



STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL for PEACE AND JUSTICE

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CONTINUING the Original S.I. Peace Coalition, Founded 1968

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Grenada invasion: Bring G.I.s home

President Reagan last week took to the airwaves to tell the country he was proud of our actions in Grenada. But what is he proud of? That a U.S. invasion force of over 5,000 marines backed by ships carrying nuclear weapons can overpower one of the smallest nations in the world? That this invasion has won for our country the overwhelming condemnation of the world, including an 11-1 vote against it in the United Nations Security Council? To date not even one NATO ally has supported it.

No one knows yet how many people have died in this invasion, because, for the first time anyone can remember, the Pentagon pushed the Constitution aside and banned reporters from the scene. What is it that the Pentagon does not want anyone to know? Only a Senate resolution finally compelled the army to allow some reporters to enter Grenada—and they are restricted in their travel. The people of our country are asked to endorse an invasion of another country with the promise that the facts will be given to us later.

One fact, however, is undeniable: the primary reason for this invasion is simply that the Reagan Administration does not like the Grenadan revolution. If such reasoning were to be accepted, it would be only weeks before the U.S. would be invading Nicaragua, and possibly Cuba. In fact, as the invasion of Grenada is proceeding, our government was organizing emergency meetings with the military forces of Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica, Nicaragua's neighbors.

So far only the massive world public outcry has kept Reagan from involving our country in a new war against Nicaragua and Cuba. Such a war, at best, would be another Vietnam-type war—and could very possibly become a nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union.

The Administration claims that Grenada was becoming a base for terrorists in the hemisphere. But to date the only proof that has been offered is the claim that the military found a warehouse full of arms. Doesn't every country have a supply of arms? And of course Grenada would—it's been threatened with an invasion for months. An army invading our country would find far more. In fact, the mere discovery of a warehouse filled with small weapons proves, if anything, that Grenada was a country incapable of aggression against anyone, especially those neighbors militarily aligned with the U.S.

The Administration claims that the Grenadan revolution is not in the interests of the U.S. people. But revolutions such as Grenada's, by declaring more and more parts of the world off-limits to U.S. companies, are curbing the ability of these companies to shut down their plants in the U.S., placing U.S. workers out of work, and open new shops in cheap labor havens. The companies that funded the old Gairy dictatorship in Grenada are already preparing to move new operations into that country. But the unemployed U.S. workers who will be left behind will have little to celebrate.

Reagan claims that U.S. troops will leave as soon as the country returns to normal. But when is that? The people of Grenada overthrew the colonial government of England once before, and they will not accept the Reagan Administration's proposal for a former colonial governor now. Even England rejects this proposal. Moreover, it is doubtful that the United Nations would accept such a government. The proposal shows how isolated politically the Administration



is in Grenada. Only force can guarantee a government in Grenada that will do Reagan's bidding. Is it any wonder that Reagan is fudging on the day U.S. troops will come home?

Each day they stay there means more suffering for the Grenadans and U.S. people.

Nothing the Grenadan people have done or could do ever threatened the U.S. people. The Grenadans must be left to determine their own future. The U.S. people, through letters, telegrams, and public protests, must impress upon Congress and the Administration that our troops must come home now!

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