

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Rainbow Coalition demonstrated

Today's demonstration against the invasion of Grenada was a spontaneous, angry reaction to the latest manifestation of Reaganism. Organized in less than 24 hours, it showed that Portland is blessed with a group of determined, active, politically aware citizens who are in touch with each other and who can work together quickly and effectively.

More, the demonstration made plain that there exists a coalition of people—a Rainbow Coalition—who are conscious of the pressing need to get Reagan out of the White House in '84.

A Rainbow Coalition? Yes—the crowd spanned all racial hues. And the leading speaker—Ron Herndon, a Black man—brought a Black perspective to the invasion, pointing out that it was the Reagan administration's response to the

spectre of a Black, English-speaking, liberation movement.

This is the shape of the coalition it will take to beat Reagan—a Coalition spanning all the issues of the Rainbow it contains, with Black issues and a Black perspective in the forefront.

Portland's own Rev. John Jackson, in last April's March Against Racism, was the first to call attention to this Rainbow Coalition. And another Jackson—the Rev. Jesse Jackson—is the only politician of national stature to publicly recognize its existence and its significance in beating Reagan.

Whether or not Jesse runs—he's to say next week—today's action at the Federal Building was an important step in showing the existence and vitality of the Rainbow Coalition in Portland and in the United States.

Why Grenada?

The brutal invasion of a small Caribbean island with only 110,000 people, nearly all of them Black, by the powerful U.S. Marines is blatant racism.

Accompanied by token troops from nearby islands—all economic and political puppets of the U.S.—the Reagan administration launched this all out military attack on people who have had independence for less than ten years, who lived through a criminal dictatorship imposed by the British Empire, and who gained real freedom and independence less than five years ago.

Why? The people of this small, poor island are no threat to the U.S. or to its neighbors. They have not forced out or nationalized U.S. investments; they have welcomed U.S.

citizens.

What the Grenadians have done too well to serve as an example, an inspiration, to Black people in the U.S. They achieved their own liberation and used their resources to help their people. They became the first liberated, Black, English speaking nation in this hemisphere. And that was their crime.

This is an invasion that strikes at every individual in this country, especially those who are Black. It demonstrates that every progressive movement, every attempt at reform, will be crushed by the might of the U.S. military.

Following the example of Grenada, we must seek our liberation and use our power to end this murder and subjugation of our brothers and sisters around the world.



Ethnic politics in the Evil Empire

by Dr. Manning Marable

A common characteristic of the infantile mind is the lack of subtlety, an inability to recognize distinctions. Politics in the real world is the sum total of ideological, cultural and social conflicts, rooted within the economic organization of society. For the simplistic and the dogmatic, politics is reduced to a contest between good vs. evil, black vs. white.

Ronald Reagan and the leading foreign policy advisers in his administration clearly adhere to the infantile, dogmatic tendency of political discourse. Late last year, the President stunned millions with a rambling and somewhat incoherent address delivered in Orlando, Florida. Dubbed the "Darth Vader" speech by the media, Reagan lashed out against the Red Menace, claiming that the Soviets were responsible for virtually every conflict in the world today. Russia is an "Evil Empire" bent on world domination, the President declared, squinting at his frayed and yellowing 3-by-5-inch notecards. Since then, Reagan has repeatedly declared that Central American turmoil is fundamentally the product of Cuban and Soviet interference and subversion.

For veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, Reagan's rantings sound distinctly familiar. Whenever historically oppressed people rise up to challenge their oppressors American reactionaries claim that Communism is the source of the rebellion. When the sit-in movement erupted twenty years ago, former President Harry Truman denounced desegregation as a "Communist conspiracy." When challenged by Martin Luther King and Roy Wilkins, Truman admitted that he had no proof. However, "I know that

usually when trouble hits the country the Kremlin is behind it," he declared.

The vast majority of ethnic and national conflicts in the twentieth century have nothing directly to do with Soviet Communism. Indeed, if recent experiences are reviewed, one finds a complex pattern of religious and national turmoil which is rooted in the political and economic expansion of the West into the Third World.

Since early in the summer, Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) has been the scene of brutal political violence. The largest national group, the Sinhalese, have pursued a policy of genocide against the minority Tamil community. Laws have been passed restricting Tamils from decent jobs and education, and Tamil farms are being illegally seized for the Sinhalese. Probably one thousand Tamils have been murdered in cold blood this year, and tens of thousands are homeless. The Sinhalese-controlled government has tortured its Tamil critics, and police bury bodies of its victims without any official inquests.

The root of this violence is, however, British colonialism. The British brought the Tamils from India originally 150 years ago to work on their plantations. The Tamils were then placed into the colonial government to dominate the majority Sinhalese population by the British. And English corporations still control the lucrative tea trade in Sri Lanka, and profit from the low wages and terror which is created to oppress local workers.

In other parts of the world a similar pattern emerges. In Northern Ireland, the conventional view is that religious differences are the ba-

sic factor in the state's political unrest. In fact, the origins of the conflict are found in England's economic and political exploitation of the Irish nation, and the colonial partition imposed there in 1921. In Kenya, last month's parliamentary elections shifted power away from the dominant Kikuyu group, toward the small Kalinjin and Kamba nationalities aligned with President Daniel arap Moi. Although what the West calls "tribalism" is a factor, the real sources of unrest in Kenya are economic and political. The country has the highest birthrate in the world, a dictatorial regime allied with the U.S. and England which suppresses political dissent, and a ruling Black elite which exploits the peasant majority. In neither of these instances is political unrest fostered or created by the so-called Red Menace.

Oppressed people will not remain oppressed forever. Religious, cultural and social distinctions divide natural allies from each other, as they are individually exploited of their human and economic resources by outside powers. But the practical necessity for resistance has overcome historic differences among the exploited nations of the world.

Reaganites may still blame all their troubles on the "Evil Empire." But for a Black child growing up in rural Mississippi, the Evil Empire is the United States. For workers in Jamaica under the Reagan-backed Seaga regime, for the peasants of El Salvador, for the mine-workers in Chile under the bloody military junta, and for our sisters and brothers in South Africa—the Evil Empire is the United States.

South Africa pay-off scandal

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

provided with the free trips were some of the nation's most powerful and influential reporters, columnists, and newspaper and magazine editors.

The South African government purchased an interest in a chain of more than 60 newspapers in the U.S. to use as propaganda outlets in this country for their own regime. The South African government provided more than \$11 million in subsidies to Michigan newspaper publisher John McGoff to increase the holdings of his newspaper company, the Panax Corporation. Subsequently, articles favorable to South Africa appeared in publications controlled by McGoff.

Beurt and Cory SerVaas, the two chief executives of *The Saturday Evening Post*, entered into business deals engineered by the South African government. Following the business arrangements, *The Saturday Evening Post* routinely wrote favorably about South Africa. In some instances, the magazine printed articles written by paid propagandists on the South African government's payroll.

The South African government funneled a secret \$900,000 to the overseas enterprises of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his Unification Church in exchange for a part-interest in *The Washington Times*, which is being published in the nation's capital.

After accepting a free trip to South Africa from the government

there, conservative syndicated columnist James Kilpatrick attempted to persuade U.S. government officials that there was no basis for Justice Department investigations into the operations of a South African government front organization.

And there is more. *The National Leader's* 6,000-word story, being printed over the next two issues, uncovers a wealth of never-before published material linking U.S. citizens and officials to unknown and questionable links to the government of South Africa.

The National Leader is available at many newsstands. For a copy of the next two special issues, however, you may simply call (215) 563-6688.

Crowd protests Grenada invasion

(Continued from page 1, column 6)

Franklin in order to avoid arrests having to be made. More than a dozen protesters left the office under the agreement that 15 could remain to talk. As soon as only 15 persons remained Franklin said they should meet with her in another room—thus apparently violating the agreement. The protesters remained in the office and were taken, one by one, to be arrested.

Then Senator Packwood called. Once on the telephone, Packwood simply repeated State Department releases and restated his position that "the U.S. Marines are at least doing what they are trained to do best—that is not what they are doing in Lebanon."

Several media-persons were asked to leave by Federal officers during the course of the continuous exchange between Franklin and the protesters. Reporters for the *Portland State Vanguard*, the *Portland Observer*, and the *ILWU Dispatcher* were asked for their press cards.

When none could be provided, the reporters were told: "You have a choice: either you leave now or you join them [the protesters]." An *Observer* reporter joined the protesters and was one of three people being placed under arrest when the Packwood call came in.

The protesters disbanded shortly after the conversation with Packwood but promised to be back in force at noon this Saturday in front of the Federal Building, 1220 S.W. Third Avenue.

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Letters to the Editor

Understanding key to U.S./Soviet relations

To the editor:

In our relations with the Soviet Union, we need to practice putting ourselves in their position.

For example, between September 25 and October 5 the U.S. and Japan conducted joint military exercises in Japan and the surrounding waters, just off the Soviet Union's east coast. This is a regular occurrence, but this year's exercises were the largest ever, with Japan contributing 150 ships, 117 aircraft and 30,000 military personnel, and the U.S. Seventh Fleet contributing ten warships, two submarines, and an undisclosed number of aircraft (*Oregonian*, September 23). I wonder how we would feel if the Soviet Union staged comparable military exercises with Cuba in the Caribbean.

bean.

Also, beginning next year, the U.S. plans to base F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons in Japan and South Korea, from where they will be able to reach the Soviet Union. How would we react if the Soviet Union based such aircraft in Central America?

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Soviet Union, we are getting ready to install over 500 land-based nuclear missiles capable of reaching the Soviet Union, for the first time since 1963. Some of these—the 108 super-accurate Pershing 2 intermediate-range missiles—will be capable of striking targets in the densely populated western part of the Soviet Union within a matter of minutes from their bases in, of all places, West Germany. If the Soviet Union

were to install comparable missiles a comparable distance from the U.S., I suspect that we would not stand for it, as President Kennedy did not when he learned of the Soviet missiles in Cuba in 1962. It dismays me that we are doing something to the Soviet Union which we ourselves might well regard as cause for war if they did it to us.

Rupert Buchanan

The *Observer* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short, and must contain the writer's name and address (addresses are not printed). The *Observer* reserves the right to edit for length.



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