

LATIN AMERICA

Grenada government charges: NATO involved in coup d'etat plot

In the early morning hours of Nov. 3, the Prime Minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, telephoned a reporter in Barbados with the news that a coup plot against his government had just been uncovered and successfully foiled. Within the day, Bishop revealed that the government had found documents linking NATO to the planned invasion of Grenada, among the materials confiscated from the now-arrested instigators. Since NATO is an organization which supports the fight against communism, some of the documents reportedly said, its support can be counted on for the operation.

Continuing investigation into the origins and backers of the coup plot reveal a well-planned, large-scale operation: Set for the morning of the 3rd, three ships from Miami, Florida were to rendezvous off the coast of Grenada and land mercenaries who would then meet up with local forces who were to provide weapons, detailed maps of the island, and a hit list of who in the government was to be assassinated.

As we go to press, 16 arrests have been made, including the head of the police force, but another 100 have been identified as involved, including many supporters of former dictator Eric Gairy, whose notoriously corrupt government was overthrown last March by the present government. Caches of rifles, molotov cocktails, and sticks of dynamite have been uncovered, reportedly brought into Grenada through networks in neighboring Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigovernment slogans found among the documents indicated the bloody nature of the uprising that was planned, including one chilling reference to the capital of that island, St. George's, which stated: "In 1771 and 1775 St. George's was destroyed by fire. Why not again?"

Government spokesmen now say full details, including pictures and many of the documents, including

those referencing NATO will be made public by next week when the immediate investigations are completed.

'Strategic' confrontation....

On what basis did NATO get involved in the affairs of a small island of 100,000 people in the Caribbean, far afield from its supposed European field of operations? Also, striking to the more curious observer is the collaboration between forces of NATO, elements of the Carter administration, and the forces of Gairy, a deposed petty tyrant who had gained notoriety for his country through his international campaign on behalf of UFO's, "human rights" for animals, and the practicing of voodoo.

The planned overthrow of the Grenada government is one of the most serious in a series of destabilizations and assassinations in the Caribbean area after President Carter's Oct. 1 speech announcing increasing militarization of the area. Two weeks ago the Minister of Education in Guyana, Vincent Teekah, was assassinated by an as yet unidentified gunman. The murder of Teekah, the last prodevelopment leader in the Burnham cabinet, had been followed already by new political violence in the country, and knowledgeable observers are concerned about the possibility of race war between the Indian and black populations.

Both the attempt to invade the tiny island of Grenada and the murder of Teekah could most likely be traced to the secret London conference on Caribbean security convened Oct. 18-19. A sort of "rump caucus" of the "hawk" faction of NATO—Great Britain and the U.S.—conferred on how to "prevent the outflanking of NATO in the Caribbean and Latin America," with Cuban influence through the Nonaligned Movement cited as the primary "danger." Among the conclusions of that caucus, as *Executive Intelligence Review* reported two weeks ago, was that the current governments of

Jamaica, Guyana and Grenada should be undermined and/or removed to radically shift the political line-up in the Caribbean.

Another major flank in NATO's plans for the area was reflected in the visit by Admiral Harry Train, head of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, to Venezuela during the same mid-Oct. period to discuss increasing U.S. military presence in the Caribbean to combat "Cuban influence." Train proposed that the Venezuelan Navy join in U.S. and British fleets in patrolling the Caribbean area.

Europe says no

But given the raging battles over the scope and direction of NATO that have been taking place within that body for well over a year, observers of the current dirty operations in the Caribbean are wondering just whether continental Europe, and particularly West Germany and France, were even informed of NATO's open involvement in the Caribbean.

Indications are that France is refusing the proffered "invitation" of Great Britain and the U.S. for all former colonial powers in the area to join forces. French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Olivier Stirn, who attended the independence ceremonies of the island of St. Vincents at the end of October—an unusually high-level representative to a celebration of independence of an English-speaking colony—emphatically declared: "We do not believe that Cuba foments revolutions, because that would not be in her interest." Citing French willingness for dialogue with all parties, including Cuba, in the region, Stirn promised French cooperation so that this region, "which has great problems of development, can dedicate all its efforts to the solution of them and not fight among each other."

Maintain the Silver Triangle?

But the nagging question of just who Washington and London would prefer to see running the governments of Jamaica, Grenada and Guyana remains. The support for types like the deposed Gairy provides one striking lead in answering that question.

Gairy is known to have turned over the island to the international drug and arms running networks to be a major transshipment point as the condition for his assuming the trappings of power. Gairy only maintained that happy arrangement by the brutal suppression of his opposition.

The deal, however, was destroyed when forces of the opposition New Jewel Movement, led by Maurice Bishop, overthrew Gairy on March 13. Bishop's government, despite the limited resources available to it, came in with the commitment to develop the island through education and industrialization. That commitment alone has made Grenada and the Bishop government the target of a NATO coup plot.

—Gretchen Small

'Breaking 350 years of British exploitation'

Kendrick Radix, Grenada's Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, described, in an exclusive interview, the efforts of his government to reverse centuries of British colonialism. Grenada he said would like to see the now strained relations with the U.S. develop more positively.

Grenada, a member of the Nonaligned Movement, has developed friendly relations with Cuba, a fact which has received much attention in the world press. Ambassador

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Radix explains the nature and the reasons behind Grenada's close ties to Cuba.

We present here excerpts from the interview granted to Executive Intelligence Review's Caribbean desk head, Gretchen Small, in mid-October—just two weeks before the recent coup attempt.

Q: *Ambassador, could you describe for us what the island of Grenada was like under the dictatorship of Gairy, and what the new government plans to do about this—what the plans are for economic development of your island?*

A: In 1973, when Grenada was to get its independence, we of the New Jewel Movement, held a convention of the people, saying that it was not good enough for Grenada to get a song and a new flag, but that some sort of economic direction was needed in which the people of our country, to the extent that that is possible, should own and control the resources of our country for the benefit of our country.

Historically, we have been a plantation fueling the metropolitan economies, producers of things like cocoa, nutmeg, and bananas. We just bag them and send them on a boat, send them away—and in return we import industrial goods, even the same agricultural goods we export we reimport, and of course have to pay six or seven or ten times the price at which we exported them. And therefore we were calling for the establishment of an economy which would have vertical and horizontal linkages to the extent that that is possible within a small country like ours of 100,000 people with 50 percent unemployment and a per capita income of about 270 U.S. dollars per year. . . .

We want to develop the country in a number of areas. First of all, we have to cope with a situation in