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Impeach Reagan movement grows



Undaunted by Saturday's torrential rains, over 1,000 people filled Terry Schunk Plaza to protest U.S. policy in Central America and the Caribbean.

The demonstration was part of a national day of protest.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Rally protests U.S. aggression

by Robert Lothian

"Forward together, backward never!" the rallying cry of the Grenadian revolution, echoed from under a sea of umbrellas and reverberated off the First Interstate Bank Tower as a crowd of over 1,000 filled Terry Schunk Plaza Saturday to protest the U.S. invasion of Grenada and threatened invasion of Nicaragua.

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee organized the demonstration as Portland's contribution to a national day of protest which included a Washington, D.C. rally attended by 20,000 people and addressed by presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. Speakers in Portland urged vigilance as comments from the Reagan administration and U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras point toward an escalation of U.S. involvement in Central America.

"The repression is increasing," said Salvador Martinez, a 22-year-old former medical student from El Salvador speaking on behalf of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), the coalition of popular or-

ganizations and guerilla groups leading the Salvadoran revolution.

"We are not stupid. We know the U.S. is getting ready to invade Central America," said Martinez, who cited as evidence the invasion of Grenada, the recent coup in Guatemala which installed a dictator more in agreement with U.S. policy, the U.S. troop build-up and wargames in Honduras, the stationing of U.S. battleships off both coasts of Central America, and the meeting in October (reported in the *New York Times*) of the military leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama to talk about a coordinated attack on Nicaragua with U.S. help.

U.S. troops could be in Guatemala, El Salvador, or Nicaragua within two hours notice, and bombardments and missile attacks from U.S. ships could kill many thousands within minutes, he said.

A U.S.-led invasion would smash the new society growing in Central America which is seeking to reverse centuries of exploitation and poverty, according to Martinez.

"The people of El Salvador al-

ready took the decision to be free," he said. "We are building a bridge of communication... it is your acts of solidarity that will help us. You will be the people speaking for us." He then led the crowd in a chant—"No draft, no war, Grenada to El Salvador!"

Brigitte Dennis-Sarabi, a radio journalist with the Caribbean Education Project who lived in Grenada, said the U.S. invasion crushed the vision of a better future which the Grenadian revolution held out to Blacks and Third World people throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

That vision, she said, included a land reform program where "thousands of acres were given to small farmers," illiteracy reduced to 2 percent, equal pay for equal work for women, a tripling of social service expenditures, and free medical care.

She said the decrees of Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, including a ban on public meetings, arrests without warrants, and press censorship, are evidence that Grenada's (Please turn to page 9 column 1)

The U.S. House of Representatives was asked to start impeachment proceedings against President Ronald Reagan Thursday, November 10th. Seven Congressmen charged the President with violating the U.S. Constitution with the invasion of Grenada and imposition of censorship on the media. Some of the Congressmen added that Reagan is guilty of international war crimes.

The resolution was submitted by Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Julian Dixon (D-Calif.), Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas), Mickey Leland (D-Texas) and Parren Mitchell (D-Md.).

Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), who was in the 14-member delegation to Grenada last weekend, said that Reagan should be impeached.

Conyers said, "The genius of the Constitution is that it provides for the remedy of impeachment in the event that the Executive violates the duties and the oath of office. An arrogation of powers by the Executive that belong to the Congress subverts the integrity of the Office."

"After careful thought and study, it is my position that the President's military actions in Grenada constitute an abrogation of the duties which he is sworn to uphold."

"First, Article I, Sec. 8 of the Constitution requires that the Congress, not the President or the CIA, determine if and when the nation goes to war."

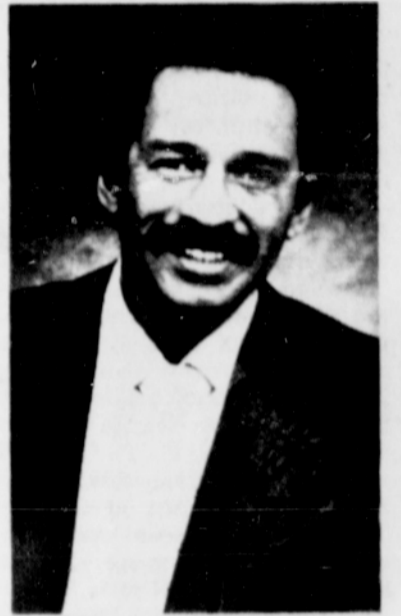
"Second, Article 6 provides that all treaties and charters to which

U.S. is a signatory shall be the 'supreme law of the land.' The Grenadian invasion violates Article 15 of the Organization of American States Charter, Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the United Nations Charter, as well as U.N. resolutions. Even the legal instrument under which the President waged war in Grenada, the Treaty of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, requires that decisions involving collective security can only be undertaken when the signatory States are 'unanimous.' Three of the signatory States refused to call for or support the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

"Third, the unprecedented restrictions on, and censorship of, the news media prior to, during, and after the Grenadian invasion are in violation of the First Amendment providing for 'the freedom of speech, or of the press.'"

"Finally, the President's manipulation of The War Powers Act, in failing to notify, and consult with, Congress in introducing American military forces into a situation of 'imminent hostilities,' is in flagrant disregard of Congressional prerogatives."

"Worse still is a continuing pattern of conduct in Nicaragua, the Caribbean and in Central America in which the Administration will stop at nothing, including far-reaching CIA covert operations, to overturn governments whose only offense is to have a different ideology from our own. These actions are il-



REP. JOHN CONYERS

lustrative of a pattern of Administration lawlessness across a broad spectrum of policy.

"The President's compliance with the laws of the land is fundamental to the integrity of the Executive Office. Public approval of the President's military actions does not diminish the basic constitutional and legal issues at stake. To the contrary, current public silence in and outside of Congress makes it doubly important to scrutinize the President's conduct. Impeachment is a final congressional remedy for judging this pattern of action and for generating broad public debate on (Please turn to page 10 column 1)



Low achievement scores of Black public school students brought parents together in Black United Front-sponsored workshop to learn how to help

their children in school. This session is led by Ben Priestley (right).

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Portland neighborhoods susceptible to water-carried lead poisoning

Many Portland residents could be suffering from a well-known but seldom diagnosed disease resulting from lead poisoning. Portlanders are in a unique position of risking exposure through their water, in addition to the usual modes of paint, gasoline exhaust and industrial waste.

Portland's Bull Run water, publicized for its purity, softness and absence of minerals, absorbs minerals from the pipes through which it passes. The U.S. National Research Council said in 1977 that, "Lead may be dissolved from water pipes most readily by water that is low in hardness, bicarbonate, and pH and high in dissolved oxygen and nitrates." Portland rates "extremely corrosive" on the three standard formulas used to measure water corrosivity and contains four of the five factors causing solubility of lead.

The World Health Organization found that "lead in water ingested independently of food may be more readily absorbed and may provide a relatively greater contribution to the blood level than lead in food."

For the past three years Roger Burt, a Southeast Portland resident, has attempted to make Portland's city government recognize its problems and take corrective measures. Following visits to various doctors seeking relief from symptoms including depression, weight loss, and fatigue, Burt found a doctor who tested him for lead poisoning. Finding positive results, he was treated at Providence Hospital and spent the next two years convalescing. He also spent his time researching the causes and effects of lead poisoning.

Burt's main source of poisoning was easily found. About six months before his illness was diagnosed, he

had put new plumbing into his older home—copper pipes with lead soldered connections. Portland's mineral-free water, standing in the pipes, had picked up lead from the pipes so that the clear, fresh water was daily poisoning his body.

Lead can cause serious physical impairment and even death. The toxic effects of lead might not be known until after years of exposure, while lead is being stored in body tissue. The damage is first to individual cells and then to organs and entire body systems. Damage to the central nervous system is frequently not reversible.

Symptoms vary and often are overlooked by examining physicians. Routine blood tests do not reveal lead levels in the blood and most doctors do not look for lead poisoning and therefore do not use the special tests available.

Children are particularly at risk. In addition to irritability and hyperactivity, lead poisoning can affect mental development. A 1979 study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* showed that children with lead poisoning had decreased IQ, decreased auditory processing, decreased attention spans, and increased hyperactivity corresponding to increased lead in the body. The children in the sample were taken from public schools and had none of the usual symptoms of lead poisoning. A 1972 study demonstrated that lead poisoned children's IQs increased after they were treated to reduce the lead concentration in their bodies.

Children of low-income families are more likely to be affected by water-borne lead because the homes having lead bearing pipes are more apt to be in older, low-income areas

of the city. Also, poor nutrition increases the affects of lead poisoning.

Sources of lead poisoning

Lead enters Portland water from three main sources: The city estimates that there are from 10,000 to 12,000 lead service connection pipes still in use. These are connections between the water main and the meter box of the residence, school or business building and were installed before 1930. There is lead soldering in copper pipes within buildings, installed in the last 10 years. There are also galvanized iron pipes imported from abroad, that contain minerals including lead.

Although about 1200 lead connectors are replaced each year as they are discovered, the City has no plan for finding and replacing the connectors. Mayor Ivancie estimated that replacement would cost

from \$3 to \$4 million.

The 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 93-523) makes the water supplier responsible for the quality of the water at the customer's tap.

What the customer can do

Water standing in copper pipes with lead solder can absorb lead exceeding the maximum allowed within four hours; in lead pipe the limit could be exceeded in 10 minutes.

Exposure to lead can be reduced by clearing standing water from the pipes before water is taken from the tap. Flushing the toilet and letting the tap run for about five minutes is usually sufficient.

Persons who suspect that their water could be contaminated can have their outside and inside plumbing checked by the City Water Bureau at no charge.

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