



# BULLETIN of the

NO. 1

April - May, 1987

## Committee for Human Rights in Grenada

### EDITORIAL

MARCH 13, 1979 - MARCH 13, 1987

Eight years ago the Grenada Revolution produced the second ever liberated territory in this hemisphere, after Cuba, followed shortly by the third in Nicaragua. The leadership of the New Jewel Movement, the Peoples Revolutionary Government, and the people of Grenada provided a beacon for the entire region, gaining advances in employment, education, health care, women's affairs and social services that were unprecedented generally in the Caribbean. Perhaps the greatest advances of all were the self-respect gained from marching out from under the heel of U.S. imperialism, and the respect of all freedom-loving people.

For four-and-one-half years it was Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard and the rest of the leadership who commanded this respect. On October 19, 1983, Bishop and much of the leadership were murdered at Fort Rupert, a harsh and mournful day, and on October 25 the U.S. invasion temporarily destroyed the Grenadian Revolution.

Today the remainder of the NJM leadership is threatened with a death penalty derived from a mock frameup trial in a contemptible kangaroo court financed by 5.5 million U.S. dollars.

No evidence has been presented anywhere that Bernard Coard or the other defendants approved or assented to, let alone ordered, the events of October 19, notwithstanding the contradictory mouthings of Cletus St. Paul. A basic principle of law is that *guilt* must be proved in court, but, in this instance, we have only the preestablished guilt determined by the U.S.-controlled media, Psychological Operations, and other propaganda machinery. Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution demands a free and fair trial for the NJM defendants. **INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY! STOP THE EXECUTIONS! LONG LIVE THE MEMORY OF THE GRENADA REVOLUTION!**

This committee is in solidarity with the Grenada Revolution and its leadership throughout the 4 and 1/2 years of its existence, and as it will inevitably be reestablished. The primary leaders of that revolution were Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard. There are two divisive camps currently on the political horizon that we want to disaffiliate from. One divisive camp would lionize and extol the virtues of Bernard Coard, while defaming openly or by innuendo the contributions of Maurice Bishop. This we find intolerable.

### CONDITIONS IN GRENADA SINCE THE OCTOBER 1983 U.S. INVASION & TAKE-OVER

Since the U.S. Invasion, Grenada has completely lost its sovereignty, dignity, pride, self-government, social security, and economic, political and social achievements of 1979-83. Since October 25, 1983 Grenada has been pushed backward to an earlier time of great hardship, no respect and despair. Grenada has been kicked down/backwards from its most dynamic, respectful PRG growth years of 1979-83 to its previous dismal years of exploitation, pillage and underdevelopment of both the neocolonial Gairy era (1974-79) and of the previous centuries of even more exploitative English and French colonialism, burning, slavery and destruction. Examples of this horrendous backward push that Grenadians have experienced and suffered since the October 25, 1983 U.S. invasion (supported and backed by their own creation - the OECS puppet-client state security forces of shameless reactionary Tom Adams' Barbados, Seaga's Jamaica, Eugenia Charles' Dominica and Kennedy Simmonds' St. Kitts) are the following:

#### A. GENERAL DETERIORATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND DESTRUCTION OF P.R.G. GAINS

1. Removal of PRG price controls on food, cement, housing and other essentials of life.
2. Summary firings of hundreds of Grenadian workers without notice, compensation or legal redress.
3. Unemployment now well over 50%.
4. Deportation of internationalist workers providing free health and other technical services under the PRG.
5. Uncontrolled escalation of land, rent and all prices.
6. PRG free medical, dental and optical care and free medicines accessible to all Grenadians, with specialists rotating weekly to all outlying parishes, now a thing of the past.

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The other and larger divisive camp extols the virtues of Maurice Bishop and the October 19 martyrs only, devilizing and condemning Bernard Coard and the other NJM defendants in the absence of evidence. Although they acknowledge the illegitimacy of the U.S.-controlled court, they have closed the books on the guilt of the defendants, arguing that the only question is who hangs them. This we find equally intolerable.

Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution demands implacable opposition to U.S. imperialism which swore itself to the destruction of that revolution from its birth, and succeeded in October 1983 and up to today. **STOP THE EXECUTIONS! INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY! A FREE AND FAIR TRIAL!**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

7. Socialized medicine is NOT supported by the NNP Blaize government, only expensive, St. Georges-based private medicine.

8. Grenadian graduates of world-recognized Cuban and other socialist-nation universities, in such essential and necessary fields as medicine, dentistry and agronomy, are not allowed to practice in Grenada by the Blaize government. This is despite the fact that their study curricula and degrees were evaluated very positively by the University of the West Indies in Barbados.

9. Dynamic Grenadian union movement and its leaders are now under constant attack by the USAID and US-AIFLD, both funded hugely by the U.S. government to fight existing popular unions and to set up ones they control. Grenadian workers and their unions and their 1979-83 benefits are neither supported nor protected by the Blaize-NNP governments.

10. Open prostitution is the order of the day since the arrival of U.S. troops, massive firings and the extraordinary price escalation.

11. Cocaine, heroin and even crack are the types of development introduced into formerly tranquil Grenada by the U.S. invaders. Their puppet Blaize government does nothing to protect Grenadians from these scourges.

12. The following key popular PRG organizations have been destroyed completely or diminished to the point of uselessness:

**DESTROYED:**

A. *National Women's Organization (NWO)* - Women's rights and gains (equal pay, maternity benefits and leave, legal enforcement against sexual harassment, etc.) no longer exist or are not supported/enforced by the government.

B. *National Youth Organization (NYO)*

C. *Grenada Human Rights Organization*

**DIMINISHED:**

A. *Independent, progressive union movement* - workers rights are practically nonexistent.

B. *Free judiciary* - replaced by U.S. government-orchestrated, financed and virtually completely controlled judges and court is subject to no outside appeal system. The human rights of prisoners do not exist.

C. *Free and independent media* - The Free West Indian Newspaper, Radio Free Grenada, short and long distance broadcasting stations were the secondary targets for bombing by the U.S. in Grenada, after only the two airports.

**B. ECONOMIC DETERIORATION:**

1. Grenadian dollar devalued to 80 cents US.

2. As of March 28, 1986 Grenada, whose economy was praised even by the World Bank and the IMF in the Spring of 1983, had a \$168 million EC debt.

3. Industrial parks/tax-free zones have been created to enable foreign investors to set up screw-driver industries with cheap, non-unionized labor working under slave-like conditions.

4. The Blaize Government announced the proposed 1987 layoff of 50% of Grenada's civil servants while keeping 74 foreigners on the payroll at high salaries (see article on Labor Movement for more on this).

5. While the Blaize government hires Americans, Barbadians and other allies at very high salaries, it refuses to hire recent Grenadian graduates of Cuban and other socialist nation universities trained in essential fields.

**C. U.S. CONTROL OF POLICE AND MILITARY OCCUPATION**

1. The O.E.C.S. (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) occupying troops trained by the U.S. have returned in force to Grenada (just before the Kangaroo Trial conviction of the remaining PRG leaders). They are directed by U.S. military officers, usually in civilian dress. Their abuses are well known.

**D. DEVELOPMENT - U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BLAIZE-NNP STYLE**

Immediately after the U.S. invasion and occupation of October 1983 -

a). *Prostitution* - a colonial and neocolonial business and survival mechanism, not observed during the 1979-83 period, became evident as many women and their men were fired summarily without any compensation, and

b). *Hard drugs* (cocaine, heroin and now crack) - all of which had not been seen in Grenada before October 1983 - were brought into Grenada, Carriacou and even Petit Martinique. Today drug selling is used in Grenada just as it is in the inner-city Black and Latin communities of the United States, in Trinidad, Antigua, the Bahamas and Jamaica - to destroy (make zombies and criminals of) the vibrant, intelligent, militancy of the island's youth, and to make huge profits for its importers and high-level sellers. Before October 1983 the only drug seen in Grenada was marijuana.

**E. SOCIAL DETERIORATION**

The massive unemployment (over 50%), the unbelievable escalation of the cost of living; removal of accessible free quality services for all (education, books, uniforms, health care in each parish, public transport, etc.) increasing costs of those essential services and of such basics as housing and food; drugs; divisive, threatening and frightening foreign-controlled media and military presence have all (as planned by the U.S. and its NNP-Blaize puppet regime) led to a breakdown of the social fabric, distrust, in-fighting, competition for extremely scarce resources and criminality (including many robberies) as a survival tactic or due to drug addiction and a government that never defends or protects workers and the general public.

**F. RECENT MEDIA CLIPPING UPDATES**

The following information on the current deteriorating state in U.S.-controlled Grenada was obtained from such well-known sources as *The Jamaica Gleaner*, *Barbados Nation*, August '86 *USAID Report*, *London Caribbean Times*, *Indies Times*, *Daily Challenge* (New York), and *New York Carib News*. They all further document the cutting and closure of PRG popular programs and the complete destruction and control of the Grenadian economy and society solely for the benefit of American government and puppet Blaize-NNP "government" interests with absolutely no regard for the needs of the Grenadian people.

1. March 8, 1986: Budget Raises Cost of Living 12%.

2. March 28, 1986: New law passed by NNP government restricting travel, to keep Grenadians from traveling to socialist countries.

3. April 12, 1986: Senior road officers at Public Works Department in Grenville are exploiting women laborers and checkers sexually.

4. June 17, 1986: NNP to sell/divest Grenada Bank of Commerce to foreign and local businessmen.

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## WHY THE MAURICE BISHOP TRIAL WAS NEITHER FAIR NOR FREE

**(Statement from the Grenada Legal Defense Committee, an organization of families and friends of Grenadians who have been charged and put on trial following and as a consequence of the U.S. invasion of Grenada)**

The Maurice Bishop Murder Trial was the longest and most sensational in the history of the entire Caribbean. It lasted for some eight months and was filled with inconsistencies. Throughout its duration the defendants complained that their Constitutional rights were being violated and that the trial was neither fair nor free.

During the trial itself a "Fair Trial" Constitutional Motion was filed in the High Court challenging the fairness of the trial. The trial has now ended and up to this day this motion has not been determined in the Courts of Grenada.

The following is an outline of some of the conditions under which the trial was conducted:

The Grenada High Court which tried the defendants was declared unconstitutional on May 10, 1985 by the Grenada Appeal Court.

The High Court Judge who presided over the case was temporarily appointed by the Grenada Government "For the purpose of hearing certain matters." This means that the defendants were denied their right to be tried in a court where the judge enjoyed the security of tenure and his impartiality secured and guaranteed and safeguarded in accordance with the Court Order of 1967, incorporated by Section 105 of the Grenada Constitution.

The trial took place in the absence of defence counsel who were forced to withdraw from the trial, on the instructions of their clients, when virtually every legal and constitutional motion brought by them was dismissed by the "temporary judge" without being given due consideration, in the view of the defendants, and when the said judge refused to adjourn the trial so that defence counsel could prepare and argue a related constitutional appeal.

The array from which the jury was empanelled was selected contrary to Grenadian law in that it was selected after the beginning of the February sitting of the Grenada High Court and not before as it ought to have been done.

The Acting Registrar who led the selection of the jury was a member of the Prosecution Team up to two days before she was appointed to act as Registrar. This contravenes Section 8 of the Grenada Constitution and could not guarantee a fair nor free trial.

On the April 18, 1986 seventeen of the defendants were cited and sentenced for contempt of court. During their enforced absence from the court the jury was empanelled. Since there were no defence lawyers present, the jury was chosen by the Prosecution only.

During the trial several of the defendants were beaten by police and prison officers. Some were allowed medical treatment days after and only when they complained in open court. The judge ordered an investigation into this brutality on the insistence of the defendants, but, up to this day, no action was taken on the matter.

Periodically, during the trial defendants were denied visits from their families and friends who they needed to see and speak to in order to prepare their defence.

They were also denied access to their co-accused and were subjected to varying degrees of solitary confinement.

They were denied pens which they required in order to prepare their defense, contrary to Section 8 of the Constitution.

The privacy and confidentiality of their legal notes were violated on April 18, 1986 when these documents were taken away from them by prison authorities.

At no time since the withdrawal of legal counsel were depositions of the Preliminary Inquiry given to the defendants so they could adequately prepare their case.

During the trial the defendants pointed out in great detail that they were tortured by Barbadian police officers, led by one Inspector Watson, and forced to sign "confessional statements." Nonetheless, all such statements were allowed to enter into evidence by the "Temporary Judge."

The Prison Diary, which could have supported defendants' claims of being tortured and prove the Barbadian Police were lying when they denied torturing, mysteriously disappeared from the Prison when it was called for by the defendants.

Documents vital to the defendants for the preparation of their defence, which were seized by the Americans during the invasion and occupation of Grenada, were not returned to the defendants despite their many requests to the courts.

From time to time, the defendants were prevented from consulting with their lawyers for the preparation of their case or other matters relating to it.

The defendants were fed on starvation diet in the first week of the trial after the prison authorities purposefully violated a Court Order allowing families to bring food for the defendants. In some cases they were fed only bread and water.

At the closing of the trial the defendants were called upon by the Judge to sum up the case. They requested copies of the court's transcript as they were not present in the Court when evidence was taken. The Judge denied the request and refused the defendants' offer to pay the cost of preparing the documents.

The trial proceeded under conditions of oppression, thus derogating from the fair trial requirements of Section 8 of the Grenada Constitution. Apart from the above:

- Defendants were tried within the Prison compound where the atmosphere of terror, oppression and fear was deliberately created by numerous armed police and soldiers surrounding the Courts, who also prevented and/or restricted families and friends from attending the proceedings, by the rolls of barbed wire surrounding the court; and by U.S. military aircraft flying directly over the Court House.
- The defendants were taken into the Court with their heads shaven, in a manner done for convicted prisoners, thus creating an aura of guilt, humiliation and conviction around them.
- The roll call of the defendants were taken in the presence of witnesses who were later invited to identify them as being participants in the charge being investigated.
- The defendants were called individually into the court by name for the purpose of identification, thus making the identifying process a mockery.
- Attempts were made by persons to induce some of the defendants to turn Crown Witnesses thus imperiling themselves and their co-accused.

These are only some of the conditions under which the trial was conducted. Can such a trial be described as fair or free, when it was conducted in violation of the Constitution, the highest law of the land?

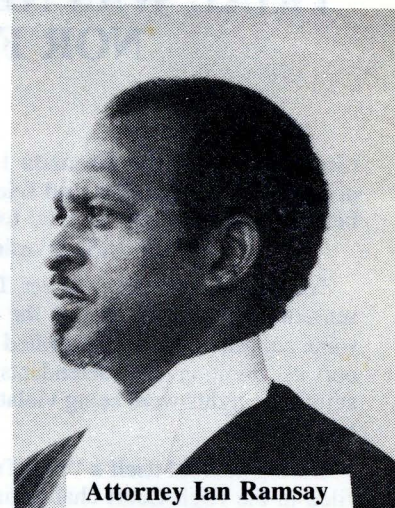
## NEW YORK FORUM HELD ON GRENADA MURDER TRIAL



**Attorney Richard Hart**



**Attorney Ramsey Clark**



**Attorney Ian Ramsay**

On February 9, 1987, a forum entitled "The Grenada Trial: Was it Free or Fair?" was held in New York. Forum participants questioned the legality of the recently concluded trial of 18 former political leaders and soldiers charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders.

The following are extracts from the presentations of the major speakers.

**Attorney Richard Hart, former Attorney General of the Peoples Revolutionary Government:**

"I describe the trial that has just taken place in Grenada and which is still subject to an appeal process as 'the continuation of warfare,' that is of the invasion and occupation of Grenada, by other means, the judicial process which has been used to secure convictions . . . The whole operation is designed to crush the social experiment that was in process in Grenada, to crush the work of the revolutionary government and to physically eliminate the surviving revolutionary leaders."

"The Grenadian people had a most traumatic experience. Maurice Bishop, a very fine man, was beloved by the people of Grenada. And he had been killed and the people of Grenada wanted to see his death revenged. And, for that reason, a large part of the Grenadian population initially actually welcomed the invasion, because they thought that this was a revenge for whoever was responsible for the killing of their beloved prime minister . . . And it was building on this that the psychological warfare department worked to create a state, an atmosphere of prejudice against the accused and to prevent any possibility of the accused being able to put out their side of the story."

**Attorney Ian Ramsay, leader of the defense team:**

"So, after the new Parliament was created, they restored the Constitution, but did not apply the Constitution to the judiciary. So, out of this whole constitution setup the courts remained illegal, unconstitutional." "In matters that involve life and liberty every citizen of a country that follows Western democratic tradition is entitled to unhindered access to the constitutionally established courts of the country."

"The court itself admitted that. Why does the court exist then if it's unconstitutional? Because, according to the judges, it is temporary as a court of necessity."

"What I'd like to leave in your minds are just a number of factors. One, the unconstitutional nature of the court. Two, that the period of necessity has expired in any reasonable sense. The court that now exists is entirely artificial. Three, the trial was unconstitutional. Four, even within the framework of unconstitutionality there were gross irregularities . . . There's nothing worse than injustice that comes under the color of law."

"What is justice? Is it revenge? How do you know that they're guilty? Who knows that they're guilty? How can you know it if it doesn't go through the system which has been evolved in this Western world to determine guilt or innocence? Do we each have a subjective right to find someone guilty? Perhaps you can for your own purposes, but you can't maintain that for societal purposes, can you?"

**Attorney Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney-General:**

"The biggest news story . . . for 1983 was the invasion of Grenada. It's incredible that the most powerful nation on earth, that has a standing military that exceeds the entire population of Grenada 25 times over . . . could make an event out of such an invasion . . . And then doing the worst violence of all - the assault on truth."

"We announced that the Central Committee had ordered the execution of Maurice Bishop before we could have possibly known it . . . Why can't we the people in this last decade of our second century under this particular constitution know the facts of what our government did? Who put out the stories immediately that the Central Committee ordered the deaths? Who would be benefited for it? What was their motive?"

"I have never seen a trial like it . . . You had a judge chosen for the case by the same power that initiated the prosecution . . . You had a jury chosen for prejudice; the trial conducted without the presence of any counsel . . . It was simply an effort to create hatred, inflame hatred toward the defendants, and then systematically exclude them during the trial, with not one question on cross-examination of a witness; much of the testimony unintelligible; most of it contradictory with other testimony; none of it convincing, none of it really conclusory except for two or three people who were not believable, who contradicted each other . . . Prosecution summing up for two weeks, without a mumbling word from the defense, without a document or a witness on their behalf."

**For a copy of the entire transcript of the February 9th forum, send US\$3.50 to cover costs to Committee for Human Rights in Grenada, Box 20714, Cathedral Finance Sta., NY, NY 10025.**

## UPDATE ON MURDER TRIAL IN GRENADA

A guilty verdict was returned on December 4, 1986 against 17 of the 18 accused of the murder of the late Prime Minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, after an eight month long trial that has been described as "rigged." On December 12, the notice of appeal was filed by defense attorneys in the case. The next step, the production of the court record (the transcript of trial proceedings), had not been completed as of late March. When it is produced, the defense team will have a maximum of six weeks to review it before a date to argue the appeal is set. Reliable sources say the appeal will not be heard before July or August.

A major issue regarding the appeal is whether the present court system will hear it. After the U.S. invasion and occupation of the tiny island and the election of the U.S.-backed New National Party Government of Herbert Blaize, the Grenada Constitution of 1973 was restored minus the portion on the judiciary. Although the Murder Trial was conducted before a court which admittedly was unconstitutional, it was justified by a doctrine of necessity, a doctrine which is designed to maintain some sort of system in times of war and disorder. However, now that two years have elapsed since the election of Blaize and a parliament, there is pressure to fully restore the old constitution. In November 1986 the NNP government finally applied to the OECS Court for Grenada to be readmitted, and the request was accepted. However, the government has yet to complete the procedure, and many feel it is stalling so as to make sure the defendants hang first.

### Defendants Want a Return to OECS Court

Defendants and their attorneys believe they have a better chance for justice under the OECS court and with the added right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, which they feel would be unbiased compared to the courts in Grenada. The court that tried the defendants was not only unconstitutional, but temporary with judges and prosecution attorneys imported from other islands and subject to influence by the authorities that hired them. Furthermore, since it was the U.S. that granted the NNP government some \$5.5 million for "support of the Caribbean judiciary," many feel the Reagan administration paid for and orchestrated the whole trial.

## WHAT DO GRENADIANS HAVE TO SAY?

### Letter from an unemployed working class mother:

"I must first tell you about the case on the Hill. If these men should be hanged the whole world will be looking on Grenada. We also have O.E.C.S. troops on our island Blaize and them bring them back. The peacekeeping forces are again on Grenada soil. When you see them in the streets, you think we are heading for war. Grenada is a battlefield.

We are calling on all peaceful loving people all over the world to say no to war and to ask for a fair and free trial with justice for all. Even if they are dead and gone the struggle is going to continue. We will never give up. Their lives will be all remembered for their good works. They can kill their bodies, but they cannot kill the souls. They live in the hearts and minds of the Grenadiar people."

## WHAT DOES THE CARIBBEAN CHURCH COMMUNITY HAVE TO SAY?

Sir Cuthbert Woodroffe, Bishop of the Windward Islands and recently retired Anglican Archbishop of the Province of the West Indies, a Grenadian by birth, in a farewell pastoral letter to the diocese, declared, "I want it known that I am totally against the death penalty." He mentioned the "lamentable spectre of fourteen people, one of them a woman and mother of young children, awaiting death." He said, "To kill those who kill that they may learn not to kill does not make much sense. My skin grows pimples in goose flesh as I ponder the thought of fourteen dropping to their deaths from the gallows in my beloved Grenada."

Caribbean Contact, organ of the Caribbean Council of Churches, editorialized, "However one does it, fourteen in one stroke or one a week for fourteen weeks, Grenada will be submitted to an ordeal which threatens to have incalculable consequences . . . Mercy and restoration are to be preferred to vengeance and retaliation."

## SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND DEMANDING A FAIR TRIAL IN GRENADA

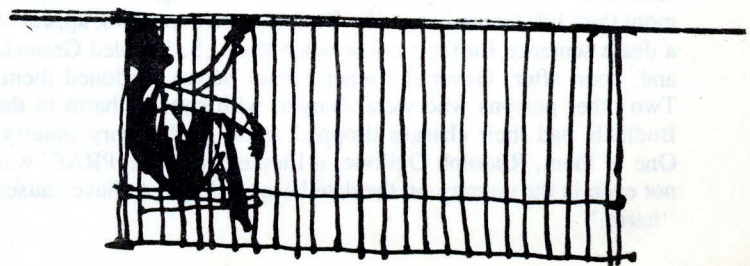
To: Prime Minister Herbert Blaize  
Prime Minister's Office  
St. George's, Grenada  
West Indies

Dear Sir:

I am extremely concerned about the recent illegal and unconstitutional trial of the 17 former officials and soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. I am also concerned about the many violations of the defendants' human rights.

I strongly urge you and your government, in the name of justice and of the democratic tradition to which we all adhere, to ensure that the defendants have a free and fair trial in a legally constituted court. Further, I urge that Grenada return as soon as possible to the Eastern Caribbean judicial system and that the constitution be applied to the judicial system in Grenada.

Sincerely,



## GRENADA'S WOMEN

Except for a short period in their history, the experiences of women in Grenada have always been very difficult.

During the era of the Gairy regime few women were employed and, in most cases, their wages were lower than their male counterparts, even when they performed the same task. There were no laws to protect women; thus, many women allowed themselves to be sexually exploited in order to get jobs and hold onto them.

Society's mentality also put additional pressures on the backs of women. A number of women were forced to drop out of school because of early pregnancy, and with work being difficult to find, and little, if any, assistance from the child's father, it made the task of caring for an infant extremely burdensome. This led to a number of mothers and their children being malnourished. The physical abuse that some women had to cope with also contributed to poor health and sometimes to the death of infants.

### Prostitution Rampant Under Gairy

Prostitution was the order of the day. Some women did it because they didn't care and had nothing else to do anyway; while to most, it was not a matter of choice, but simply a means of making money, a job, so that they could continue to eat and stay healthy.

### Women's Conditions a Priority During Revolution

During the Revolution the plight of women was highlighted. Women's issues were broadly discussed and they were made aware of their value and importance to society. The rights they were entitled to were spelled out. As more women entered the workforce more nurseries had to be setup. Women were sent for training in order to deal with the serious problems facing both women and children. Women were sent to universities in a number of countries, among them Cuba.

### NWO Set Up to Address Women's Issues

A women's desk was also set up at the Ministry of Social Affairs to look into the problems of women and children and to focus in on all issues involving women. There were groups organized under the banner of the National Women's Organization (NWO). These groups founded within communities all over the country, permitted women the opportunity to sit and discuss their problems and discover ways of solving them with the guidance from the women's desk.

### Legal Protection for Women

Laws were enacted to protect women. Equal pay for equal work was established. Women became entitled to three months maternity leave with full payment for two of those months, once they had been with their employer at least a year and a half.

### Other Benefits Under PRG

Free secondary school education was introduced. School books and uniforms were provided to the needy. Hot meals and milk were given to most primary school children in the country. The Centre for Popular Education (CPE) was established to fight illiteracy not only among adults, but also among young women.

### Women Pushed Backwards Since U.S. Invasion

Since the U.S. invasion of Grenada, women have been pushed backwards to the neo-colonial days. All NWO groups have been banned and many women kicked out of their jobs. With job opportunities for women being scarce, many women employed both in the state and private sector, feel very insecure in their jobs. Employers no longer respect the laws governing the rights of women. Allegations are afloat of women losing their jobs upon becoming pregnant. The hot meal and milk programme for schools is now more or less non-existent. Free school books and uniforms for the needy are a thing of the past. Changes made within the CPE programme have rendered it useless. Prostitution is once more the order of the day.

### Phyllis Coard Isolated and Condemned

Sister Phyllis Coard, the woman who headed this wonderful programme during the Revolution, is now isolated and condemned, her crimes being helping women to improve their status and being a member of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM). The world has been told that she has been sentenced to hang for the death of Maurice Bishop and others; most know that her "crime," however, is political and not criminal as the establishment tries to point out.

The state of women's affairs has deteriorated a great deal and their struggle will once more have to be taken up if they are to make any progress in the future.

## ANOTHER TRIAL FOR 5 NJM DEFENDANTS

Five former members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, already sentenced to death in the Maurice Bishop Murder trial, are to be put on trial again on charges of "maiming and causing harm" to prisoners during the days of the PRG. The five (Leon Cornwall, Ewart Layne, Dave Bartholomew, Liam James and Lester Redhead) are accused of harming the Budhall Gang who were convicted of planting a bomb in Queens Park on June 19, 1980 aimed at liquidating the leadership of the PRG. The bomb missed its intended targets, but killed 3 schoolgirls and injured more than 100 Grenadians. The Budhalls were awaiting appeal of a death sentence for their crime when the U.S. invaded Grenada and, soon after, Governor-General Paul Scoon pardoned them. Two other persons who were charged with causing harm to the Budhalls had their charges dropped at the preliminary inquiry. One of them, Rudolph Ogilvie, a Lieutenant in the PRAF, was not even in the country on the date he was alleged to have caused "harm."

## VICTOR PALMER'S RE-TRIAL

Victor Palmer is a former prison officer, who shortly after the invasion, was charged by the U.S. and Bajan occupation forces with the murder of a Trinidadian prisoner. The prisoner was allegedly shot during the heat of the invasion, when U.S. helicopters were attacking the prison.

During his trial in 1984, prison officers who could have testified to Palmer's innocence were afraid to come forward to give evidence on his behalf, for fear of victimization. At that time, foreign occupation forces were fully in control of all aspects of the prison.

At Palmer's trial, the main witnesses testifying against him were members of the notorious 'Mongoose Gang,' who were facing long prison terms for brutalizing many Grenadians during Gairy's rule. A few months after Palmer's trial they were set free.

Palmer, who has been in prison for over three years, was found guilty and sentenced to death, but in January 1986 the appeal court over-ruled the verdict and ordered a re-trial. As of press time, the re-trial has been postponed to the June court session.

## LABOR MOVEMENT UNDER PRESSURE

Sections of Grenada's militant labor movement still exist, but have been under attack since the U.S. invaded the tiny island in 1983.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has had undue influence on the labor movement. In its 1986 budget, USAID allocated almost US\$1 million to the AIFLD (Agency for Free Labor Development) to "assist in free trade union development and skills training." The Reagan administration had admitted, in a Dec. 5, 1983 report, after the visits of agency personnel to Grenada, that it had extensive contacts with "certain elements" in the labor movement there and that it intended to "re-structure and train" union personnel so that they would not be "susceptible to radical organizers." To that end USAID has tried to remove progressive trade unionists from positions of authority and replace them with those who can be controlled. Reliable sources in Grenada say U.S. authorities there have put out anti-communist leaflets for their agents to circulate in workplaces attacking progressive trade unionists as part of their strategy.

### Chester Humphrey Challenging AIFLD

One such unionist, who has been the object of AIFLD propaganda, is Chester Humphrey, who was incarcerated for more than two years by U.S. forces seeking to extradite him on phony gun-running charges. While imprisoned he was removed from his post as Vice President of the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) through manipulation by the U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) Government in cooperation with right-wing elements in the union. Nevertheless, control of that union today still rests with progressive workers who hold 13 of the 15 positions on the TAWU executive. In addition, Chester himself, who was freed from prison January 21, 1986, is now a paid employee of the union and, to the chagrin of the NNP, has been involved in many recent negotiations. Prior to the March 7 Annual General Meeting, three separate resolutions from workers calling on U.S.-backed, TAWU President Wilfred Hayes to step-down were sent to Union Headquarters. At the Meeting itself, Chester and his supporters again challenged the President Hayes, who ended the meeting prematurely with elections still pending.

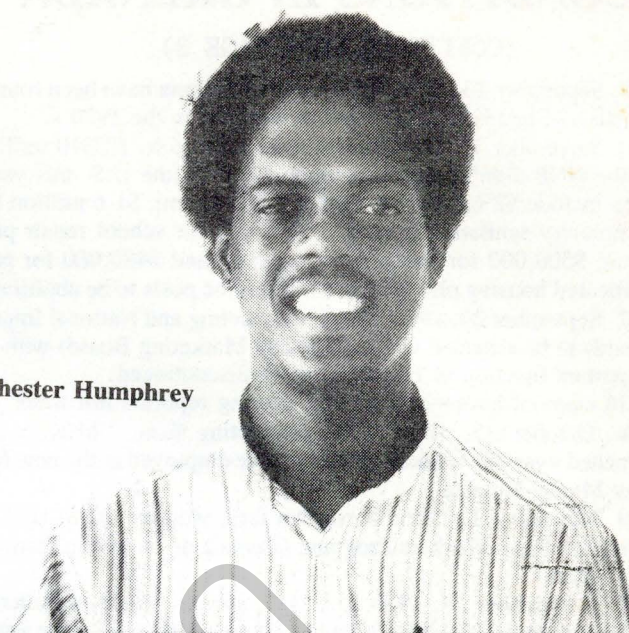
### Anti-Worker Practices Encouraged

In addition to USAID's efforts, the anti-worker attitude of the U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) has encouraged anti-worker practices by local management. Over the past two years, there have been many instances of anti-worker actions by management, with the sympathy, if not the collusion, of the NNP government. In one case last September all workers at the Telescope Quarry were fired with no notice or compensation. So far the government has not even replied to a letter of protest from the union involved, the TAWU. In the case of Grenada Breweries, when two workers were unjustly fired and the other workers went on strike in protest, management fired all workers. However, after worker pressure and token statements by one government minister, the Breweries' management was forced to take all workers back and submit the cases of the original two workers fired to arbitration. Meanwhile Prime Minister Blaize charged that "communist sympathizers" had been involved.

### Politics Used for Hiring Workers

In another instance, the government tried to get rid of militant workers, by laying off *all workers* on the Eastern Main Road Project in July 1986 after the completion of "Phase II" of the project and then selectively rehiring for "Phase III", using politics as one criteria for employment.

Chester Humphrey



### Tax-Free Zones With Slave-type Conditions for Grenadian workers

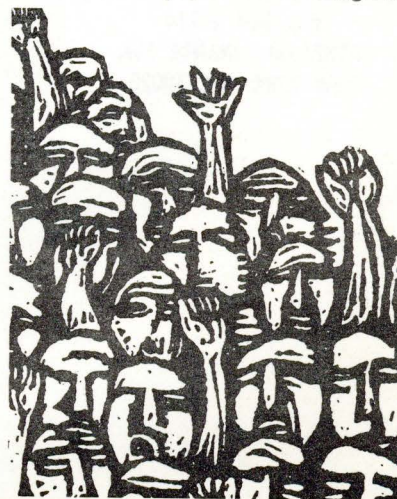
Another anti-worker tactic has been the creation of industrial parks or tax-free zones where foreign investors can set up screw-driver industries with cheap, non-unionized labor. In Jamaica workers in similar "parks" have complained about the almost slave-like working conditions.

### Half of Civil Service to be Laid Off

The most serious attack on workers so far, since the U.S. invasion, is the announced layoff for 1987 of 50% of Grenada's civil servants. Some Grenadians view this as a reflection of the government's economic failures and a move toward purging the Civil Service of New Jewel Movement (NJM) members who have with permanent appointments. With workers fighting hard on this issue, only a small number have been laid off so far.

### Money for Foreign Workers, But Not For Grenadians

More recently, public workers, representing three unions, sued the NNP government over the illegal deduction of one day's pay from the salary of those workers who participated in a one day sickout in February of 1986. The February action was to back their demands for salary negotiations. Although the Blaize government claims it does not have the funds for the salary increases workers say they need to keep up with the rising cost of living and to keep all of the country's civil servants on the payroll, it does, however, have EC\$1.0 million to pay some 74 foreigners to work in Grenada!



## CONDITIONS IN GRENADA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

5. September 13, 1986: Two cases of malaria have been found; the disease had been eradicated in Grenada in the 1950's.

6. September 1, 1986: Budget to be slashed by EC\$10 million as the NNP didn't receive enough aid from the U.S. this year. Cuts include \$2 million for road repair program; \$1.6 million for community sanitation program; \$700,000 for school repair program; \$500,000 for dental care program; and \$400,000 for pre-fabricated housing plus 50% of civil service posts to be abolished.

7. September 20, 1986: MNIB (Marketing and National Import Board) to be renamed GMB (Grenada Marketing Board) with its important function of importing to be discontinued.

16 cases of housebreaking and stealing reported last week.

8. October 25, 1986: U.S. contracting firm, "M.K.", retrenched over 480 workers, mostly those employed at the new Mt. Gay Mental Hospital.

9. November 1, 1986: Grenadian farm workers off to U.S. to join U.S. Farm Workers Program; Grenada never had to resort to this before!

10. November 24, 1986: U.S. to construct Voice of America relay station in rural NE Grenada to relay broadcasts to the entire Eastern Caribbean.

### G. CONCLUSION

Obviously the Grenada today in the spring of 1987, 3 and 1/2 years after the U.S. takeover, is a *totally different, debilitated, shamed and destructed nation*. It is the opposite of the proud, economically and socially developing and vigorous Grenada that existed during the New Jewel Movement-led Peoples Revolutionary Government years of March 1979 to October 1983!

The P.R.G. period was a beacon of hope, an exemplary example for the entire Third World, for U.S. minorities and for progressive, fair-minded people world-wide. Grenada today has once again been destructed, figuratively BURNT, this time by the U.S. government and its shameless Caribbean dependent "allies," just as the colonialists historically burnt it during the colonial era rather than allow a successful slave revolt to rule. Colonial slavery has ended and Grenada's modern-day enslavement by the U.S. and its own local stooges will also one day be brought to an end. *Forward ever, Backward never!*

If you have additional information about human rights violations in Grenada, please send it to the Committee.

## HEARTBREAK RIDGE: NAKED YANKEE PROPAGANDA

In 1986 the film, "Heartbreak Ridge," was released in the United States of America. This film is based on the experiences of one American Officer, who is continually in trouble with his military and civilian superiors. This officer is given the task of making good marines out of a bunch of misfits. These misfits commanded by the said officer are involved in the brutal and illegal invasion of Grenada. Thus, what initially seemed like fiction is now transformed into Yankee propaganda of the worst kind.

Though not stated overtly, the film gives the distinct impression that the only troops the Yankees fought against in Grenada were Cubans, and thus promotes the White House lie that Grenada was under the control of Cuba.

In the film, the "Grenadian forces" always spoke Spanish, their dead were always light complexioned with straight hair. As if that was not enough, the Grenadians were shown to be very fond of Cuban cigars. At no point in the film did the "Grenadian Forces" speak English. The story was replete with historical inaccuracies.

According to individuals who actually participated as members of the Grenadian Revolutionary Armed Forces in the fight to maintain Grenada's sovereignty, the fight was carried out by Grenadians not Cubans, and they, the Cubans, only fought when their barracks at the airport site was deliberately attacked by U.S. troops.

The film is yet another example of the role of private capital in this country. It shows the length to which the propagandists will go to get their story across. They are fully prepared to do their government's bidding against any country through direct sabotage or vulgar propaganda.

For more updated information about Grenada, if you want to be kept informed, please write us at Box 20714, New York, N.Y. 10025 and enclose a minimum donation of \$5 to help cover our printing and postal expenses. We also appreciate names and addresses of anyone you know who would might be interested in this information.

**C'TTEE. FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GRENADA**  
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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025



# *Committee for Human Rights in Grenada*

## **GRENADA:**

### **FOUR YEARS AFTER**

"We got there just in time," President Ronald Reagan announced to the nation and the world after American soldiers stormed into tiny independent Grenada on October 25th, 1983.

Four years have passed since Reagan's grand statement, so it's time to investigate exactly what did the American forces arrive just in time for. It must be remembered that six days before the American invasion of Grenada, divisions in the ranks of the ruling New Jewel Movement had led to the unfortunate death of the popular leader and Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

So the question is: Did Mr. Reagan send forces to investigate the death of Maurice Bishop? The answer is NO — because the American psychological unit in Grenada unleashed a propaganda campaign not only against the surviving leaders of the N.J.M., but against Bishop and some of his colleagues who died on October 19th. Did they try to conduct a free and fair trial and bring to justice those responsible for Bishop's death? The answer is again NO! The West Indian Court of Appeal and the British Privy Council have both reported that it will be impossible for them to find the accused guilty based on the evidence upon which they were condemned to death in the earlier trial in Grenada.

One of the arguments used by the administration was that it sent soldiers into Grenada not only to free its students, but also to assist in Grenada's development. How have they fared? When compared to the unprecedented progress and development brought by the Revolution, the last four years of American domination pales in comparison.

Today corruption and inefficiency wreak through the land, but in revolutionary Grenada even the World Bank praised the efficiency and managerial acumen of the government. Presently unemployment is over 40%, but during four and one-half years of the Revolution unemployment was reduced from 49% to 14%. During the Revolution illiteracy was wiped out and health care and education became free while today, the government has reverted to a policy of favoritism in regards to educational scholarships and doctors in the health service lack commitment and motivation.

Cocaine and crack, unheard of during the Revolution, are now destroying the lives of many Grenadians. Moreover, since the American invasion, the only thriving industry has been prostitution.

But the saddest thing of all in Grenada today is the efforts by the Americans and the stooges who now run the land to rewrite history. For example, on arrival in Grenada one can read signs that say, "Point Salines Airport: Built with Assistance from U.S.A.I.D." Absolutely no mention is made of the enormous contribution made by the Cuban people to Grenada's development.

## **MURDER TRIAL UPDATE**

The leader of the Defense Team in the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial, Prominent Jamaican attorney Ian Ramsay, was found guilty of contempt in his (and his counsel's) absence on July 7. He was sentenced to three month's imprisonment and a \$5000 fine. While Ramsay, in a press release, said he did not think he could get justice in Grenada any more than his clients, 17 former leaders of the New Jewel Movement and Peoples Revolutionary Army now sentenced to death, he is nevertheless going to pursue all available avenues of legal recourse.

A notice of appeal was filed on his behalf and one of Ramsay's attorneys argued for a stay in the execution of Ramsay's sentence before Appeals Court Justice J.O.F. Haynes. In what is usually a routine matter, Haynes declared he would reserve judgment on the stay until September 11. Meanwhile Ian Ramsay could not set foot in Grenada to advise his clients as he would have faced incarceration. On September 11, Haynes decided in favor of Ian Ramsay in staying the execution of his sentence.

The contempt charge had been lodged against Ramsay in May 1986 by Director of Public Prosecutions Velma Hylton (coincidentally a member of the Prosecution Team in the Murder Trial) after he wrote a letter to Caribbean Heads of State protesting the irregularities and injustices going on in the Trial.

In regard to the Appeal of the Trial verdict, the completion of the 7,000 page trial transcript is still pending more than eight months after the trial ended. Reliable sources in Grenada say that when members of the NNP government informally approached members of the OECS Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, they were advised to find a "face-saving way" of releasing the NJM and PRA defendants as they would recommend a retrial if the case were brought before them. After receiving this information, it is said that death plots were discussed by several people connected to the NNP government — a political advisor to the Prime Minister, a senior internal security officer and a senior legal advisor to the government. These plots were aimed especially at Bernard Coard, Ewart Layne and Liam James. During the end of August, Grenada was buzzing with talk of the death plots, so much so that NNP Minister of Justice Ben Jones said he would "investigate" the matter.

In 1982 President Reagan labeled Grenada a Marxist virus. His invasion of 1983 succeeded in destroying the Revolution, but it has certainly failed to bring either progress or development. Grenadians are now suffering more than ever before. The country has lost the pride and respect it gained during the revolutionary days.

In looking at Grenada today we can't help but conclude that the dream that promised so much on March 13, 1979 has been deferred.

**(By a Caribbean national who worked for the Peoples Revolutionary Government and who recently returned for a visit)**

# THE RETRENCHMENT OF GRENADA

By a Grenadian youth

As the fourth year of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada rolls on, it is fitting to compare the 4 years of the People's Revolutionary rule with that of the authoritarian, neo-colonial New National Party (NNP) skillfully installed by U.S. imperialism. Except, there are no likenesses.

## NNP Disrespects Workers

The obvious distinction between this unpopular, anti-people government and the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is respect for the working people. After all the New Jewel Movement (NJM) proceeded from the maxim: Let those who labor hold the reigns — its slogan since inception.

With four and a half years of people's rule and true democracy, unemployment was cut from 50% (and 70% among youth) — very close to the current rate — to a mere 14%. The all around impressive gains of the Grenada Revolution are instilled in the mind of every Grenadian.

The recent retrenchment program of the NNP with the planned dismissal of 2000 workers — 50% of total civil servants — compounding the already gross unemployment problem, speaks clearly for itself. The rationale "that the civil service was too bloated" exposes its dishonesty, its defunct state and its inability to serve the people.

## V.A.T. Undemocratic

Characteristic of the "democracy" brought in by Reagan's gunboat, the workers of our country had no say in deciding this. The imposition of the crippling 20% value added tax on imports was equally out of their domain of discussion. This would surely trigger memory of the days when ordinary people debated the budget, cost of living, priorities, etc. in now restricted forums.

## NNP Attacking Trade Union Militancy

The regime has even angered the local business sector by slapping on a 2.5% tax on gross profits as well as a 0.5% tax on current value of property in trying its utmost to appease its foreign bosses. The occupationists are hard at work trying to wipe out any remaining trade union militancy. PRG-introduced laws respecting unions, such as the Trade Union Recognition Law of '79, are now history. This is the flipside of the coin of making Grenada "fertile for foreign investment."

Union activists were some of the main targets of repression following the invasion. Activists Chester Humphrey and John Chalkie Ventour were arrested shortly after the invasion. The latter, the former head of the Trades Union Council (TUC), is fighting for his life after being sentenced to death in an extremely controversial trial for the murder of the beloved leader of the Revolution, Maurice Bishop. This trial is increasingly being seen as a railroad. The former escaped extradition to the U.S. on phoney gun-running charges only after popular sentiments and a bitter political/legal battle set him free.

## Imperialism Imposing AIFLD on People

So with the trade unions handcuffed, imperialism is bent on imposing its class collaborationist, CIA-linked organizations on the workers of our country. The notorious AIFLD is focused on taking full control of the trade union movement. It has targeted progressive unionists for a venomous anti-communist campaign and USAID slated some \$1 million in '86 for AIFLD to assist "free union" development.

But if there is any indication of the failure of the CIA to subvert

progressive trade unions, May Day 1987, regarded even by some collaborationists as the most militant post-invasion rally, stands out.

## Retrenchments Brought Split in NNP

The retrenchment program and the crisis brought on by NNP dispelled all illusions that the "Grenada model" (following the failed Puerto Rican and Jamaican "models") has any bearings on reality. It also brought to the fore some deep contradictions within the hastily-built, Yankee-motivated tri-partisan alliance: defecting are the heads of the two other parties in the alliance and a junior minister. This move takes away any ounce of support remaining for the NNP since they are its two most popular ministers. These defectors found their expression in a new political party, the National Democratic Congress, Grenada's seventh political party. The skeleton box is now open.

Grenadians are now hearing from insiders what was quite obvious from Day One. The NNP is a puppet with very long foreign strings. It is rampant with corruption, even at its highest echelons and it is as dictatorial internally as in the country at large.

## Defectors All Oppose Revolution

It is not clear at this juncture whether these elements who are claiming to represent the grievances of the working class are all opportunists, but they include one ex-Gairyite and they all oppose the ideals of the Grenadian Revolution. Who can claim to be truly for the working class and yet oppose the Revolution?

Probably the stand taken by NDC leaders George Brizan and Francis Alexis, at least rhetorically, on the behalf of workers would put them under the scrutiny of the masses and therefore push them to some reform, but with the complete defeat of Gairyism and NNP buffer as the Grenadian people's major short objective, another neo-colonial party would be shortlived, at best. The revolution would forever remain in our minds as a social and political yardstick and frame of reference of what is possible.

## Drugs, Prostitution, Crime on Rise

As a rule, (U.S.) occupation brings in deep human suffering. Even before the retrenchment, there was a marked rise in drug abuse, crimes, prostitution, suicide and other destructive and self-destructive behavior. There is also a direct correlation between the invasion and the first time presence of some forms of hard drugs — leading to the conclusion of its American introduction.

## Corrupt Regime in Financial Trouble

It is common knowledge that the corrupt NNP exists solely on huge domestic loans and foreign petty-cash. Between 1984 and 1986 U.S. imperialism, eager to make its "real estate" a model, donated EC\$273 million. During the same period NNP borrowed over EC\$70 million from domestic sources. Were it not for these sources, NNP would be history, albeit infamous. Even the Prime Minister was forced to admit that it had to borrow in order to pay civil servants last year.

## NNP a Slave to U.S. Foreign Policy

The regime has played its part well in return by being reputed internationally as one of the world's most subservient. In a U.N. vote condemning South Africa and calling for an end to its occupation of Namibia earlier this year, Grenada stood with its friends — Israel and the U.S. — in opposition to the rest of humanity. This is in striking contrast to the EC\$44,000 of internationalist assistance given to SWAPO in the early years of the Revolution when we needed money most!

## NNP Encouraging Emigration

Certain that neo-colonialism cannot satisfy people's needs, and

with the good knowledge of the revolutionary potential of of Grenadian people. U.S. imperialism and its local puppets use escapism as its safety net. Side-by-side with the retrenchment is a great influx of young Grenadians to the U.S., some with visas of "indefinite" vacation. It is probably easier to obtain an American visa in today's Grenada than to neighboring islands. Many are lured by scholarships as an aspect of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. One top NNP minister was even "warned" for visa-related corruption. Meanwhile, a new repressive law prohibits visits to socialist countries and scholarships offered are almost entirely blocked.

Imperialism hopes to quell the militancy of young Grenadians by dissolving them in North America. Thanks to this tactic there are two-thirds as many Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. than on the mainland. The last population estimate of Grenada is below that of 100,000 of just a few years ago!

### Grenadian & American Workers have a Common Enemy

But like the occupation of Puerto Rico, the continued domination of Grenada by U.S. imperialism sharpens the common interest between the Grenadian and American working people and exposes the common enemy. Although Grenada is tiny, its continued occupation and domination strengthens U.S. imperialism. For example, the U.S. occupation of Puerto Rico facilitated the invasion of Grenada and threatens the sovereignty of Nicaragua, Cuba and other countries in the region. Besides, invasions and occupations create new cheap labor frontiers for exploitation which, in turn, take away American jobs.

### U.S. Militarizing Caribbean Basin

The defeat of the Grenada Revolution has brought a serious setback to peace in the Caribbean Basin. U.S.-sponsored war games and provocations remains an unhealthy sight in the beautiful Caribbean Sea. Over the past few years, the U.S. has spent over US\$300 million in military hardware to governments in the region. Most of the Eastern Caribbean countries are now staging grounds for U.S. aggression in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

But neither this atmosphere, the retrenchment program nor the crisis brought on by the NNP can be seen outside of the context of its political repression. The regime wants to eat its cake and have it. In order to survive it must keep down popular opposition to its corruption and anti-popular policies by its use of fear and intimidation. For instance, in 1986 the government passed a South African-type law, the Restriction of Movement Act, which prevents anyone it deems a "threat" from leaving the country. This is particularly geared towards the remaining activists and leaders of the Grenada Revolution, especially NJM members — its most feared opposition.



Jose Venturelli/NACLA/LMB

### 14 Sentenced to Hang in Kangaroo Trial

Police and SSU (the American-trained version of Gairy's Green Beasts) brutality is again a feature of Grenadian life. Of the long line of human rights abuses, the trial of the NJM 19 — 14 sentenced to hang — and their prison conditions stand out as the most glaring and dramatic example.

### Questions Raised by U.S. Paying for Trial

It is not yet known the full extent of the role that the Oliver North-Casey-Reagan gang played in the scenario preceding the invasion and during the trial. Nevertheless, Reagan's timely visit and his gift of \$5.5 million for the "support of the Caribbean judiciary" was not so disguised. It would be naive to think that with the trial at this crucial stage, the full extent of North-Casey-Reagan involvement would be revealed, but it shows the importance of struggling to preserve the lives of the revolutionary leaders now on trial.

### PRG Programs Destroyed or in Danger

It is not at all funny that a government without any initiative, national priority, nor foresight is so eager to destroy all of the gains of the people's revolution. Most of the industries created by the Revolution have been denationalized or given over to foreigners.

One of the major programs, the Marketing and National Import Board, is seriously threatened. The important importing function is discontinued. With the import baron under Gairy, now the Foreign Minister, this is certainly no surprise!

The split in the NNP, the social and political crisis in the country, and the crisis of Reaganism in the U.S. all correlated point to the need for a quick alternative; however, things must be viewed objectively. Imperialism must not be underestimated. It has in its hands many cards to play in its Grenada game.

### Unity and Solidarity Necessary Now

This period in the history of Grenada is one of its most painful and difficult ever. We are not only fighting against the NNP but against an occupier that is the world's richest, most aggressive and with the largest military at its disposal. In order to prevent Gairy's (imperialism's most unabashed puppet) return to office we must fight to reverse the voter apathy, especially among the youth, that imperialism helped create and is helping to maintain.

So unity and solidarity are the watchwords. The common interest of the American and the Grenadian people to defeat Reaganism as a short-term objective is the key to the defeat of neo-colonial reaction and the U.S. occupation.

## SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND DEMANDING A FAIR TRIAL IN GRENADA

To: Prime Minister Herbert Blaize  
Prime Minister's Office  
St. George's, Grenada  
West Indies

Dear Sir:

I am extremely concerned about the recent illegal and unconstitutional trial of the 17 former officials and soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. I am also concerned about the many violations of the defendants' human rights.

I strongly urge you and your government, in the name of justice and of the democratic tradition to which we all adhere, to ensure that the defendants have a free and fair trial in a legally constituted court. Further, I urge that Grenada return as soon as possible to the Eastern Caribbean judicial system and that the constitution be applied to the judicial system in Grenada.

Sincerely,



If you have additional information about human rights violations in Grenada, please send it to the Committee.

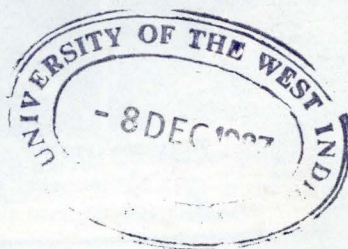


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● Flashback... in happier days, Bishop and Coard

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THIS ISSUE MAY BE BORROWED FROM  
51 OCT 1988

# BULLETIN

SUMMER 1988 #3

of the

## Committee for Human Rights in Grenada

### GRENADIAN BRAIN DRAIN

By a Grenadian Youth

"Our greatest export was our people," declared former Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in reflecting on the decades of Gairyism. This free flight of Grenada's most expensive resource is even greater today than during the years before the revolution. It is not a situation unique to Grenada, but the entire English-speaking Caribbean.

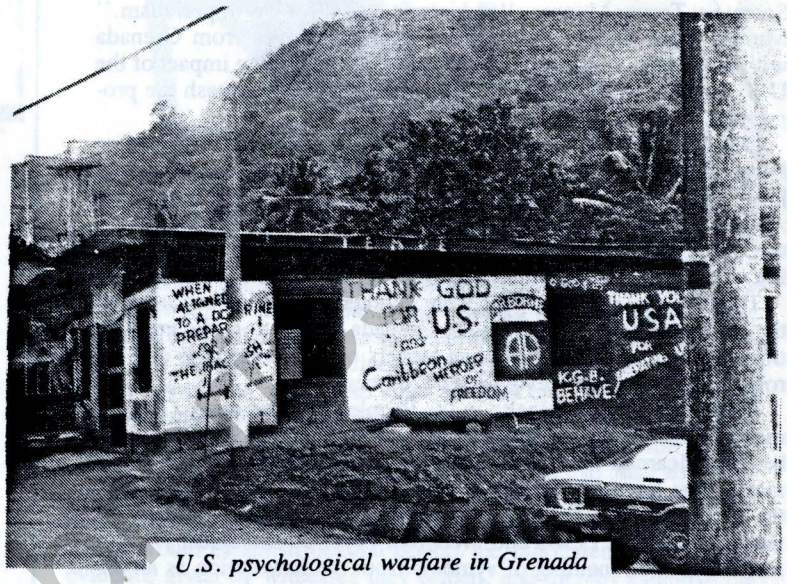
The amnesty program providing the opportunity for legal status to over 300,000 from our countries is a welcomed relief for many from living a hide-and-seek life of anxiety, lowest-paying jobs, lack of security, intolerable working conditions and humiliation. It is human that we strive to explore the unknown, but when multitudes flee their homeland yearly settling elsewhere, it is unnatural. And when we consider that the majority of these migrants are young, skilled and educated (about 2/3 of the population in the Eastern Caribbean are under 35), we see clearer the impact of this brain drain.

A study published in the Journal of Sociology and Social Research (1983) on emigration to the U.S. quantifies the problem: of every 1000 natural increase in the population of St. Kitts-Nevis 3,851 emigrate to the U.S. In Antigua-Barbuda the figure for the same increase is 2,008. Grenada has the world's third highest ratio of emigrants to the U.S. with 641 per 1000 natural increase of its population. While this reflects the economic crisis affecting the Caribbean Basin, it also compounds it.

The economic and political situation presented by eastern Caribbean states is very similar. Permanently high unemployment is a feature of every country. Though in decline, the right-wing parties bolstered by Reaganism still hold the seat of power in all of the countries. Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) offered as the great northern hope, has failed to make any dent on unemployment. In fact, factories fleeing some cities like Bridgeport, Connecticut (which is calculated to lose millions yearly as a direct result of CBI) for Caribbean cheap labor deprive Caribbean migrants, living in the U.S., of jobs. The relatively small size of Eastern Caribbean countries, a developmental problem by itself, makes them even more vulnerable to U.S. influence.

In all of our countries U.S.-dominated media flood the shores stunting the development of authentic Caribbean culture and creating alienation and false needs for young people. As if the information control is not enough, Voice of America has set up a new transmitter on Grenada in further breach of her sovereignty. This is in addition to one already functioning in Antigua-Barbuda.

U.S. occupation and the defeat of the Revolution has removed Grenada from the distinction of 4 1/2 years of genuine development. Today only the Gairy era can match up to the political repression and economic hardship brought on by neo-colonialism. Triple rise in unemployment since '83, the reversal of revolutionary gains and the outlawing of uniting structures like the National Youth Organization, has brought in hopelessness and a lack of purpose for the youth. Official government data has it that some 2,000 people leave the country yearly seeking opportunities elsewhere.



U.S. psychological warfare in Grenada

### U.S. WAR ON ONE WOMAN: MY CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT IN GRENADA

A limited number of copies of Phyllis Coard's prison diary in paperback form are available from the Committee For Human Rights In Grenada. For your copy, please send a \$10 check or money order (U.S. dollars only) to CHRG, Box 20714, Park West Finance Sta., New York, N.Y. 10025.

While many are escapist, the majority of the people are resisting this onslaught and are struggling against mighty odds for their sovereignty. Left and democratic movements in most of these islands are members of the recently founded Caribbean and Latin American Anti-Imperialist Organization. There are efforts to found an Eastern Caribbean youth organization incorporating youth forms in most countries. A new independent national youth organization has emerged in St. Lucia despite pressure from the establishment to dominate it.

Resistance has also been expressed in the growing trade union militancy in Grenada in the midst of the U.S.'s effort to subvert it. Annual May Day celebrations are repeatedly becoming forums to put the neo-colonial government on trial for its unpopular policies.

At an October 1987 meeting of Caribbean anti-imperialist youth in Curacao, the 22 representatives of 16 organizations reaffirmed their solidarity with the Grenadian people and youth and called for the Caribbean as a zone of peace, free of military adventures, manoeuvres and bases.





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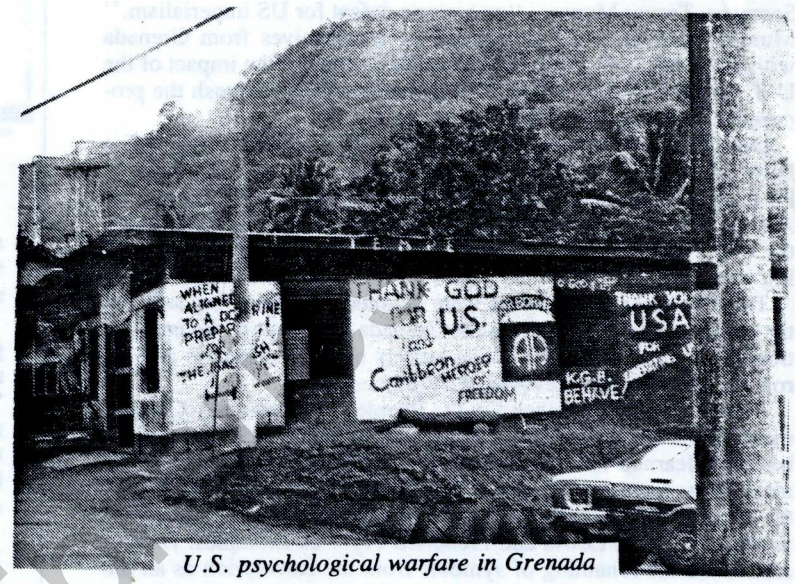
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A study published in the Journal of Sociology and Social Research (1983) on emigration to the U.S. quantifies the problem: of every 1000 natural increase in the population of St. Kitts-Nevis 3,851 emigrate to the U.S. In Antigua-Barbuda the figure for the same increase is 2,008. Grenada has the world's third highest ratio of emigrants to the U.S. with 641 per 1000 natural increase of its population. While this reflects the economic crisis affecting the Caribbean Basin, it also compounds it.

The economic and political situation presented by eastern Caribbean states is very similar. Permanently high unemployment is a feature of every country. Though in decline, the right-wing parties bolstered by Reaganism still hold the seat of power in all of the countries. Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) offered as the great northern hope, has failed to make any dent on unemployment. In fact, factories fleeing some cities like Bridgeport, Connecticut (which is calculated to lose millions yearly as a direct result of CBI) for Caribbean cheap labor deprive Caribbean migrants, living in the U.S., of jobs. The relatively small size of Eastern Caribbean countries, a developmental problem by itself, makes them even more vulnerable to U.S. influence.

In all of our countries U.S.-dominated media flood the shores stunting the development of authentic Caribbean culture and creating alienation and false needs for young people. As if the information control is not enough, Voice of America has set up a new transmitter on Grenada in further breach of her sovereignty. This is in addition to one already functioning in Antigua-Barbuda.

U.S. occupation and the defeat of the Revolution has removed Grenada from the distinction of 4 1/2 years of genuine development. Today only the Gairy era can match up to the political repression and economic hardship brought on by neo-colonialism. Triple rise in unemployment since '83, the reversal of revolutionary gains and the outlawing of uniting structures like the National Youth Organization, has brought in hopelessness and a lack of purpose for the youth. Official government data has it that some 2,000 people leave the country yearly seeking opportunities elsewhere.



U.S. psychological warfare in Grenada

### U.S. WAR ON ONE WOMAN: MY CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT IN GRENADA

A limited number of copies of Phyllis Coard's prison diary in paperback form are available from the Committee For Human Rights In Grenada. For your copy, please send a \$10 check or money order (U.S. dollars only) to CHRG, Box 20714, Park West Finance Sta., New York, N.Y. 10025.

While many are escapist, the majority of the people are resisting this onslaught and are struggling against mighty odds for their sovereignty. Left and democratic movements in most of these islands are members of the recently founded Caribbean and Latin American Anti-Imperialist Organization. There are efforts to found an Eastern Caribbean youth organization incorporating youth forms in most countries. A new independent national youth organization has emerged in St. Lucia despite pressure from the establishment to dominate it.

Resistance has also been expressed in the growing trade union militancy in Grenada in the midst of the U.S.'s effort to subvert it. Annual May Day celebrations are repeatedly becoming forums to put the neo-colonial government on trial for its unpopular policies.

At an October 1987 meeting of Caribbean anti-imperialist youth in Curacao, the 22 representatives of 16 organizations reaffirmed their solidarity with the Grenadian people and youth and called for the Caribbean as a zone of peace, free of military adventures, manoeuvres and bases.



# SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CARIBBEAN UNITY HELD IN LONDON

An international conference was held in London on the 9th anniversary of the Grenada Revolution (March 11-13), with the theme "Towards Anti-Imperialist Unity." The conference, hosted by the NJM-UK, was, in the words of Workers Party of Jamaica General Secretary Trevor Munroe, "an historic defeat for US imperialism." Munroe cited the coming together of progressives from Grenada with those from other parts of the world in spite of the impact of the U.S. invasion and its massive propaganda effort to squash the progressive movement in Grenada.

Delegates attended from the Caribbean — Peoples Progressive Party of Guyana, Working Peoples Alliance of Guyana, Workers Party of Barbados, Workers Party of Jamaica — from Europe — Austria, Greece, Sweden, Cyprus and Britain — from Mauritius, the U.S., Canada and a representative of Grenadian students studying in the USSR.

The first day's proceedings were devoted to considering some of the lessons to be learned from the Grenada Revolution, the implications of the trial of the surviving leaders of the Revolution and the role of women in the revolutionary process.

Former Minister of Health in the Peoples Revolutionary Government, Chris De Riggs, opened the Conference by addressing what has been learned from the 1983 events in Grenada and their aftermath. First he cited the attempts by various scholars as well as by the U.S.-backed NNP government to rewrite history, naming the works of Gordon Lewis and Frederick Pryor as examples. He also mentioned the renaming of symbols from the Revolution as an unsuccessful effort to wipe out the Revo from the minds of the Grenadian people.

Turning to mistakes made by the New Jewel Movement, De Riggs said they didn't pay enough attention to Maurice Bishop's reaction to Joint Leadership, though the NJM had implemented other tough decisions. The NJM Central Committee was not flexible enough, over-estimated their capability to solve problems and did not take U.S. threats to invade seriously enough, according to De Riggs.

De Riggs also believes that the NJM failed to take into account that the masses' concept of leadership did not include a real understanding of democratic centralism.

Next Richard Hart presented some "Lessons from the Grenada Revolution." His paper included (1) Achieving a change of government and taking power; (2) Economic policies for a peoples government; (3) Maintaining popular support while in office; and (4) The role of the Armed Forces.

Two workshops were held on Day 1. One on the role of women in the Revo led by Hazel Anne Williams, former Secretary to the Cabinet of the PRG, and the other on the lessons of the Revo and the implications of the Grenada Murder Trial with Richard Hart and Chris De Riggs.

The second day's deliberations concentrated on the perspectives for progress in the Caribbean area, U.S. military intervention in the region and the struggles of the trade unions in Grenada.

WPJ General Secretary Trevor Munroe led off the day with a lecture on "Caribbean Revolutionary Movements and the U.S. Military Presence." He described the U.S. presence as taking 3 forms: (1) Foreign military sales, (2) Military Assistance Program and (3) International Military training. All three have escalated since 1980.

"Now," said Munroe, "we have the U.S.-trained SSU (Special Security Unit), the Regional Defense Force and more than 12 major military exercises held by the U.S. in the Caribbean since 1979. In fact, the 1982 Ocean Venture Maneuver was the largest peacetime exercise by the U.S. in the world." Munroe pointed the



BGWU General Secretary Trevor Xavier and WPJ General Secretary Trevor Munroe

audience to the little publicized 1984 National Security Directive which authorizes pre-emptive strikes by U.S. forces against "terrorism."

He also spoke of the discussions going on in his Party and other groups in the region on the "way forward." Said Munroe, "the masses wonder if they can vote out a WPJ if they vote them in." "We must not dismiss such questions," he added, "we must respect those outside the revolutionary movement." The reason for the rethinking going on in the WPJ is "to find errors in tactics and become more effective in drawing in the masses when the time comes."

Bank and General Workers Union General Secretary Trevor Xavier reviewed the gains made for the trade union movement in Grenada under the Peoples Revolutionary Government and how the movement has been under serious attack since the U.S. invasion, particularly through the machinations of AIFLD. Although worker militancy has decreased since the Revo, it's started to revive recently.

On the third and final day, a spirited public rally was held. De Riggs felt that the execution of the 14 NJM and PRA leaders, convicted in a kangaroo trial of the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others, was necessary for the U.S. to complete its invasion of Grenada. Trevor Munroe explained the difficulty of the task ahead "to show ordinary people why a fair and full trial is important" for them. He stressed that it's the only way to know what really happened on October 19, 1983. Diane Abbott, the first Black female MP in Britain offered her solidarity with the conference and her interest in seeing that the NJM 17 get a fair trial.

Following are some of the resolutions that were passed at the Conference:

1. *Condemnation of the U.S. government for*
  - a. armed interventions in the internal affairs of countries of the Caribbean area and Latin America;
  - b. the invasion of Grenada in particular, thereby frustrating aspirations for economic and political independence;
  - c. intimidatory military manoeuvres in the region and attempts to prevent legitimate expressions of social unrest by means of the so-called Special Security Units and the Regional Security Service under U.S. control.

2. *An expression of alarm and disapproval of the U.S. government's actions in relation to Panama* and a declaration that the composition of the Government of that country and its armed forces is a matter for the Panamanian people. This resolution affirmed the right of the people of every sovereign state to control their own affairs without external interference.

### 3. *Resolution on the Murder Trial:*

This Conference recognizes that the execution of Maurice Bishop, Jacqueline Creft, Unison Whiteman and other Grenadians was a crime whose perpetrators ought to be brought to account in a free and fair trial.

This Conference affirms that the process which resulted in the conviction of 16 men and 1 woman in December 1986 cannot be regarded as a free and fair trial, neither can the present Appeal process begun on March 8, 1988 in Grenada, particularly because:

- it was held in an unconstitutional court
- its jury was improperly selected
- it relied on confessions extracted through torture.

This Conference considers that the case brought against the members of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement was weak, resting mainly on the evidence of one witness who had close links with the US invaders.

This Conference declares that the interests of the present Grenada administration and its backers lie rather in physically exterminating the former PRG leadership than in seeing the truth emerge about the tragedy of Oct. 19, 1983.

This Conference calls, therefore, upon progressive people and organizations to demand from the Grenadian authorities:

- (i) that there should be no executions of the pending death sentences of the 14 defendants,
- (ii) that the charges against the defendants should be judged in a free and fair trial in a constitutional court, and
- (iii) calls on all fair minded individuals and organizations to help secure a fair trial by contributing to the legal defense fund.

#### 4. Resolution on Women

This Conference

- (i) recognizes the tremendous progress made by women during the period of the Grenada Revolution;
- (ii) pays special tribute to sister Phyllis Coard who as President of the N.W.O. worked tirelessly for the progress of all Grenadian women;
- (iii) strongly condemns the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the subsequent destruction of the gains made for and by women during the period of the Revolution;
- (iv) condemns the particularly harsh conditions under which Phyllis Coard is presently imprisoned and the denial of her most basic human rights.

This Conference urges all progressive individuals and organizations to

- (1) join the fight for a free and fair trial for Phyllis Coard and the other prisoners;
- (2) highlight the particularly harsh and inhumane conditions Phyllis is subjected to;
- (3) help raise the funds needed urgently to fight their case in court.

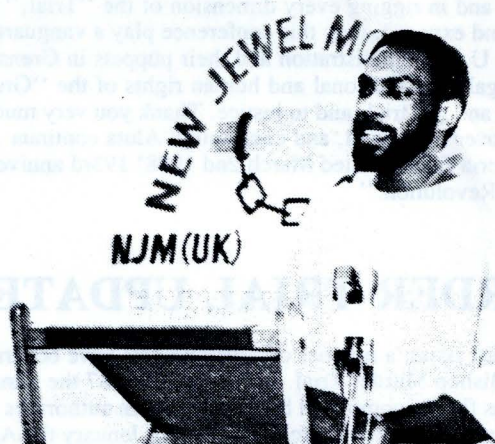
## MESSAGE FROM THE IMPRISONED MEMBERS OF THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE

"The Grenada 17," imprisoned members of the NJM CC, sent a special message to the international solidarity conference, held in the UK in March.

Showing tremendous awareness of local and US events in a statement smuggled out of prison, they commented on the economic and social crisis gripping the country; the hardship and suffering of the Grenadian masses despite US assistance; the faltering political leadership; ongoing US military exercises; and the current master-puppet relationship between the US and Grenada.

They spoke of the trial in a "corrupt, crooked and venal court system," as follows:

"The U.S. Administration spent approximately \$6 million (US) to finance and rig the "Trial" held in that illegal and unconstitutional Court System. They contracted a "Special Judge" who flew into Grenada to try us: he tried the case, handed down fourteen (14) death sentences, then resigned his appointment and flew out of Gre-



Former PRG Min. of Health Chris De Riggs

nada days after. Every aspect of Jury selection process related to the "Trial" was rigged; (a) a member of the Prosecution Team of lawyers in the same "Trial" was appointed as Registrar to choose the array of 140 summoned Jurors; (b) 10 of 12 Jurors handing down guilty verdicts could not legally have been appointed if the Jury Law was followed; (c) the Jury panel was selected while defendants were locked in their cells; and even so, 43 of 66 Jurors names called were made to "standby" (i.e. rejected) by the Prosecution! (d) 3 Jury Laws were passed just for our case! The last one was passed eleven (11) days after the "Trial" started!! (e) A totally hand picked Jury at every stage of the process! Evidence to obtain conviction against us was massively fabricated; facts which could establish the innocence of defendants were suppressed. The U.S. Administration bluntly refused to hand over documents seized during the invasion, which would establish beyond doubt, the fabricated nature of the evidence given by witnesses they bribed, and thereby establish the innocence of the surviving Leaders of the Grenada Revolution. Some of us were beaten within the precincts of the court during the "Trial," denied medical care, and brought back into court days after in a battered state. A constitutional motion - suit No. 191 of 1986 - filed by us, and seeking redress for the massive violation of our rights has been pending in the Court system since June 2nd, 1986; every manoeuvre has been, and is being attempted by the puppets and their legal appointees to skirt that motion."

They also spoke of worsened prison conditions since their conviction, of continuing massive violations of their rights - arbitrary punishment, denial of medical attention and withholding of medication, and restricted access to legal counsel.

They made mention of the Reagan administration's "massive and hysterical propaganda campaign" preceding and subsequent to the invasion:

"In that campaign the genuine grief, confusion and grievances of the Grenadian masses, arising out of the October 1983 Crisis and Tragedy was callously exploited and played upon by the U.S. Through this campaign, the Reagan Administration and the CIA skillfully covered up their role in aggravating and escalating the crisis, and bringing about the Tragedy. They have successfully placed the full burden of blame for the deaths of the outstanding Leader Maurice Bishop, and other Grenadian leaders and patriots on the shoulders of those who survived the Tragedy. In this way, they have hoodwinked even genuine progressive and liberal forces."

The statement concluded as follows:

"Nine years ago, almost to the day, our Party and people faced a similar situation. Then, we faced liquidation at the hands of the neo-fascist Gairy regime. Then, our Party was able to mobilise the necessary forces and resources to take appropriate steps to withhold the hand of the dictator, and indeed, to open up an unprecedented period of freedom and progress for our country. May the spirit of those unforgettable days serve to inspire this conference; and may this conference in its deliberations, decisions and follow-up actions, play a decisive role in mobilising the broadest possible forces to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. and their puppets in Grenada; and through causing the U.S. role in the Crisis and Tragedy in Grenada

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

in framing us and in rigging every dimension of the "Trial," to be investigated and exposed, may this conference play a vanguard role in forcing the U.S. Administration and their puppets in Grenada to respect the legal, constitutional and human rights of the "Grenada 17," to a free and fair trial, and to justice. Thank you very much for all your help over the period, and continuing! Aluta continua . . . . hasta la victoria finale! Dated March 2nd 1988! 193rd anniversary of the Fedon Revolution."

## MURDER TRIAL UPDATE

Since our last issue, a number of developments have occurred in the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial. In November 1987 the transcript of the trial was finally completed by the Grenadian authorities and a date for the Appeal was set (March 7, 1988). In January the Appeal of Defense Team leader Ian Ramsay's contempt conviction began and was suspended until *after* the Appeal of the Murder Trial. However Ramsay became aware of a warrant for his arrest held by the Grenadian police and could not return for the start of the Appeal on March 8.

On the first day of the Appeal, Justice J.O.F. Haynes said *he* had the warrant and that Ramsay could return. Meanwhile the Defense had asked for a full team of 15 lawyers to try to secure their clients some measure of justice, but the Government resisted and would only grant legal aid to eight (this was increased to 10 in April '88). So the team was not constituted and prepared when the Appeal started. This did not seem to bother the justices who carried on.

On that first day the Appeals Court appeared to make a move to free one of the defendants, Cecil Prime, a soldier against whom evidence was "vague." The next day, however, when Prosecution team leader Karl Hudson-Phillips pointed to the testimony of former Bishop bodyguard Cletus St. Paul against Prime, the Justices retreated, though they themselves had described St. Paul's testimony as "spiteful." The following day the Appeal was adjourned to May 30.

Since March there has been activity around two of the constitutional motions which had been postponed by the courts for almost two years. One is the Fair Trial Motion and the other is a Mistrial Motion. The former is before the Appeals Court and the latter before the High Court.

For more updated information about Grenada, if you want to be kept informed, please write us at P.O. Box 20714, New York, N.Y. 10025 and enclose a minimum donation of \$5 to help cover our printing and postal expenses. We also appreciate names and addresses of anyone you know who would might be interested in this information.

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## GRENADA UPDATE

. . . . A recent report by a leading Grenadian trade unionist indicates that, in addition to the continuing economic deterioration, the very fabric of the society is weakening. Increasing unemployment (now 30%), crime, violence, emigration, drugs, inadequate housing, poor health, cultural and recreational facilities are signs of the country's social decay. Cultural aggression from external forces, mainly the U.S., through the media, has intensified, in an apparent attempt to eliminate the national identity of the Grenadian people, their sense of human dignity, desire for freedom and independence and their self-reliance. The overwhelming presence of US Peace Corps officials in the areas of education, culture and sports, the US-programmed Discovery TV and future plans of Voice of America to establish a transmitting station in eastern Grenada are indications of this, the report maintained.

. . . In a NY address, George Brizan, former NNP Minister of Agriculture and now leader of the newly-formed National Democratic Congress (NDC) and of the parliamentary opposition, in criticizing the NNP, claimed that the Government had borrowed heavily from the National Insurance Scheme. As a result, funds in the Scheme, established by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) in 1983, had declined from EC\$9 million to \$3 million in 1987. The NDC leader continues to be very critical of Blaize's economic policies and governing style. NDC's program for economic development is based on agriculture, tourism, fishing and light manufacturing. Social programs advocated seem, with few exceptions, to be a carbon copy of the PRG's programs.

. . . The NNP government has paid EC\$1.5 million compensation to 150 people for "acts committed against them by the PRG and the Gairy administrations." However, two Cuban government claims for compensation from the government of Grenada were dismissed by the Grenada Court of Appeals earlier this year. Cuba had sought compensation for equipment seized after the 1983 US invasion.

. . . The Reagan administration is reimbursing the Grenada government for all redundancy payments made to retrenched civil servants. So far, the NNP has laid off 500-600 of the 1800 workers scheduled to be retrenched. However, the US is reportedly pressuring Blaize to continue the layoffs by cutting back USAID assistance to the country until the layoffs resume.

. . . Grenada and Canada have signed a new 5 year agreement, designed to rehabilitate Grenada's declining cocoa industry.

. . . Ex-prison officer, Victor Palmer, lost his appeal of a 1985 conviction and death sentence in the killing of a prisoner in his charge, during the 1983 US invasion. Palmer had shot an inmate who had attacked him during an escape attempt. His attorney has filed a second appeal on the same grounds — misconduct of the jury.

. . . Former dictator, Eric Gairy, has officially resigned as head of his Grenada United Labor Party (GULP), due to ill health. He was succeeded by Dr. Raphael Fletcher, a 60-year-old former physics professor, who had not lived in the country for more than 30 years.

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# BULLETIN

of the

NO. 4  
Fall, 1988

## Committee for Human Rights in Grenada

### EDITORIAL: FIVE YEARS LATER

On the 5th anniversary of the tragedy of October 19, 1983 and the ensuing invasion of Grenada by the Reagan administration, we still have not had a thorough, objective investigation of the events that preceded and occurred on that fateful day. Fourteen former leaders of the New Jewel Movement and Peoples Revolutionary Army still sit in Richmond Hill Prison, condemned to death for the assassination of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other government leaders, after what has been denounced worldwide as a mock trial, in an unconstitutional or kangaroo court. Yet most of the world is unaware or misinformed of even this fact — for five years later, we are nowhere nearer the truth.

While on the one hand, we must condemn the horrible killings of October 19 and demand that those responsible be brought to justice, we must not allow our grief to permit the continued scapegoating of those whom the powers-that-be have accused of the crime, but whose guilt they have yet to prove.

Now that five years have passed, some Grenadians have become less emotional and taken a hard look at the role of the U.S. in the events of 1983. Grenadian historian Joachim Mark says he is convinced that the U.S. played a role in the "destabilization and overthrow of the Peoples Revolutionary Government." The U.S. continues to hold PRG documents that the defendants in the Murder Trial assert could prove their innocence. The U.S. also provided \$5.5 million to the Eastern Caribbean for "judicial reform" immediately prior to the trial and two weeks after Ronald Reagan paid an unprecedented 4 hour visit to the country. Grenadians, dissatisfied with the conduct of the trial and shocked by the harshness of the sentences, have repeated calls for an impartial inquiry into the events of 1983.

NJM members and supporters were split by the tragedy. A handful of NJM members, led by former government ministers Kendrick Radix and George Louison, formed a new party, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), while the rest of the NJM were forced underground or into exile, and have focused on trying to save the lives of their leaders. Neither of these groups has been able to recapture the support of the Grenadian masses. Much energy has been spent by the MBPM in attacking the NJM and by the NJM in defending itself from these attacks. Meanwhile the U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) government carries out its policies of turning back the clock on the hopes and aspirations of the Grenadian people for a better life and stifles the efforts of both parties.

These two groupings need to put aside their past differences to rebuild the progressive movement in Grenada around the common objective of stopping the downward slide of the country and people under the present government. If need be, some of those directly involved in the 1983 tragedy should stand aside and let the other members carry on. But national unity of progressive forces should be a priority if there is to be a rebirth of the unique process begun on March 13, 1979.

Regionally, progressive movements were badly stunned by this reversal and many suffered some internal turmoil. However, they managed to find a rallying point in the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central American, despite their varying positions on the Grenada events.

The Committee for Human Rights in Grenada supports these moves. However, we believe that these attempts at national and regional unity can only be bolstered by the results of the long, overdue inquiry into the events of October 1983. Five years later, we repeat our call to progressives to press the Grenadian government and whomever else for a thorough impartial investigation into the entire matter and a free and fair trial of those accused and unjustly condemned.

### GRENADA MURDER TRIAL UPDATE

The Grenada Murder Trial Appeal resumed in late August after a 10 week break. When the Appeal adjourned in June, Atty. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown of Jamaica was putting forward arguments challenging the legality of the jury summoned to hear the case two years ago. In this session, Atty. Howard Hamilton argued that the trial judge failed to take effective measures to deal with massive pre-trial publicity against the defendants. Hamilton focused his arguments on what he said were hostile remarks made against the defendants by a number of local and regional newspapers and calypsonians.

He told the three member panel of appeal court judges, headed by J.O.F. Haynes, that an impartial jury was not selected for the trial which ended in Dec. 1986. This is so, he said, because the trial judge failed to ask jurors a number of important questions which would have helped in the selection of an impartial jury.

Hamilton said some of the questions had to do with whether any of the persons selected as jurors were involved in any way in the Oct. 1983 events in which former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed. Another question, he said, was related to whether any of these persons were adversely treated by the PRG.

Continuing, Defense Counsel Earl Wittier argued that the trial judge allowed a jury to be empanelled while the defendants were serving a jail sentence for contempt of court. Wittier said the Judge, Denis Byron, should have considered instituting other options available to him. For example, gagging the defendants. Haynes disagreed, stating that gagging was "gruesome and brutal" and that it would have started off protests in the international community about human rights abuses.

The trial, which is being conducted in two week sessions with two week breaks, has been postponed to late November as a result of the damage Hurricane Gilbert caused to the homes and offices of several of the Jamaican lawyers.

# STOP DISPLAYING BIAS

(The following appeared in the *Grenadian Voice* on June 25, 1988)

To the Editor:

Please permit me some space in your valuable medium of communication to express my views on an issue I consider to be of tremendous importance. I have been meaning to write on this issue for the longest while but thought it necessary to make the most careful observation before I did so. Now I must say enough is enough and call on the Grenada media, which claims with great enthusiasm that it is the "FREE PRESS," to stop displaying its disgraceful bias in reporting events surrounding the Maurice Bishop Murder Case!

Today's media in Grenada claims that it is blessed with freedom (albeit a freedom born out of foreign invasion) and from the onset proclaimed that it will live up to the principle of objective journalism. But alas, this objective journalism is nothing but a facade by some to attack with a long awaited vengeance those who are considered their class enemy or political opponents.

Let us consider, for example, the behaviour of a certain local newspaper. During the Maurice Bishop Murder "Trial," this newspaper saw it fit to publish word for word (and there was nothing wrong with that) the testimonies of witnesses for the Prosecution. That newspaper went so far as to publish special issues so as to facilitate this venture. But, as soon as the defendants started giving their side of the story, there was no longer any special issue giving word by word account of what they were saying. Had objective and professional journalism been the desire of that newspaper, then such would not have been their behaviour. Objective and professional journalism would not have been thrown out of the window so unceremoniously!

But the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial itself is completed, and what appears to be a well orchestrated plan to further prejudice the minds of Grenadians was indeed successful. Had it been a case of mistakes being made and now recognized, then amendments would be made. But no! Not so!

In April/May, a Constitutional Motion brought by the defendants in the Maurice Bishop Murder Case, alleging numerous violations in the Trial itself, was finally heard after being delayed for two years through no fault of the defendants.

Eleven witnesses were called including eight lawyers, two policemen and Bernard Coard himself. A multitude of evidence emerged during the hearings from very credible witnesses which indicated fundamental constitutional breaches, gross violations of the Jury laws, as well as irregularities in the conduct of the case itself by the trial judge, Justice Byron, who was brought in and paid specifically to hear that trial. Evidence emerged which clearly indicated that the array of jurors, from which the jury was selected, was biased against the defendants long before the case started; that from that same array of summoned jurors a jury was chosen which convicted 14 of the defendants to death and three to long terms of imprisonment within a mere three hours of retiring.

Suit 191 sought to have the Murder Trial declared a mis-trial, and the convictions quashed because of fair trial breaches during the trial itself. But the big question is this: Why did the Grenada media virtually ignore this most critical Constitutional Motion? Is it, or is it not, the right of the Grenadian people to receive full and unbiased coverage of a case arising out of events which impacted on every Grenadian citizen?

If these questions are answered in the affirmative, if impartial reporting of the case is considered desirable, then obviously the present attitude of the Grenadian media cannot be justified. Indeed, journalists have a right to hold their own opinions, and it natural, and not necessarily improper, that these opinions should influence their news reports. Let not the maxim that every accused person is entitled to a free and fair hearing and trial be ignored in this case or in any case for that matter, for that way lies a slippery downhill slope for our Grenadian society.

And so, once more, I call on the Grenada media to stop displaying its disgraceful bias in reporting events surrounding the Maurice Bishop Murder Case. I say so at the risk of opening myself to very hostile attacks. But then such will only prove my point. But let it be known that I know what to expect and that I have already written my anticipated response. They have nothing new to add, so I urge you to do better, Mr. Media. Prove to the people that you are better than those who have come before.

Ian St. Bernard

(Former Commissioner of Police in the Peoples Revolutionary Government)

## GRENADA UPDATE

... The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank recently published its latest review of the economies of its member countries. It revealed that the Grenadian economy grew during 1987 because of growth in the agricultural, manufacturing and construction sectors. Production of bananas, cocoa, nutmeg and mace increased considerably. However, the public deficit increased by \$45.9 million over 1986, causing the government to borrow from the National Insurance Scheme (instituted by the PRG) and commercial banks to meet financial needs, and to defer contributions to regional and international organizations. Recurrent revenue was boosted by an increase of \$4 million over 1986, from taxes on goods and services.

... last July, the French and Grenadian governments signed a two-year funding and technical assistance agreement to begin in January 1989. The package will provide Grenada with French funding for: small projects in fishing and farming; a pest and disease control project; water projects; construction of 3 bridges; 150 low-cost houses; a new sewage system for St. Georges General Hospital; 12 annual scholarships in agriculture, tourism and infrastructure. In addition, the French will provide technical personnel for some of the above projects; French language teachers for Grenadian schools; coaches for school sports programs as well as sports equipment; personnel for road construction projects and health personnel to study garbage disposal in Grenada with a view to making recommendations for possible funding.

... Grenada, through the Grenada Development Bank, also received a loan of \$5 million to assist with projects in agriculture, industry, tourism, housing and education, from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Grenada's loan was the largest by the CDB to six Caribbean countries.

... Minister of Works and Public Utilities and General Secretary of the governing New National Party (NNP), Keith Mitchell, recently responded to charges from different fronts. The opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), led by George Brizan, called on PM Blaize to suspend Mitchell while government investigated claims that US\$740,000 of the Eastern Main Road project had been squandered and unaccounted for. The NDC also claimed that the European Economic Commission wanted to stop funding after August due to alleged mis-management, and that 100 more workers were to be laid off. He further called on Blaize to sack Mitchell if the investigation turned up any evidence of financial impropriety.

In reply, Mitchell stated that there will be cost over-runs of US\$740,000 due to various factors, including increases in salaries and currency exchange rates and unavailability of materials, but that all the money would be totally accounted for. Mitchell also

had to deny charges that he was trying to seize the party leadership from Blaize.

The Grenada Hotel Association, reacting to reports of a leadership struggle within the NNP, called on the government to call new elections in the interests of the country's stability, if the reports were true. Mitchell responded that an open, ongoing debate within the NNP on strategies and operations had been regarded as divisiveness.

... according to Grenadian newspaper reports, Nicholas Brathwaite, head of the Interim Government following the US invasion, has been approached by senior NNP officials to join their party and be their candidate for the Carriacou seat of PM Blaize. Brathwaite has reportedly declined both offers. He has also stated that he is considering running for the Carriacou seat but has not decided on any party affiliation.

## BACK TO GRENADA

A London-based Grenadian national, in a recent interview, following a visit to Grenada, reports that:

... there is a growing migration trend from the rural areas to south St. Georges, for jobs as construction workers, drivers, maids and security personnel. Factory shells for light industry like textiles and pharmaceuticals (a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson) are being constructed. Wages are low, jobs insecure and squatting in flimsy structures has increased;

... the incidence of violent and drug-related crimes has risen; stopping for hitchhikers has become hazardous;

... there is talk of "guns being smuggled into Grenada and certain individuals who have received military training in Panama and elsewhere,"

... one of the notorious Budhlall brothers (involved in the 1980 bomb attack on the PRG leadership) is in charge of the controversial million dollar Eastern Main Road construction project;

... the local TV channel (11), Discovery TV, part of a Chicago-based station, operates from the former Cuban Embassy, broadcasting pure US American fare, complete with commercials for US products not available in Grenada; US influence is also apparent in the other media: "on many issues newspapers rely on syndicated articles from the US with little local comment;"

... PM Blaize "is regarded as incompetent and spiteful and his government has made several major blunders at home and abroad," notably abstention in the UN on the issue of sanctions against South Africa;

... the real power in the NDC, according to Grenadians, lies with the US-backed deputy leader, Francis Alexis;

... attending the Bishop Murder Trial Appeal hearings can be a trial in itself. Once past the heavily-armed guards outside the compound, past the reception area for body and electronic device searches, past heavily-armed guards, wearing jungle fatigues, inside the compound, and into the heavily-policed courtroom, one is still subject to the daily arbitrary interpretation by the police of the rules and regulations governing dress and movement. The morale and determination of the defendants seem high. The judges now seem to be caught in the predicament of protecting their regional and international reputations, while upholding the original verdict of the internationally-condemned kangaroo court;

... Victor Palmer's morale is running low and his physical health deteriorating. His family is finding it difficult to visit and give general support. No date has been set for his appeal (see Bulletin #3).

... NDC leader George Brizan has predicted that national elections could be held in Grenada as early as next January. This early date depends on the successful outcome of any serious internal challenge to Blaize's leadership in the NNP, he claimed.

... the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) has charged the government with selling a shipment of AK-47 guns to a West German arms dealer, for use by UNITA rebels against the Angolan government and by the contras in Nicaragua. The guns are some of the weapons left with the Grenada government after the US invasion when US troops confiscated and shipped most of them back to the US. The MBPM roundly denounced this as the act of "an immoral government, desperate for money because of failed economic policy."

... at the end of a 5-month campaign, spearheaded by the NDC, consisting of meetings throughout the country, on the radio, within the NDC and parliament, 125,000 signatures were collected on a petition calling on member countries of the United Nations to use their influence to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, jailed South African leader. The petitions were presented to the UN Secretary-General by Brizan, in July.

Brizan was also an invited guest at the recent U.S. Democratic Party convention in Atlanta.

... Eric Gairy and his opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) recently called off plans to make Grenada a republic, if successful in national elections due in just over a year. The proposed constitutional change would have required a national referendum and parliamentary vote and made Grenada a commonwealth, replacing the governor-general with a ceremonial president as head of state. According to Gairy, who led Grenada to independence in February 1974, many Grenadians, including GULP supporters, did not fully understand what republican status meant and tended to associate it with revolutions, and social and civil disorders.

It has been reported that Gairy recently sent a 3-man delegation to the US to request the return of US troops to the country, in order to counter the "socialist threat." He has also promised to make land available for a US army base if GULP were successful in forming the next government.

... in late May, Don Rojas, journalist and former press attache to PM Maurice Bishop, and others were denied entry to Grenada to speak at a MBPM convention. Reacting to regional protests, the NNP government defended itself by declaring its "right to stop persons hostile to democracy" from entering and to be suspicious of travellers who might have been "in constant touch with Pres. Castro and with Pres. Gaddafi." It revealed that it had compiled a list of persons to be denied entry to the country, which included several Caribbean progressives, among them Ricky Singh, respected journalist and former editor of *Caribbean Contact*, the monthly newspaper of the Caribbean Conference of Churches.



# SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND DEMANDING A FAIR TRIAL IN GRENADA

To: Prime Minister Herbert Blaize  
Prime Minister's Office  
St. George's, Grenada  
West Indies

Dear Sir:

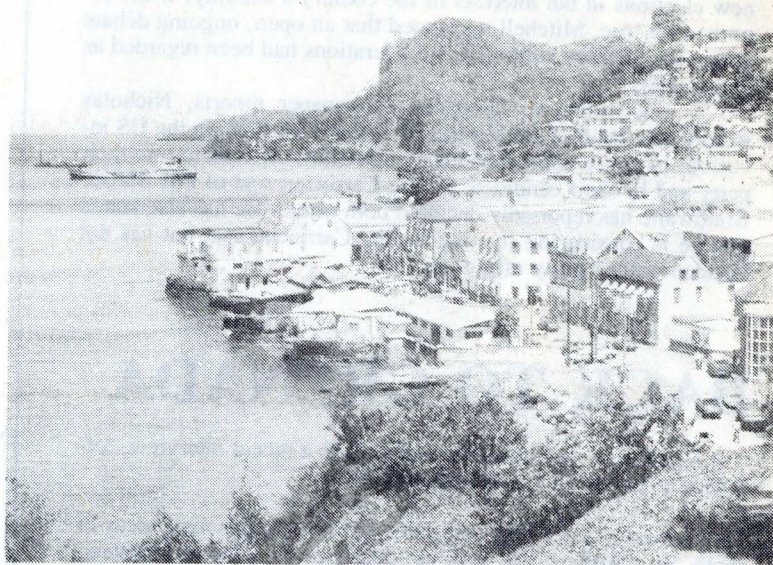
I am extremely concerned about the recent illegal and unconstitutional trial of the 17 former officials and soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. I am also concerned about the many violations of the defendants' human rights.

I strongly urge you and your government, in the name of justice and of the democratic tradition to which we all adhere, to ensure that the defendants have a free and fair trial in a legally constituted court. Further, I urge that Grenada return as soon as possible to the Eastern Caribbean judicial system and that the constitution be applied to the judicial system in Grenada.

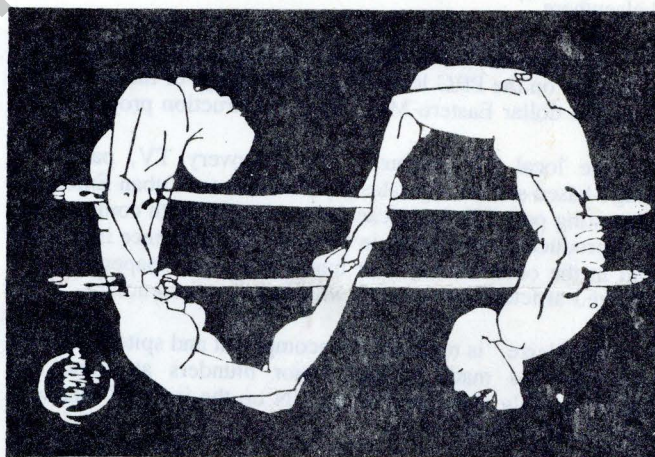
Sincerely,



For more updated information about Grenada, if you want to be kept informed, please write us at P.O. Box 20714, New York, N.Y. 10025 and enclose a minimum donation of \$5 to help cover our printing and postal expenses. We also appreciate names and addresses of anyone you know who would might be interested in this information.



If you have additional information about human rights violations in Grenada, please send it to the Committee.



From Polemica

\* \* Labor donated

C'TTEE. FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GRENADA  
P.O. BOX 20714  
CATHEDRAL FINANCE STA.  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025