

U.S. Get Your Bloody Hands Off Grenada and Lebanon!

A World Without Imperialism, Not an Imperialist World War!

In the early morning hours of October 25, American freedom and democracy swaggered into the Caribbean country of Grenada, announcing their arrival out of the barrel of a gun. In an operation deliberately calculated to resemble a scene from *Apocalypse Now* the armed thugs of U.S. imperialism, invaded Grenada. A message has been delivered.

And what was the reason for this invasion? The public is (almost half-heartedly) offered a few fig leaves of explanation: "to save American lives." This has long been Handy Reason #1 for U.S. military action. You can hardly name a war that wasn't started for this reason (though, strangely, by the time the war is well under way that reason is usually forgotten). "The medical students couldn't leave," we are told. Well, it turns out that U.S. officials admit they were being constantly assured the Americans could leave by Grenadan officials, but the U.S. chose not to believe them. The U.S. reported that the students were being "held hostage" on the island and had no way of getting out, but it was revealed that Grenada's Caribbean "neighbors" had banned all flights to and from Grenada--so who was holding the students hostage? The school's chief administrator and a number of students were saying they felt no danger. But soon enuf the marines were landed, the administrator was called to the U.S. State Department and changed his mind (likely having been offered "corrective surgery" he couldn't refuse). And some jackass medical students are shown on TV kissing U.S. soil (and some other things)--and 'lo and behold the case is proven! Sure. These students were in danger, all right, once the fleet attacked and lead flew everywhere.

Fig leaf #2: the U.S. was requested to send troops by eastern Caribbean countries. This is also known as the "tail wags the dog" story. Just how serious the U.S. was about taking others' advice was openly admitted when they rejected Britain's widely reported advice not to invade. Interestingly enough, CARICOM, the main Caribbean organization in the region which includes all the states there, had to be bypassed in order to pull together this "unanimous request." The Prime Minister of Barbados (a defender of the U.S. action) has also admitted being approached by a U.S. official even before the killing of Maurice Bishop in Grenada about the prospect of military action.

Democracy in the Caribbean? Tell it to the people of Haiti, for one, where the U.S. backs the infamously brutal regime of Baby Doc Duvalier, who thus maintains his rule and U.S. domination over one of the poorest populations on earth. U.S. opposition to violent coups? Oh, if the dead could hear! For instance, Diem of Vietnam, Allende of Chile and a legion of others who have been overthrown and murdered by U.S. imperialism for a host of different reasons over the years.

So what is the real reason for this U.S. military action, and for that matter, the continued U.S. insistence on expanding its military forces in Lebanon? Secretary of State Shultz gave a hint when he ascribed the U.S. invasion to "an atmosphere of violent uncertainty." Shultz, of course, was referring to "violent uncertainty" in Grenada. But is it not "violent uncertainty," and yes, Mr. Shultz, the U.S.'s contribution to it, that prevails in the European pre-war theater as the U.S. makes final preparations to deploy its Pershing and Cruise missiles? Is there not "violent uncertainty" in the Middle East, where the U.S. (along with France, Italy and Britain) continue to expand their troop contingent and push Syria and the Soviets (who are pushing in return)? And there is "violent uncertainty" in the Caribbean, too, as the U.S. kills Grenadans and Cubans and captures Russians, too, as it rattles its sabres. In the U.S. itself, neanderthals kiss the soil and are fed a "glorious military victory" (the first since the Dominican Republic invasion of 1965--and this one over a really tiny nation) to puff them up. It's like a government re-release of all the old John Wayne movies.

It is precisely this global atmosphere of imperialist violence and impending world war that is governing U.S. actions in every part of the globe. Reagan's speech to the nation on Lebanon and Grenada admitted--even advertised--this. His opening lines tried to build on what he had accomplished with his mightily waged propaganda campaign around the Soviet downing of Flight 007. That incident (never mind the rather damning evidence that the flight was a U.S. provocation) supposedly "finally established" the fact that the Soviets are barbarians, and that, therefore, anything barbarian that the U.S. might do is both legitimate and necessary. He proceeded in his speech to explain how we face the Soviets all over the globe and therefore, in essence, 'our troops must be everywhere, our world is at stake.' The good solid citizens of our land, especially those who have benefitted to a fair degree from U.S. world domination since World War 2, were then given by Reagan the analogy of a life insurance policy. Payments, he said, will have to be made to keep our life insurance policy together. What he meant was: OK, you philistines, look up from your eating long enough to take a far-sighted look at the world and see there's going to have to be some major American dying and killing to preserve our feast. Only the army can save our ass now. The balloon--or shall we say mushroom--payment has yet to be paid. But it will be--and perhaps soon--if the world is left to the tender mercies of the likes of the U.S., Soviet, British, French, German etc. etc. imperialists. That is the violent certainty of the present-day world.

The events in Grenada and Lebanon, coming as they do hot on the heels of other events, from missiles in Europe and the 007, serve both to highlight and accelerate these developments toward World War 3. Yes, the U.S. wanted to be rid of the thorn of Soviet influence and military presence in Grenada--but not as an end in itself. Rather it is a part of pre-war military positioning by both sides, a reassertion of unqualified U.S. domination in "its own back yard" and "sending a message" to stiffen the resolve, and concrete war preparations, of its allies around the world.

Just what the U.S. imperialists are going to do next in the Caribbean, Central America, or Lebanon isn't exactly clear. But it will not be any overall "peaceful withdrawal." All the major imperialist powers are moving into increasing instances of conflicts, further troop stationing and accelerated military preparation. The U.S. imperialists are pushing the Soviets at every possible opportunity and the Soviets are doing their own particular combination of holding ground and pushing. The world today has increasingly become one in which neither the U.S. and its allies nor the Soviets and theirs can tolerate "the way things are" and one in which neither side can accept a major, strategic defeat. In this context both sides are paying particular attention to their actual political and military preparations for world war--and it is here that events in Grenada and Lebanon take on their broader meaning.

There can only be one answer. There is nothing that will stop these imperialists of both sides from launching this war short of revolution in large and/or strategic parts of the world. Every act of aggression, of preparation on their side, such as the U.S. invasion of Grenada, must be opposed and thus also become part of preparation for the side of revolution.

World Revolution, Not World War!

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

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Join the "U.S. Imperialism Get Your Bloody Hands Off Grenada and Lebanon! / A World Without Imperialism, Not an Imperialist World War!" Contingent at the Nov. 12 demo. Meet at 10:00 am at the State Dept. Rally site. 22nd & Constitution, N.W.