

# Grenada celebrates Revolution's fourth year

Grenada celebrated the fourth anniversary of its revolution on March 13th.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Grenada has made significant economic gains.

When the New Jewel Movement took over in 1979, the country had a \$41 million deficit; unemployment was 51 percent and illiteracy 45 percent. There was widespread malnutrition while the country's resources went to foreign countries.

Since the revolution 3,000 jobs have been created, reducing unemployment to 14 percent. Last year the government set aside \$134 million for investments, 27 times more than in the last year of the dictatorship.

The U.S.-controlled International Monetary Fund recently acknowledged that Grenada has registered more than a 2 percent growth and a significantly low rate of inflation.

There have been gains in agriculture, nutmeg being the major export crop, and in construction, fishing, tourism and other sectors of the economy. Internal construction includes highways, repair of ports and

the much publicized airport.

It is Grenada's new international airport, still under construction, that has been the greatest target of the Reagan administration. A number of studies had recommended

building a new airport, including one by the World Bank. Grenada approached the U.S. for assistance, but turned down the mere \$5,000 the U.S. offered.

The 9,500-foot runway, which required filling a portion of Hardy Bay, is being constructed by 600 construction workers from Cuba and 450 from Grenada. Completion is set for March of 1984.

President Reagan recently cited construction of the runway as evidence of "Soviet-Cuban" militarization" of the tiny island nation of 110,000 persons. "Grenada doesn't even have an air force. Who is it intended for?" Reagan asked, showing an aerial photograph of the airport.



Reagan did not explain that although Cuba is most heavily involved in the airport construction aid came from a dozen nations including Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and Algeria, and that British and U.S. companies are involved. A Miami company, Layne Dredging Ltd., working with Cuban en-

gineers, recently completed a \$2.9 million dredging contract and another U.S. firm designed the fuel storage tanks.

Grenada's old airport with its 5,200-foot runway could not handle modern commercial jets so tourists had to change to smaller planes in Trinidad and Tobago or in Barbados.

Responding to Reagan's charges, a spokesman for the Grenada Embassy explained that many other Caribbean nations, some of them smaller than Grenada, have runways of 9,300 to 11,000 feet in length. He also mentioned that the airport is open to the public and it was not necessary for Reagan to use aerial photographs.

Bishop recently announced this year's goals will include improving administrative structures, setting up systems of financing, planning and control, and improving profits of state-owned enterprises. Unemployment is to be eliminated within three years.

# U.S. wages war

(Continued from page 1 column 2)

The clearest signal that events have taken a new turn was sounded on March 21, when the government of Nicaragua announced that a force of up to 2,000 counterrevolutionaries had penetrated to within 60 miles of its capital, Managua, from camps in Honduras. Managua accused the United States and Honduras of aiding the invasion.

At virtually the same moment, the largest government military offensive to date has opened in El Salvador. Even Costa Rica, which has no army, has been put on a state-of-alert while its police force is mobilized along the border with Nicaragua. If the Honduran government attempts to aid the anti-Sandinista contingent inside Nicaragua, the situation could easily escape control.

The White House has made no effort to disguise its hostility toward Nicaragua in the past, but until recently the Reagan administration insisted that its strategic aim was limited to containment—curtailing the export of revolution. Thus, in 1982, it was disclosed that the CIA had been given the task of destabilizing the Sandinista government, while not attempting to overthrow it. To that effect, numerous counterrevolutionary groups established in camps in Honduras were given relatively open U.S. support.

Then, in the third week of December, the counterrevolutionary forces began to field more extensive operations inside Nicaraguan territory. They had an agenda of their own—not simply to destabilize, but to seize power. Where destabilization ended and the struggle for ultimate power began has since become increasingly academic.

The change in Washington's position is said to have crystallized in February, following a tour of Central America by U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Several days after Kirkpatrick reported to the President, he delivered an exceptionally hardline speech in Orlando, Fla. Up to then, American policy toward Nicaragua continued to center on economic isolation and limited covert action. In El Salvador, Washington followed a "two-track" course—strengthening the Salvadoran military while quietly exploring some kind of political solution.

Now the administration appears to have implemented a much tougher policy, one that relies essentially on firepower. In content, the new strategy is identical for both countries, although the forms of application differ. The implication is that the White House believes there can be a military victory after all. In El Salvador, the United States seeks thereby to destroy a guerrilla insurgency; in Nicaragua it seeks to foster one.

Events have moved rapidly toward an explosion in the weeks following the Orlando speech. On March 9, daily policy-making for El Salvador was reportedly transferred to the National Security Council; Kirkpatrick and national security advisor William Clark became the dominant shapers of Central America policy, while the State Department was compelled to defend the new approach.

On March 10, "Operation Readex" began: Over 40 U.S. Navy vessels participated in combined Caribbean maneuvers with Great Britain, scheduled to last through April 2. The message was not lost on Cuba and Nicaragua; American naval power would be ready to interdict aid from Havana.

By March 19, the counterrevolutionary incursion into Nicaragua, supported by mortars and rocket launchers, was deemed serious—and new—enough by the Sandinista government to warrant real alarm. The situation was described as "politically critical," although Managua also asserted that matters were under control from a military standpoint.

In Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, the rebel Democratic Nicaraguan Force (FDN) announced the creation of a provisional government-in-arms on March 21. Its likely aim is to move into "liberated" territory inside Nicaragua, and subsequently to request diplomatic recognition from friendly governments such as Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile and Haiti. Military assistance could then be provided to the insurgents under quasi-legal conditions, much as the organizers of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 anticipated.

The key question in the short term is whether the expeditionary force can hold onto territory before openly receiving supplies from Honduras or elsewhere. If the Nicaraguan military succeeds in encircling and defeating the invasion, the power of the Sandinistas could well be consolidated as fully as that of Fidel Castro after the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Should the expeditionaries manage only to survive and form guerrilla groups, it may take years to remove them from the mountains. However, if territory is clearly secured, a provisional government established and assistance provided, then war between Nicaragua and Honduran air superiority could smash the Sandinista government—assuming the Cubans do not enter the picture.

It is this assumption which may, in the end, be most critical of all. For should it prove false, the possibility of a superpower confrontation looms in the shadow of an expanded Central American war.

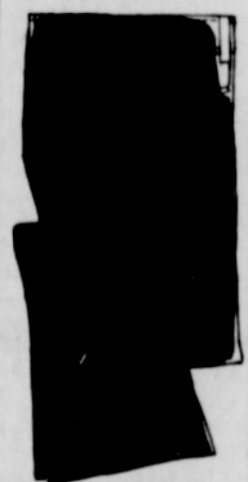
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