that has been written on the issue so far, assist our understanding of the issues I have outlined?

Latin America Bureau is an independent organisation committed to research and the raising of public awareness on social, economic and political issues in Latin America. United States imperialism in the Caribbean has been very much on the agenda of this organisation long before the events of 1983.

In *Grenada – whose freedom?* they offer an appraisal of the Grenadian revolution. The book provides a chronology of major political events from Gairy's return to Grenada in 1950 up to the formation of the interim administration under the watchful eye of the US State Department's 'colonial governor', Charles Gillespie, in November 1983.

The main body of the book gives an analysis of the New Jewel Movement's (NJM) rise to political prominence, their seizure of power, the revolutionary process up to the invasion and the aftermath of the invasion.

Bernard Coard and the Organisation for Revolutionary Education and Liberation (OREL) are assessed in terms of their constitution to the political

and ideological development of the NJM, and the Marxist-Leninist perspective of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). Coard and OREL are presented as ensuring that the popular nationalist politics of the NJM and of Bishop was transformed into a Marxist-Leninist approach as befitted a socialist revolution.

The party is depicted here as the force behind the revolution, that which made the revolution, and which was charged with the responsibility of directing the revolutionary process. Coard is credited for his transformation of the Grenadian economy through his shrewdly introduced 'measured reforms and progressive disengagement from the major capitalist economies'.

The writers argue that 'under the PRG the government of Grenada was not strictly "constitutional";' but that it nevertheless enjoyed popular support. Party support groups were transformed into mass organisations who worked in parallel with the state machine. This allowed for 'continuous direct democracy' and 'for the people to have a close dialogue with the leaders and scrutinise major pieces of legislation'.

But the writers also make a strange observation in terms of the continuous nature of that 'direct democracy'. By 1983, there was some evidence that

levels of commitment and participation had fallen off somewhat. As the initial impetus of the 1979 revolution waned, the changes it had wrought became 'normal', and expectations were toned down by economic difficulties and external pressure. However, this quite predictable development was of a *social* rather than *political* character. While it posed problems for the PRG, it also reflected the regime's success in establishing itself as the norm rather than an exciting aberration.' (my emphasis)

From then on, apart from stating that Bishop, not surprisingly, had proposed to institutionalise the local councils as part of the country's government, we hear very little more about the people of Grenada and a good deal about the party, its attempts to make the state fully subordinate to it, and the relative strengths of Coard and Bishop as revolutionaries.

The book, basically, supports the Coardist position while bemoaning the fact that 'the political error' of Bishop's assassination gave the green light for the US invasion. The Coardists are in effect exonerated because the happenings on Fort Rupert are explained partly by Bishop's own wrongdoings, as told by OREL, and partly by some almost inevitable CIA involvement: 'It seems certain that, having been released with remarkable ease as a result of the action of a large crowd of people, the Prime Minister decided to mount resistance to the Central Committee.'

Significantly, even as he stared death in the face and, as the proverbial lamb, was already in the slaughterhouse of the Stalinists who now constituted the Central Committee, Bishop was expected by the writers of this book to abide by 'democratic centralism'. The authors are mealy-mouthed, and lack the courage to state categorically that they are for the Stalinist left in the Caribbean, and simply regret that things went awry for Coard and OREL.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy, on the other hand, has produced the result of a credible journalistic scoop. *Grenada - Revolution, Invasion & Aftermath* provides a good, detailed and factual account of the invasion and its local and international aftermath, with a much needed historical profile of Grenada up to and including twenty eight years of Gairyism. The book charts the historical struggles of the Grenadian people for self-determination, what the revolution promised, how the revolutionary process was orchestrated, and the internal and external factors which led to the betrayal of the revolution and the worst massacre in post-colonial Caribbean history.

The Reagan government's efforts, military, diplomatic and clandestine,

in the pursuit of US annexation of Grenada and of the six OECS countries, are given close scrutiny. The book provides a comprehensive account of the US invasion and of the involvement of the Caribbean states in that act.

Covert Information Bulletin, Number 20, devotes 24 pages to an analysis of US intelligence operations in and around Grenada since March 1979. Their thesis, in a nutshell, is that the US was always poised to invade Grenada, had rehearsed an invasion at least twice, had exploited the paranoia of Grenada's neighbours about a Marxist-Leninist symbol on their doorstep which they could not allow to succeed, and had decided to invade at least two weeks before Bishop had been placed under house arrest.

The internal divisions within the NJM and the PRG were used by the CIA to penetrate the government, and the events of October 1983 were the direct result of such penetration. Having got the bit between their teeth, the theory of CIA conspiracy is taken to absurd lengths by the authors; so much so, that they succeed in making the Grenadian people look like a population of mindless, a-political sheep being

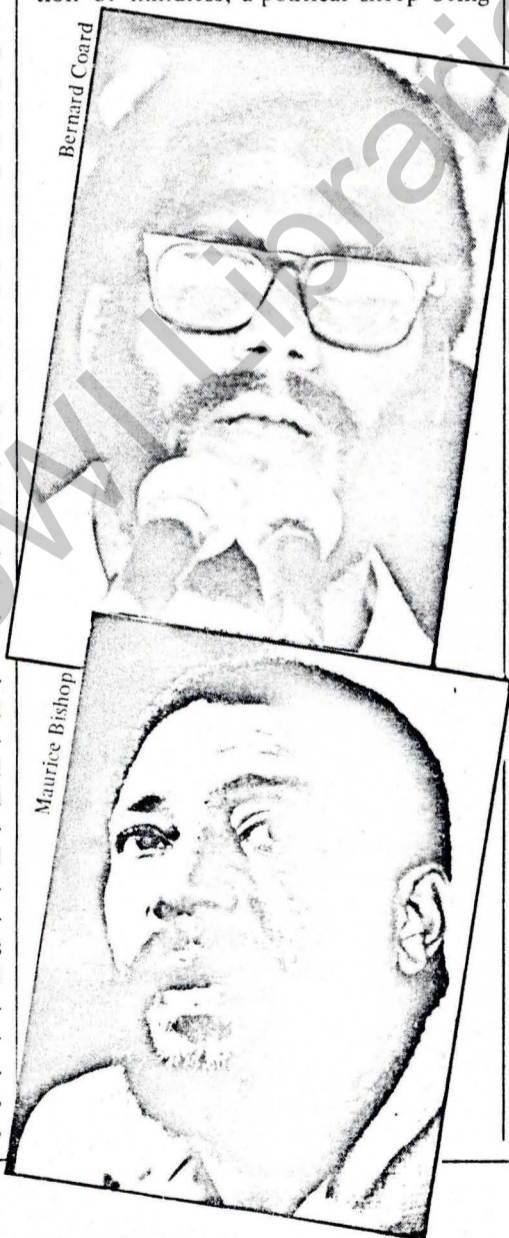
led to a massacre by the CIA.

All three publications, especially those of Latin America Bureau and Covert Action Bulletin, fail to understand the true significance of 13 March and 19 October and what went on in between. When Latin America Bureau says that 'under the PRG the government of Grenada was not strictly constitutional' they are using the very criteria they condemn to judge the legitimacy of the Bishop regime.

The hard fact is, however, that the NJM seized power in 1979 and the overwhelming majority of the population endorsed that revolutionary act. Not one person took to the streets in opposition. No anti-government or anti-NJM marches were organised. On the contrary, the masses came out in droves at week-ends to involve themselves in the building of the new Grenada. By 1981, that mass support could no longer be counted upon. The reasons for that were as political as were the reasons for the people's disaffection from the mass organisations and the party. The state apparatus, controlled and managed by the party, was running the show and the people were treated not unlike the population in any bourgeois state. Yet the government remained 'constitutional'. The people grumbled here and there, but they still wanted their revolutionary leadership. They did not take to the streets clamouring for the US, Britain or Moscow. Therein lay the government's constitutionality.

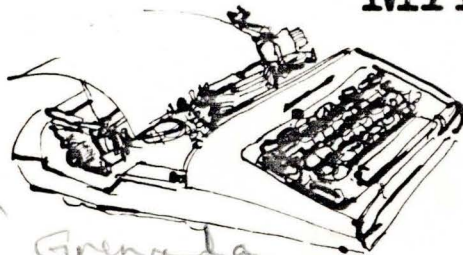
But what the people bestow, their collective will at any one political moment could also remove. Unlike March 1979, on 19 October 1983, 25,000 people, one quarter of the population, took to the streets and for a few fleeting moments had made the revolution. It was not the NJM party's, nor Bishop's, nor Coard's; it was the people's revolution. They may well have put Bishop in charge of it and dealt with the Stalinists but for the assassinations. Despite the massacre, they would have dealt sooner rather than later with OREL and the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC), but for Reagan's war, and taken the revolution to a higher stage.

To miss that point and to relegate the Grenada masses to the status of politically inert followers of Bishop or of Coard, and particularly of the CIA, is to insult the revolutionary spirit of the Grenada workers and peasantry and to deny them their place in history. That revolutionary spirit will ensure that with or without vanguard parties or Marxist-Leninist ideologies, the workers and peasants of Grenada will tolerate US colonialist rule only for so long, and will surely take power back into their own hands.



# WITHOUT MALICE

by  
Leila Hassan



Grenada

## WHICHEVER WAY THE WIND BLOWS

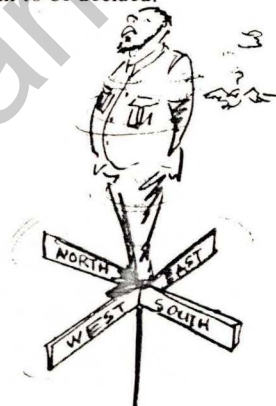
The news that Fennis Augustine, ex High Commissioner for Grenada, has formed 'The New Social Democratic Party' to contest elections in Grenada has led some to ask in disbelief, has Fennis finally stated what he stands for? A cursory glance at Fennis' political history easily leads one to the adage 'whichever way the wind blows.'

In the late '60's as a student barrister he was a raging 'revolutionary' member of Black Ram, the Black Radical Action Movement. A qualified barrister in the early '70s, he joined the radical Black Parents Movement and left on a nationalist anti-white position. He then joined the New Jewel Movement in Britain and was appointed High Commissioner for Grenada when the NJM seized power. He served the PRG faithfully mouthing the necessary Marxist Leninist clichés in praise of the regime and the leadership of Maurice Bishop.

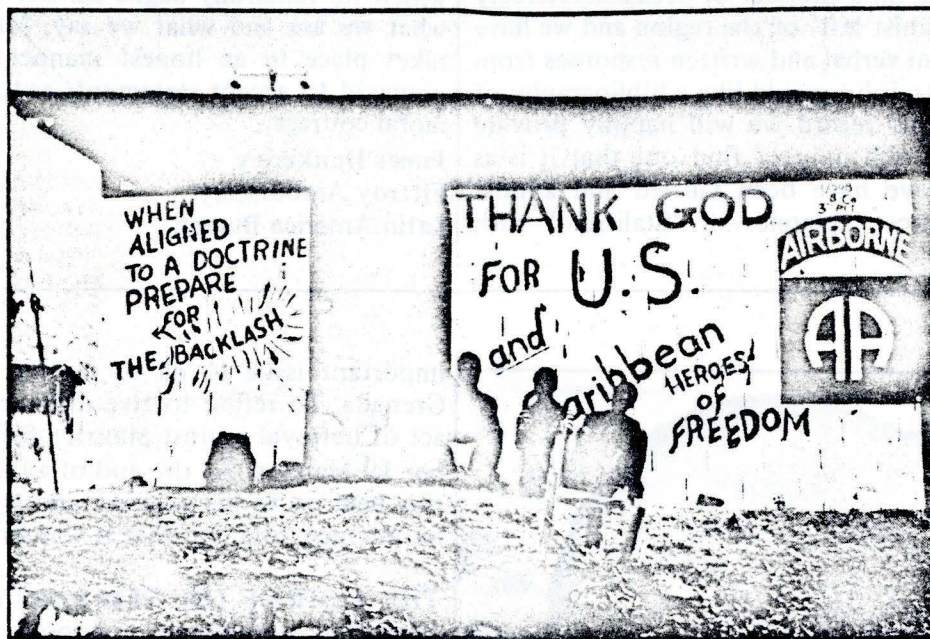
When news of Bishop's arrest and detention reached Britain, Augustine was deaf to the pleas of fellow Grenadians and others to resign, thereby taking a position against Coard. In fact no one knew where he stood in the crisis. With the subsequent murder of Bishop, Whiteman, Bain, Creft, Noel and he refused to denounce the murderers referring to them as 'unfortunate'. He offered to serve the Coard regime and was turned down. Coard etc told him that they had their own man.

After his expulsion as High Commissioner speculation was rife as to what he would do - retirement into barristerhood was the favourite position. But Fennis' ambition it seems knows no bounds. When the Coards were arrested and charged with murder and kidnapping he asked Anthony Gifford, a leading radical barrister, to represent them thereby insuring his position in case Coardism prevailed. He then returned to Grenada and joined the rem-

nants of the NJM as part of the Maurice Bishop Memorial Foundation. When members of this foundation, Radix and Louison took the decision to form the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, Fennis decided to cut and run. His excuse? The past had to be forgotten and an organisation incorporating the name of Maurice Bishop invokes for the ex High Commissioner a disastrous unappealing past. And after all the fate of the Coards has still to be decided.



It will be interesting to see the Grenada SDP's manifesto. We may even get an answer to the burning question. What does Fennis Augustine actually believe?



# The Grenada Debate

The following article is a response to Gus John's article on Grenada published in the July/August 1984 issue of *Race Today*. We welcome further contributions to this debate.

We are writing in response to Gus John's review of *Grenada: Whose Crisis?*, published by us earlier this year. Like any organisation working on Latin America and the Caribbean, our work receives its fair share of criticism, which we accept in good spirit and in the knowledge that to open and engage in debates is the only way forward in combatting injustice, racism and imperialism. We may often be incorrect but we are neither precious nor sectarian. However, we must object to Gus John's review of this book, not because he attacks our opinions and interpretations but precisely because he attacks ones that we neither hold nor presented in the text and which cannot be imputed to us except by dint of wilful misinterpretation, which does your readership a great disservice. This is not the place to rehearse the debate over the tragedy of Grenada in great detail, but several salient points do require immediate response.

John says, 'The book, basically, supports the Coardist position while bemoaning the fact that the 'political error' of Bishop's assassination gave the green light for the US invasion'. Earlier he strongly implies that the text supports the line of Coard's OREL group.

What, in fact, do we say? That, under Coard's guidance, 'the NJM came increasingly to develop an understanding and internal application of Marxism that was hierarchical, schoolbookish and narrowly centred on the power of the state.' (p.57) Later on we make a number of precise and sharp observations and criticisms of Coard's group and its activities well before the final debacle. We call Coard's and Austin's RMC 'a militaristic rump of both the PRG and the NJM, a . . . dictatorial regime' (p.54) Hardly glowing praise from supposed fellow-travellers.

John employs the worst kind of journalistic sleight of hand to impute to us a scandalously off-hand and

immoral attitude to Maurice Bishop's assassination as simply 'a political error'. What, in fact, did we say? That 'the assassination of Maurice Bishop and a number of his comrades was not just a political error of enormous proportions or a grossly misconceived application of 'leninism'; it served to bring the whole revolutionary process to an abrupt and bloody end.' (p.55) In short, we say, as any unbiased reader can perceive, that this was an event of historic proportion; a crime in a whole number of ways.

Nothing that happened at Fort Rupert is 'exonerated' by us, as John would have your readers believe. Nor do we identify any 'wrongdoings' on the part of Maurice Bishop. We simply endeavoured to present the circumstances under which this awful act came to pass in as balanced and objective terms as we could manage. Perhaps Mr John would be so good as to indicate where, precisely and with textual reference, we favour Coard's morality over that of Maurice Bishop? Perhaps he could also indicate where we have relied on OREL sources (presumably he means the Central Committee minutes) without referring to the alternative version provided by the Prime Minister's supporters, most notably George Louison, with whom we had an extended and detailed discussion within ten days of Bishop's death.

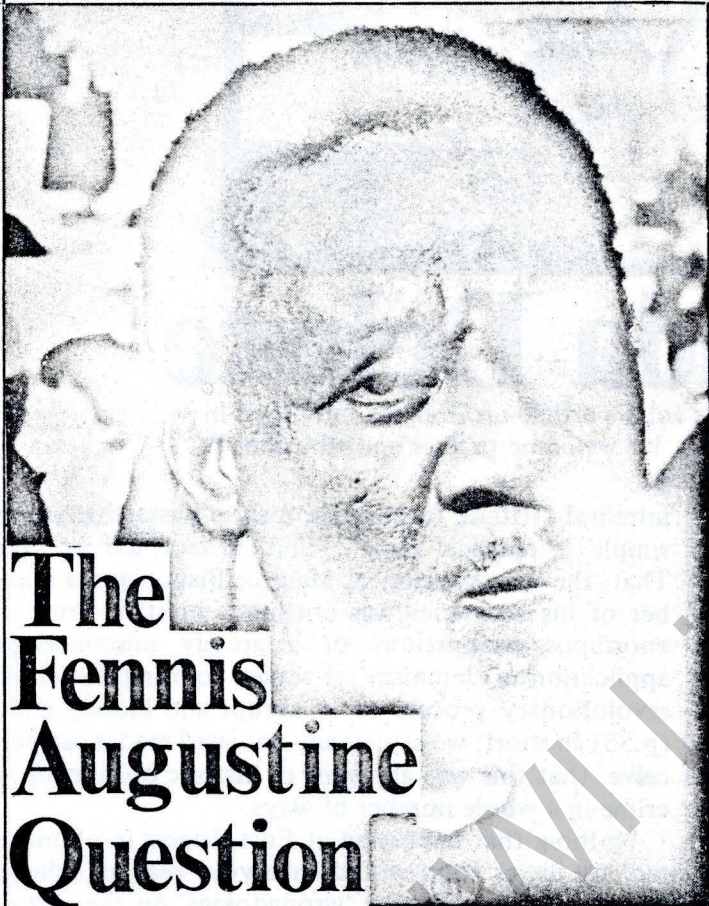
Finally, John states, 'The authors are mealy-mouthed and lack the courage to state categorically that they are for the Stalinist left in the Caribbean and simply regret that things went awry for Coard and OREL.' This extraordinary and cowardly statement has absolutely no basis in fact and certainly cannot be conjured up out of the booklet which LAB produced precisely to contribute to a debate and not to proselytise on one side or another with blanket denunciations. The authors, both separately

and together, have on a number of occasions fiercely attacked the 'Stalinist left' of the region and we have received more than verbal and written responses from that current. If Mr John would like a bibliography of our writings in this regard we will happily provide him with one; he will quickly find out that it is as 'trotskyists' that we have been vilified and almost exclusively by those epigones of 'Stalinism' with

which he fancifully aligns us. Let us be attacked for what we are and what we say, Mr John. When this takes place in an honest manner we will be quite prepared to accept statements as to the nature of our moral courage.

James Dunkerley  
Fitzroy Amburseley  
Latin America Bureau

Guardian



# The Fennis Augustine Question

It has become necessary for the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement to let the Grenadian people know the facts of the Fennis Augustine matter.

In November 1983, the main survivors of the October massacre, George Louison, Kendrick Radix, Lyden Ramdhanny and Einstein Louison called Fennis Augustine back to Grenada to discuss the way forward. They told Augustine of their plans to launch the Maurice Bishop Foundation by January and to gradually rebuild the party. The group asked Augustine to return to Grenada to join the struggle to rebuild Grenada, given the fact that there were few people to carry out this major task. Augustine agreed and came home in February.

Soon after Augustine arrived in Grenada, differences began to appear on fundamental issues.

## THE TRIAL OF THE COARD CLIQUE

George Louison was asked to give evidence against the Coard clique early in May. Everyone in the group except Augustine agreed that he should give evidence. The group pointed out that the trial and conviction of the Coard clique was a most fundamental and

important issue to all of us and to the people of Grenada. To refuse to give evidence would be a great act of betrayal against Maurice Bishop and the October 19 Martyrs. At the end of all discussions, Augustine held on to his position and would only say that his instincts told him that it was wrong.

## THE NAME OF THE NEW PARTY

Augustine completely opposed Maurice Bishop's name being part of the name of the new party.

The Group argued that Bishop was the greatest leader our people have ever known. He gave his life to save our people and his ideas still remain the main basis for building our country. Bishop must be the rock upon which we will build our political future. It was further pointed out that in many countries of the world, parties are named after great leaders like Augustino Sandino in Nicaragua and Farabundo Marti in El Salvador. Even religions name their denominations after great leaders.

Augustine never accepted these arguments and withdrew from the group. Interestingly, he never suggested a different name at any of the meetings.

## THE PARTY MANIFESTO

Augustine said that he did not agree with certain things in the party's manifesto. When asked, the only one he pointed to was Parish Councils and the whole popular democratic structure. The group was shocked that anyone could oppose what is the heart and soul of peoples' participation in the revolution. This meant that while Augustine worked with the revolution, he was in disagreement with the main core of its programme.

The rumour which surfaced saying Augustine was tipped to lead the party is not short of a piece of wild speculation. This was discussed at no stage and so did not originate from leaders of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

The facts of the Augustine case are clear. Anyone who examines it would see that his withdrawal comes at the best time possible and prevents another problem within our ranks. All of his actions have been contrary to respect for the spirit, life and works of Maurice Bishop and the heroes and martyrs of our people.

We will rebuild holding high the banner of Maurice Bishop. Bishop is the champion of the Grenadian peoples' struggle. He is the most fitting symbol to give new life, energy and direction to our peoples political renewal.

**LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF MAURICE BISHOP  
AND THE OCTOBER 19TH MARTYRS!**

Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement 6 June 1984.

# US Threatens Grenada

Extract from Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's Radio Address to the people of Grenada on Wednesday 23 March, 1983.



Maurice Bishop addressing a public meeting held at London's Kensington Town Hall on Saturday 16 April 1983, on the growing threat posed by American military aggression in the Caribbean and Central America

We now have concrete intelligence information which confirms the view that the revolution will be faced with military aggression from imperialism. With the attack against Nicaragua, the dangers facing us are more real and urgent.

For some time now, our intelligence services have been gathering information on counter-revolutionary groups who have publicly declared their intention to overthrow revolutionary governments in the region. What we have discovered as a result are the following facts:

That the key counter-revolutionaries have been meeting more frequently in recent times.

That several of these corrupt, opportunist and reactionary elements who aspire to grab power have begun to resolve their leadership differences with the aim of creating a more united counter-revolutionary front.

That their co-ordination with the CIA has stepped up.

That they have received direct assistance from the CIA in the form of money, arms and training and have also received offers of transportation, logistical support and supplies and an undertaking that immediately on launching the attack their declared counter-revolutionary government will receive recognition.

We have been able to discover the name and full background of main CIA case officer responsible for co-ordinating the present plot. We know his name, where he worked before, his previous activities and which other revolutionary processes he has attempted to subvert in recent times.

Another CIA case officer involved in this operation is known to have been involved in directing and masterminding the operation to assassinate the leadership that resulted in the fatal June 19, 1980 bomb blast.

These elements have established direct links with the Cuban exile group which was responsible for the Air Cubana disaster and with Somocista counter-revolutionary elements who are right now involved in the invasion of Nicaragua.

With the assistance of the CIA, these elements have been able to get some of the criminal elements they hope to use in the invasion of our country — trained in Miami in some of the same camps in which the Somocista counters and various mercenaries have been

trained.

As part of their planning process, the CIA helped to allocate different sets of these criminal counter-revolutionaries for the physical attacks against Nicaragua and Grenada and decided several weeks ago to attack during this period in order to coincide with the massive military manoeuvres taking place in our region at this time, and as a culmination of the major propaganda offensive of Reagan and his Chief Lieutenants against the revolutionary processes in the region.

The main base of operation and activity of these elements is one of our neighbouring territories, only a few miles away.

As a result of all this work on our part we have been able not only to uncover actual plans to overthrow our Government and to turn back our revolution, but also the approximate number of men they hope to use, the approximate number and type of arms they possess, the kind of logistical support they hope to receive. We know, comrades, the targets they intend to destroy. We know many of the persons they plan to arrest, those they plan to kill and how they plan to strike terror and fear among the broad masses.

It is necessary to doubly emphasise that we know the actual period in the near future that they are hoping to use, to launch their murderous attack.

Sisters and brothers, bearing in mind all the facts mentioned already, considering the clear and disturbing pattern of U.S. intervention and aggression in our region and the world and noting the invasion of Nicaragua now taking place, we have concluded that the danger which we face in this period is real. When the President of the United States of America who is also Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, states publicly and clearly that tiny Grenada is a threat to the national security of the mighty and powerful U.S.A., and when his top advisers and military personnel indicate that the time has come to put "teeth into their rhetoric" then it is clear that Goliath has turned his attention to David.

When the Commander in Chief of one of the most sophisticated, most advanced and largest Armed Forces in the world, chooses to classify a small, proud and determined people as a threat to his National Security then this must be cause for serious concern.