

A sad anniversary in Grenada

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Because of his determination to not permit Grenada to be ruled under the thumb of Western dominance, Bishop and the New Jewel Movement were harassed, ostracized and economically destabilized by both the Carter and Reagan administrations.

This treacherous, yet typical, U.S. action forced the Grenadian government to seek aid from its Central American allies, Cuba and Nicaragua -- a move which further incensed the Washington powers-that-be.

Thus, fearing the ramifications a popular, progressive, independent and bold Grenada could have on the other dependent, exploited nations of the Caribbean and Central America, the U.S. government soon determined that Bishop and the NJM must be discredited and eliminated. The rest, sadly enough, is history.

After opposing International Monetary Fund assistance for Grenada, constantly refusing to meet with Prime Minister Bishop, and launching "Ocean Ventures '81" -- a mock invasion of Grenada, the U.S. government apparently decided that "play

time" was over.

With obvious and devious assistance from the Central Intelligence Agency (which no doubt laid the groundwork for the internal discord within the NJM, resulting in the assassination of Bishop and several cabinet members by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard), the Reagan administration -- as if following its own script -- used the chaos and confusion surrounding Bishop's murder to brutally and swiftly invade Grenada on Oct. 25, 1983.

While Reagan -- then and now -- defends the invasion on the grounds that: 1) the U.S. was "invited" to invade by the organization of Eastern Caribbean States, pursuant to a dubious defense pact; 2) American citizens' lives were endangered; and, 3) "the Cubans were about to take over" -- astute African Americans, progressive white Americans, and leaders throughout the world still condemn the invasion as violative of international law, as well as a return to "Yankee gunboat diplomacy."

The fact that Grenada had no

standing army, navy, nor air force underscores the absurd, "overkill" use of force by the American invaders -- especially when we consider that not one of the excuses put forth by the U.S. government as justifying the terrorist attack has been substantiated.

To be sure, this writer -- like nearly all those who opposed the U.S. invasion -- in no way condoned the murder of brother Bishop.

The misguided Bernard Board, Hudson Austin and others who backed them, are most certain to go down in Third World history as "betrayers of the revolution." Likened to the traitors who snitched on Denmark Vesey, sold out Patrice Lumumba and set up Amilcar Cabral. When will we ever learn?

Time and space prohibit me from delving into this subject in more depth. However, in a future column I will again take a look at Grenada and how the once vibrant, proud, thriving nation has been transformed practically into a neo-colonial state.

We will look at how the American presence has ushered in the drug traffic, rampant prostitution, economic dependency, and political brainwashing.

Meanwhile, I leave you with this succinct and ominous warning from sister Jean Wiley, who beautifully chronicled her experiences in Grenada in the October 1984 issue of *Essence*:

"... No, the Grenadian revolution is not dead. And no amount of propaganda and posturing can kill it completely ...

"Whether we here recover is another question entirely. We are the only ethnic group in this country that consistently refuses

to rally in defense of our blood cousins in other parts of the world. Why is that? Just imagine

Chicago after news of the U.S. Marines shooting up Poland! Or, New York as they move on Israel,

or Boston as they invade Northern Ireland! Right! These things would never happen.

"Our complicity in Washington's destructive policies makes us a part of our own and the Third World's problem ...

"We must reverse policies that use our taxes and our children to destroy other people who dare to dream and refuse to shuffle. Until we do there is no hope for us ..."

Amen, sister.



Birthday

Mrs. Dora Beaty, a longtime resident of Winston-Salem and mother of city manager, Al Beaty, celebrated her 69th birthday with family and friends on Nov. 4

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present-day employment, patronize any establishment, attend any school, receive the best (most equal) education possible, vote -- on and on I could go.

Black GOP, how can you forget that people like Ronald Reagan and Jesse Helms fought -- and continue to fight -- against laws and policies that have allowed you to sit where you choose today?

But then, you rarely are forced to witness your young beg bread and are therefore totally removed from the number of malnourished people in this country as a result of this Republican administration's massive deductions in nutrition programs.

You also have jobs. It's no concern of yours that under this administration while white unemployment has remained constant at 6 percent, black unemployment has exceeded 16 percent, black teenage unemployment 49 percent.

Under this administration, the armed forces overflow with a disproportionately high black enlistment. Surely you don't believe, as Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger suggests, that it's out of "patriotism." The truth is, the people cannot find jobs; they cannot get assistance to attend college. They have no recourse but to sign up.

When the United Nations voted recently to censure South Africa for its racial policies, no nation voted against the resolution, but two -- Britain and the United States -- abstained.

When the U.S. Senate voted this year on a major civil rights measure, your two N.C. GOP senators voted to table -- in effect

to kill -- the bill.

It's not the first time. Your Helms has opposed every piece of civil rights legislation that's come before him since he's been in office.

And it seems he will die before he's exhausted every means possible to prevent this country from honoring a black man.

Thank God it's not 25 years ago. I don't seriously doubt that Helms would run openly as a segregationist.

Needless to say (I'll say it anyway), I'm utterly repulsed by the presence of Roosevelt Grier, Meadowlark Lemon, Claude Allen and other black self-haters in Helms' camp. The man is anything but a friend to blacks.

Maybe some wordly things are of greater value than racial and moral integrity.

One thing I can consciously say in favor of the notorious Richard Nixon and other Republican presidents: None ever fired civil rights commissioners who criticized presidential policies. Neither did any seek tax-exempt status for schools that discriminate on the basis of race.

I hope this isn't construed as in total defense of Democrats -- it's anything but. More accurately, it's the black choice between two evils.

The real solution came with the call a short time ago for a national black political party.

But unfortunately the idea has not been fully grasped, I submit, for want of more expensive Jaguars and better-landscaped lawns.

Tony Moor
Greensboro

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