

November 2, 1983

Dear Friends:

The savage, unprovoked invasion of Grenada by U.S. imperialism demands that we not only continue demonstrations calling for immediate withdrawal of the troops, as well as expose the lying words of the U.S. Behemoth's barbaric act, but also face the ultimate question: Is this wild, trigger-happy, retrogressionist president, Ronald Reagan, actually speeding up the time when he can put his finger on the nuclear button which would release the holocaust that would extinguish the human race?

Because the crisis is so total, the oral report (based on 30 pages of notes) I gave to the RFB showed that it is impossible to deal with all the ramifications in the Lead-Editorial and the PPL would need to be so comprehensive that it will come off later than we originally planned. Here I must be brief and take for granted that you know most of the facts, and point instead to the relations of Reagan's invasion to the many moves he had made against the Black dimension at home, beginning with the scurrilous attack on ML King by Jesse Helms which Reagan refused to repudiate. Reagan did that just before he left for that mansion in Georgia, with its lilywhite golf course, for a supposed vacation, which turned out to be a secret planning session for war.

Two facts, however, I must not leave out. One is the fact that from day 1 of the Grenadian Revolution in 1979, Reagan began plotting and by 1981, when he was solidly in the presidential seat, he had an actual practice-run into the Caribbean disguised as military exercises in the waters outside Puerto Rico. The second is the appearance of a grief-stricken and mourning Reagan, supposedly overcome by the shock of the terrorist act in Beirut and death of over 200 marines. The impression given was that Reagan had rushed back from his vacation to meet with his chief advisers about what to do on Lebanon, when in fact he was rushing back to complete his preparations for the invasion and affix his signature just as soon as his East Caribbean stooges accepted his formulation for the invasion. Obviously capitalist imperialist politics taught the B-actor what professional acting couldn't -- and that is to give an Oscar caliber performance of a grief-stricken man. Clearly, whether on a lilywhite Georgia golf course, or on horse-back at his ranch, or in bed in the White House, all President Reagan can dream up are nightmarish counter-revolutions. This time it was about tiny Grenada. Will this turn out to be a practice-run for an invasion of Nicaragua? :

While the new focus on the Caribbean made Reagan disregard the carnage of U.S. marines in Lebanon, it isn't true that he is forgetting the Middle East. That will loom ever larger, since it does impinge on a possible confrontation between the U.S. and Russia, which is not little Grenada but the other world nuclear Titan.

The fact that the U.S. imperialist allies oppose the invasion does not mean that they will back off from stationing Cruise and Pershing missiles, despite the two million Europeans who marched, the weekend before the invasion of Grenada, against the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe. What none of the rulers see is that, in fact, the greatest anti-nuke movement is in West Germany,

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the key to the world situation. And that is so crucial a movement that even a Willy Brandt addressed it, even as the demonstration in Holland, after the invasion, was the greatest ever there -- half a million -- and it was addressed by Princess Irene. In a word, people who are close to the rulers and aren't revolutionaries by the furthest stretch of anyone's imagination, are so sure that they don't want Reagan's hand on that nuclear button that they are turning against what they originally asked for, the deployment of U.S. missiles as protection from Russian missiles.

One final word on what I meant by the reference at the REB to the relationship of the Caribbean to philosophy. It is here where--both in 1975, when it was just a matter of discussing revolution and theory but not philosophy, and in 1979, when Grenada first won a revolution--consciousness was discussed as a concrete matter of involving the masses in some new form of self-management. In neither case was it discussed as Marxist-Humanists discuss it, but the very fact that it was raised did, indeed, signify a new stage in the battle of ideas. Although I did not dig into it deeply at that point (though with hindsight it can be seen as a response to Philosophy and Revolution as well as an anticipation of the kind of questions P&R was to raise) I may this time do so in the PPL.

What confronts us immediately is, of course, the Memorial Meeting for Denby. The REB minutes will give you an idea of what has been planned, and Mike will send a full report on it Monday, the day after it has been held, together with a copy of the beautiful Program for it which Eugene has designed and is now sending to the printer.

Please obey, rigorously, the deadline for the next issue of N&L. It must be an early one, because the printshop will be close for Thanksgiving. The deadline must therefore be Tuesday, November 15. That means that all copy must be at the Center for the PTC to begin immediate work on it on November 15.

Yours,

RAYA

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MINUTES OF REB MEETING, NOV. 1, 1983.

Present: All but Suzanne, excused; Diane as sitter-in  
Agenda: I- Report on Nov. 6 Memorial Meeting for Denby; II -N&L,  
December issue, Lead-Editorial and PPL on Ramifications  
of the Invasion of Grenada Globally; III- Communications;  
IV- G&W

Raya had before her over 30 pages of notes she had been dictating over the past seven days, ever since the news of the dawn attack on Grenada. They included an almost hour by hour tracing from the time Reagan had attacked ML King just before leaving for the white golf course "vacation" to the moment his invasion was actually announced; and had dug into developments ever since 1979 when Bishop had first wrested Grenada from Gairy -- including speeches and reports that show U.S. imperialism had planned this attack then, and revealing the countless lies in all the recent declarations from Reagan.

In addition to needing to take up all of this, our analysis would also have to deal with the questions of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and all of Central America. And perhaps most important of all would be to deal with what this means for the anti-nuke, anti-war movement. While Reagan's manipulation of the 007 Korean airliner incident had worked against that movement, the global responses to Reagan's invasion of Grenada may mean that some of the support for his deployment of the Cruise and Pershing weapons by European rulers will be withdrawn, as witness the half million that poured out in Holland, the greatest demonstration there which was even addressed by their Princess. The point the anti-nuke movement must confront is that anti-nuke must move to full anti-war because the real question is one of war or revolution.

Finally, RD raised the question of our relationship as M-Hists with revolutionary movements in the Caribbean, in particular the New Beginning Movement, one spokesman for which had mentioned RD's work on state-capitalist theory in the 1975 article that had appeared in the Pan-African Journal, issued

in Nairobi, which had dealt with "Conflicting Tendencies in the Caribbean Revolution" (Black Nationalists, Stalinists, Revolutionary Marxists) -- but which proves all over again the pitfalls of stopping short of philosophy. RD raised it because she was wondering if taking up some of this would give us a chance to make our points on need for philosophy very concrete, and very specifically on the whole question of the Caribbean and, in fact, all of Latin America. The great problem that confronted her, she said, was that to deal with all the ramifications and connections that are involved in these current objective developments would take not just a pamphlet, but a whole book; they could certainly not be dealt with in a single Lead-Editorial. At the same time, a Lead-Editorial on such a topic as this cannot be presented merely as "excerpts" from a PPL. Raya proposed that she might, therefore, write two different studies; a Lead for N&L and a PPL which could take up some of the philosophic ramifications flowing out of the political analysis.