

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*

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### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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*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*

which we have had 50 percent unemployment in our country. Now in no country in the developed world would they contemplate or allow unemployment of this gross magnitude to continue. We have had 350 years of British exploitation and occupation. They left us with one secondary school which was built in 1898. Part of the reason for our poverty and backwardness is the total lack of respect which they had for the education of our people. We propose to use our resources to educate our people for our own society, to build our economy, and to build our national society. How are we going to do that?

We have the resources of our people. We have to educate our people. We have resources of agriculture. Instead of sending our principal exports to Europe and the metropolitan centers, we propose to build up an agroindustrial sector, for example. Within three months of the revolution, we have managed to begin that task. So at the moment, we have started things like canning nectars, juices and these sorts of things...

We also want to develop ... a fisheries sector and to that end we have asked, for example, the Cuban government which has tremendous experience in the fisheries sector (I think they are recognized internationally for the experience they have developed in that sector) to give us some assistance. We have tremendous resources of the sea, but the technology we apply is very little advanced over that employed in the Sea of Galilee! So we want to upgrade the technology. The Cuban government has just given us a 65 foot modern trawler. They have provided us with the technicians to train our people and our government has been very grateful for that. We have opened a fisheries training school on our island and every two months we will be training 25 fishermen. As we build up our manpower in this area, the Cubans have agreed to let us have six more of these modern trawlers.

... These are the primary areas in which we feel we can in fact begin the task. But looking at the economy in a broader way, we see being developed in our country a public sector. We don't have the philosophy of just waiting for entrepreneurs and businessmen to come out of the sky by chance. We identify what we need to do, and if it is not being done, then the government will get the work done. We will have a private sector ... and a corporative (public —ed.) sector also...

... I would like to tell you something about our relations with the U.S., because that must be of interest to the people of the United States. When our revolution took place, we invited the Canadians, British, and Americans, who have traditionally been in our area, to come over and see for themselves the nature of our revolution because Gairy, the ex-dictator, had gone to them asking for weapons and intervention into our country. We thought that a way of apprising these peoples of the realities was to come and see for them-

selves. We asked them if they were going to aid Gairy. It took the U.S. *10 days* to reply that they would not intervene militarily in our country! That was the first significant flag that we saw from Washington. When a few weeks later we had information that the ex-dictator was trying to recruit mercenaries in the United States, to invade our country to reinstate the dictator, ... we asked Cuba, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, the U.S. and Canada, as well as England to give us some equipment, military equipment, to face the invaders when they came. Cuba, Guyana and Jamaica responded to our request for military equipment. But up comes the U.S. Ambassador to Barbados with a diplomatic note from the State Department telling us that the U.S. would view with 'concern' any close ties between our government and the government of Cuba ... would view this with "displeasure." ...

We established relations with Cuba. The Cuban government responded not only to our call for military assistance, as other Caribbean countries have as well, but is also helping us in other areas. For example, our people used to die because they did not have doctors, and many cannot afford the cost of medicine. So they sent down 12 doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists, etc. In the four months they have been here, they have seen and treated over 7,000 people. Why not the Americans? ... The Cubans are helping us develop water systems in our country. You know, its normal for you to go in your house and turn on the water, and get it. Only 37 percent of the houses in our country have water. But now everybody in our country *must* have water. Every house in our country must have lights. And every village must have roads. These are the things that we will be doing...

Why has the United States not concerned itself in the past about the 50 percent unemployment that has existed in the Caribbean for over 300 years? Why is it that all of a sudden the Caribbean is so important—in the words of U.S. Secretary of State Vance, a "hot spot"? We believe that that speech (of President Carter's —ed.) is a Cold War speech. And we object to it. If you can have detente in Europe, there must be detente in the Caribbean. ... We see that of the measures announced by Mr. Carter, six of them are military measures, one is economic. Is the U.S. going to soil itself further in the world? Will it lose more credibility within the Americas merely for public expediency? It is not in the interest of the U.S. to be seen as reviving the Cold War anywhere in the world. ... We would like the best of relations with the United States, our most powerful neighbor. ... We have many visitors from the U.S. in our country, and many of our citizens live in the U.S. We don't want any confrontation, we want cooperation. But a cooperation, the nature of which will be decided in the Caribbean.