

GRENADA

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GRENADA THE MOST SOUTHERLY OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS, 150 MILES SOUTHWEST OF BARBADOS, AND 90 MILES NORTHWEST OF TRINIDAD. THE STATE OF GRENADA ALSO INCLUDES THE SOUTHERN MOST GRENADINES, AN ARC OF SMALL ISLANDS EXTENDING FROM GRENADA NORTH TO ST. VINCENT. THE ISLANDS NORTH OF CARRIACOU, THE LARGEST OF THE GRENADINES ARE DEPENDENCIES OF ST. VINCENT.

IN THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND OF GRENADA IS A VERDANT RAIN FOREST. THE SOUTHERN COAST IN CONTRAST HAS MANY WHITE SANDY BEACHES. THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE ISLAND IS TRAVERSED BY A MOUNTAIN RIDGE THAT FORMS A SPINE DOWN ITS CENTER, THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IS MOUNT ST. CATHERINE 2757 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVEL. LAKES HAVE FORMED IN THE CRATERS OF THREE OF THE EXTINCT VOLCANOES ALONG THE RIDGE. THE MOUNTAINS ARE CUT BY VALLEY'S WITH COOL CLEAR STREAMS AND NATURAL HARBORS, ONE OF WHICH IS SETTLED BY THE CITY OF ST. GEORGE'S, THE LARGEST CITY ON GRENADA WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 30,000 INHABITANTS.

LIKE THE OTHER ANTILLES ISLANDS THE ISLAND OF GRENADA IS VOLCANIC IN ORIGIN. THE RICH SOIL IS WELL SUITED FOR AGRICULTURE. GRENADA, KNOWN AS THE "ISLE OF SPICE" IS FAMOUS FOR NUTMEG, CACAO, AND CINNAMON.

THE CLIMATE IS VERY PLEASANT. A MILD DRY SEASON LASTS FROM JANUARY TO MAY. THE REST OF THE YEAR IS WET. TEMPERATURE AVERAGE IN THE MID 80'S.

COLUMBUS DISCOVERED GRENADA IN 1498 DURING HIS THIRD VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD AND NAMED THE ISLAND "CONCEPCION".

THE NAME GRENADA IS OBSCURE. AS LEGEND HAS IT, THE SPANISH RENAMED THE ISLAND FOR THE CITY OF GRANADA, BUT BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 18TH CENTURY THIS HAD CHANGED TO GRENADA. AT THE TIME OF ITS DISCOVERY, GRENADA WAS INHABITED BY CARIBS, A WAR-LIKE TRIBE OF CANNIBAL INDIANS WHO HAD DRIVEN THE MORE PEACEFUL ARAWAKS FROM THE ISLAND. PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE CARIBS, GRENADA REMAINED UNSETTLED FOR 100 YEARS AFTER ITS DISCOVERY, THE BRITISH ATTEMPTED TO SETTLE THE ISLAND BUT WERE DRIVEN OFF. IN 1650 THE FRENCH BOUGHT GRENADA FROM THE BRITISH AND ESTABLISHED A SMALL COLONY ON THE ISLAND. AFTER A FEW SKIRMISHES WITH THE CARIBS, THE FRENCH BROUGHT REINFORCEMENTS FROM MARTINIQUE AND SLAUGHTERED THE CARIB POPULATION. THE ISLAND REMAINED FRENCH UNTIL IT WAS CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH 100 YEARS LATER, DURING THE SEVEN YEARS WAR.

GRENADA'S ECONOMY CHANGED FROM THAT OF A SUGAR PRODUCER TO THAT OF SPICE BY THE EFFORTS OF SIR JOSEPH BANKS, KING GEORGE III'S BOTANICAL ADVISOR WHO PERCEIVED THE CLIMATE AND SOIL WOULD PRODUCE SPICES CLOSER TO HOME AND EUROPE, THAN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

IN 1833 GRENADA WAS MADE A PART OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION. THE GOVERNOR OF "THE WINDWARD ISLAND" ADMINISTERED GRENADA THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD. IN 1958 THE WINDWARD ISLAND ADMINISTRATION WAS DISSOLVED, AND GRENADA JOINED THE FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES.

AFTER THE FEDERATION COLLAPSED IN 1962, THE BRITISH ATTEMPTED TO FORM A SMALLER FEDERATION WHICH ALSO FAILED. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD BY THE BRITISH.

UNDER THE ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD ACT OF 1967, SIX BRITISH DEPENDENCIES IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN (GRENADA, ST. VINCENT, ST. LUCIA, DOMINICA, ANTIQUA, AND ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANQUILLA) WERE GRANTED FULL ANTONOMY OVER THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH BRITAIN RETAINING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DEFENSE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

GRENADA BECAME AN ASSOCIATED STATE IN MARCH 1967, THEY WERE GRANTED FULL INDEPENDENCE BY BRITAIN IN FEBRUARY 1974.

MARCH 1979, THE NEW JOINT ENDEAVOR FOR WELFARE, EDUCATION AND LIBERATION CALLED JEWEL MOVEMENT, OUSTED FORMER PRIME MINISTER SIR ERIC GAIRY IN A NEARLY BLOODLESS REVOLUTION. THIS GOVERNMENT WAS HEADED BY MAURICE BISHOP UNTIL THE BLOODY REVOLUTION OF OCTOBER 1983 AND SUBSEQUENT INVASION BY THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE.(USA).

THE REVOLUTION OR COUP WHICH USHERED IN MAURICE BISHOP AS PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA WAS PROBABLY JUSTIFIED. A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT REVEALS A PROFOUNDLY CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION PRESIDED OVER BY ERIC(UNCLE)GAIRY, AN UP FROM THE RANKS TRADE UNION ORGANIZER. HE HAD COME TO CONSIDER HIMSELF A DEMIGOD AS WELL AS A POLITICAL LEADER. HE WAS INVOLVED IN VOODOOLIKE RITUALS THAT STILL THRIVE IN PARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN, AND PORTRAYED HIMSELF AS BEING "OF THE MYSTICAL WORLD." HE MADE REPEATED APPEALS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR FUNDS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EXTRATERRESTIAL BEINGS, AND IN FACT WAS AT THE U.N. IN NEW YORK MAKING HIS FAMILIAR CASE FOR INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL WHEN HE WAS FINALLY OVERTHROWN IN A NEARLY BLOODLESS PREDAWN OPERATION.

GRENADIANS SURGED THROUGH THE STREETS CHANTING "FREEDOM COME,
GAIRY GO, GAIRY GONE WITH U.F.O.."

GAIRYS' TENURE COVERED OVER 20 YEARS OF CORRUPTION AND SUPPRESSION
OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS WITH HIS PERSONAL POLICE CALLED THE
"MONGOOSE GANG." (A TYPICAL GOON SQUAD)

FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE BISHOP TAKE OVER OF GRENADA
ALMOST EVERY FACET OF GRENADIAN LIFE HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY A
STRONG TURN TO THE LEFT TOWARD MARXIST LINES.

CUBAN INFLUENCE IN GRENADA MUSHROOMED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE MARCH 1979 COUP LED BY THE JEWEL MOVEMENT OF MAURICE
BISHOP.

BISHOP AND HIS CLOSEST COLLEAGUES WERE WESTERN-EDUCATED
(ENGLAND) MARXIST RADICALS, AND THEY TURNED FOR HELP TO FIDEL
CASTRO, WHO PROVED WILLING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

TO ALLOW CLOSE CUBAN SUPERVISION OF GRENADIAN PROGRAMS, A
SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FROM THE AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE
CUBAN GOVERNMENT, JULIAN RIZO, WAS SENT TO GRENADA AS AMBASSADOR,
RIZO MAINTAINED INTIMATE RELATIONS WITH BISHOP AND OTHER PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT MINSITERS, SUCH AS BERNARD COARD.

THE GRENADIAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWED A PRO-SOVIET FOREIGN
POLICY LINE. CUBAN AND GRENADIAN VOTING RECORDS IN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS WERE NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ALONE
WITH CUBA, CONTRARY TO ALL WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS, VOTED AGAINST
UN RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE INVASION OF AF-
GHANISTAN.

CUBAN AID TO GRENADA WAS MOST EXTENSIVE IN THOSE AREAS WHICH AFFECTED THE ISLANDS STRATEGIC USEFULNESS TO CUBA. CUBA INSTALLED ADVISORS ON THE ISLAND OFFERING MILITARY, TECHNICAL, SECURITY, AND PROPAGANDA ASSISTANCE TO THE BISHOP GOVERNMENT. MANY GRENADIANS WERE SENT TO CUBA FOR TRAINING IN THESE AREAS. LAST YEAR JOURNALIST OBSERVED CUBAN OFFICIALS DIRECTING AND GIVING ORDERS TO GRENADIAN SOLDIERS MARCHING IN CEREMONIES IN ST. GEORGE'S.

CUBAN PROJECTS INCLUDED AIDING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 75,000 WATT TRANSMITTER FOR RADIO FREE GRENADA. TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE STATION POWER, ONE MUST CONSIDER THE MOST POWERFUL AM STATION IN THE UNITED STATES IS 50,000 WATTS AND IS CALLED A CLEAR CHANEL STATION DUE TO ITS POWER AND CLARITY OVER LONG DISTANCES. INDICATIONS WERE THAT THIS STATION (STATE OWNED) WOULD BE USED TO BEAM CUBAN AND SOVIET SUPPLIED PROPAGANDA INTO THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA.

CUBA'S LARGEST PROJECT IN GRENADA WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR AIRFIELD AT POINT SALINES ON THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE ISLAND. CUBA PROVIDED HUNDREDS OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND SOVIET EQUIPMENT TO BUILD THE AIRFIELD. ACCORDING TO THE GRENADIAN GOVERNMENT OF MAURICE BISHOP, WAS TO BE USED FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM. IT SEEMS A 9,800 FOOT RUNWAY ON AN ISLAND OF THIS SIZE, HAD BUT ONE POTENTIAL USE, THAT OF BEING USED FOR THE MILITARY. SUCH AN AIRFIELD WOULD ALLOW OPERATIONS OF EVERY AIRCRAFT IN THE SOVIET-CUBAN INVENTORY. CUBA'S MIG AIRCRAFT AND TROOP TRANSPORTS WOULD ENJOY A GREATER RADIUS OF OPERATION. IT WOULD GIVE CUBA A GUARANTEED REFUELING STOP FOR MILITARY FLIGHTS TO AFRICA.

BISHOP HIMSELF GAVE AN IMPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF FUTURE MILITARY USE OF THE AIRFIELD. A MARCH 1980 NEWSWEEK REPORT QUOTED BISHOP'S COMMENTS TO A U.S. REPORTER QUOTATION: SUPPOSE THERE'S A WAR NEXT DOOR IN TRINIDAD, WHERE THE FORCES OF FACISM ARE ABOUT TO TAKE CONTROL, AND THE TRINIDADIANs NEED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. WHY SHOULD WE OPPOSE ANYBODY PASSING THROUGH GRENADA TO ASSIST THEM?

MAURICE BISHOPs SEIZURE OF POWER WAS HAILED BY MOST GRENADIANS WITH ENTHUSIASM.

THE NEW REGIME SET OUT ON A NUMBER OF AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS. AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THESE WERE:

1. EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL AVAILABILITY AT ALL LEVELS.
2. EMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY BY CLEARING LAND AND LAND ASSIGNMENT.
3. A MORE VIGOROUS PROMOTION OF TOURISM. THIS WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE BUILDING OF A NEW 9,800 FOOT RUNWAY.

IT SEEMS TO BE A MATTER OF PRIDE AMONG GRENADIANS TO HAVE A LARGE RUNWAY BUT, BISHOPs REASON WAS PROBABLY BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY. AT ANY RATE THIS RUNWAY ALONE WITH A HOSTILE GOVERNMENT BODE BAD TIMES FOR AMERICAN-GRENADIAN RELATIONS.

BISHOPs RELATIONS WITH THE US STARTED ON A STORMY NOTE. BISHOP, THOUGH EDUCATED IN ENGLAND, CAME TO POWER EMBRACING MARXIST+LENINIST PRECEPTS. AT THE TIME OF BISHOPs TAKE-OVER THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO GRENADA INFORMED BISHOP THAT THE US WOULD LOOK WITH DISPLEASURE ON ANY MOVEMENT FOR CLOSER TIES WITH CUBA, AND THAT HE COULD OFFER NO AID FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN \$5,000 FROM A DISCRETIONARY FUND.

BISHOP ANGRILY TURNED DOWN THE \$5,000 AND MOVED TO EMBRACE CLOSE TIES WITH CASTRO AND CUBA.

THE GRENADIAN COURTSHIP FOLLOWED. THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT HELP FROM ALL QUARTERS AND GENEROSITY FOLLOWED FROM VENEZUELA, CANADA (HELPING TO REHABILITATE THE DECLINING COCOA INDUSTRY) AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (WHICH BACKED THE AIRPORT AND OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS).

THE SOVIET BLOCK COUNTRIES AID WAS THE MOST EVIDENT. A NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE FROM EAST GERMANY, SOVIET SHIPS LADEN WITH GIFTS, INCLUDING VANS, BUSES, AND EVEN AN AIRPLANE FOR CROP-DUSTING, ALONG WITH 150 PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, AUTOMOBILES AND JEEPS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION TO THIS A VERTIABLE ARSENAL OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TOO EXTENSIVE TO DETAIL.

CUBA WAS THE MOST MAGNANIMOUS OF ALL CONTRIBUTORS GIVING NOT ONLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING BUT, PROVIDING 40 PERCENT OF THE AIRPORT FACILITIES ESTIMATED TO COST FROM 80 TO 100 MILLION DOLLARS. TO FACILITATE THE RUNWAY PROJECT CUBA BUILT GRENADA ITS FIRST ROCK CRUSHING PLANT AND ASPHALT MIXING FACILITY.

CUBA'S ASSISTANCE WAS NOT LIMITED TO THE AIRPORT. THEIR SERVICES EXTENDED TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE, FISHING, CULTURE, AND SPORTS.

IT PROVIDED FREE MEDICAL CLINICS WITH CUBAN PERSONEL AND STARTED THE TRAINING OF 25 GRENADIAN DOCTORS IN CUBA. CHAIRS, TABLES AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES WERE ALSO PROVIDED.

THE LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS ALSO INCLUDED; ALGERIA SIX MILLION DOLLARS, AND LIBYA FOUR MILLION.

DESPITE ALL THESE GIFTS MANY RESIDENTS REGARDED THE CUBANS, AND CASTROISM WITH SUSPICION AND MANY WITH DEEP HOSTILITY.

ONE CORRESPONDENT IN A LOCAL BAR BECAME ENGAGED WITH A GROUP OF FIVE GRENADIANS, FOUR OF WHICH WERE HOSTILE TOWARD THE CUBANS. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE CUBANS HAD DONE THAT WAS GOOD FOR THE GRENADIANS, ONE REPLIED "THE DOCTORS AND DENTIST THEY SENT US" "YES" ONE OF THEM ANSWERED, "THEY HAVE SENT DENTIST BUT IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY AT THE CUBANS WORKING HERE, YOU'LL SEE THEY HAVE NO TEETH."

MOST OF US HAVE NOW HEARD "THE REST OF THE STORY" ON MAURICE BISHOP AND THE ISLAND OF GRENADA.

IT IS SUGGESTED BY SOME IN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT THAT MAURICE BISHOPS' DOWN FALL WAS HIS EVER SO SLIGHT TURN TOWARD A SOFTER LINE WITH THE UNITED STATES. ONLY TIME AND FUTURE EVENTS WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWERS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME FAR TOO DEFENSIVE IN DEALING WITH COUNTRIES IN OUR OWN HEMISPHERE. OUR FAILURE TO BE CONSISTENT IN DEALING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS HAS ENCOURAGED SUBVERSIVES EVERYWHERE.

WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A STRONG STAND AS THE WORLD LEADER THAT WE ARE. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR BY NOW TO OUR GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE THAT WE CANNOT BUY OR "WHEEDLE" RESPECT FROM THE MANY COUNTRIES THAT LOOK TO US FOR GUIDANCE. WE MUST EARN THEIR RESPECT BY CONSISTENT AND PREDICTABLE RESPONSE TO ANY AND ALL

INFLUENCES WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE DEMOCRATIC INTEGRITY OF ALL OUR NEIGHBORS.

DEMOCRACY AND CONCERN FOR FREEDOM SHOULD BE JUST AS IMPORTANT IN THIS HEMISPHERE AS IT IS IN ASIA, AFRICA, OR EUROPE. WE SHOULD NOT BECOME PARALYZED INTO INACTIVITY BY THE FAILURE OF OUR FRIENDS TO APPRECIATE OR UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. DID WE NOT WATCH NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN BARTER AWAY SOME OF BRITAIN'S EUROPEAN NEIGHBORS IN THE PRELUDE TO WORLD WAR II IN THE VAIN ATTEMPT TO SEE "PEACE IN OUR TIME."

IF WE PRACTICE THIS SAME LOGIC IN THE CARIBBEAN WE ARE MOST CERTAINLY PLAYING THE SAME GAME.

WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO IMPOSE OUR WILL ON OUR SMALL NEIGHBORS IN THE CARIBBEAN, BUT WE DO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR FRIENDS FROM WHAT WE PERCEIVE TO BE A SERIOUS THREAT. LETS NOT BE FACETIOUS ABOUT "LITTLE GRENADA", WE ALL KNOW WHICH WAS THE "TAIL" AND WHICH WAS THE "DOG".

WHEN WE LOOK AT CUBA AND AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN NICARAGUA, AND GRENADA, WHAT DO WE SEE ? WE SEE ECONOMICALLY WEAK, MILITARIZED, REPRESSIVE COUNTRIES; EXPENSIVE, SEMICOLONIAL DEPENDENCIES-DEPENDENCIES LIKE CUBA THAT COST THEIR SOVIET SPONSORS 9 MILLION PER DAY. THESE DEPENDENCIES ARE TIED ON A VERY SHORT LEASH TO THEIR SOVIET SPONSOR, AND USEFUL PRINCIPALLY FOR CREATING MISCHIEF AMONG THEIR NEIGHBORS IN THE REGION.

GRENADA'S STRATEGIC VALUE IS FAR OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS SIZE. IT IS LESS THAN 100 MILES OFF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA, IN A CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH TANKERS CARRYING 56% OF U.S. IMPORTED OIL ENTERS THE CARIBBEAN. MAJOR REFINING CAPACITY LIES NORTH IN ST. CROIX, THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS; IN ST. LUCIA; AND 90 MILES TO THE SOUTH IN TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD HAS DENOUNCED BISHOP FOR PERMITTING 75 TRINIDADIAN TO BE TRAINED BY CUBANS IN GRENADA FOR TERRORISM, SABOTAGE, AND GUERILLA WARFARE. BISHOP CONFIRMED AS EARLY AS APRIL 1980 THAT THE NEW AIRFIELD MIGHT BE USED FOR SOVIET AND CUBAN AIRLIFTS TO TROUBLE SPOTS. THREE SQUADRONS OF SOVIET MIG-23'S ARE NOW CURRENTLY BASED IN CUBA AND COULD HAVE BEEN EASILY TRANSFERRED TO GRENADA WHERE THEY COULD WREAK HAVOC ON NEARBY OIL REFINERIES, TRANSSHIPMENT TERMINALS, AND TANKER LANES. SOUND FAR FETCHED?? LOOK AT THE MIDDLE EAST NOW, IRAQ AND IRAN IN PARTICULAR. IN ADDITION, SOVIET USE OF THE AIRFIELD FOR LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE AND FOR ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE MISSIONS OVER THE ATLANTIC AS REAGAN INDICATED, POSE A GREAT THREAT FOR THE MID AND SOUTH ATLANTIC.

FAILURE TO ACT IN GRENADA WOULD HAVE BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE ON A SCALE ALMOST AS LARGE AS OUR PAST BLUNDER IN CUBA OVER 20 YEARS AGO.

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