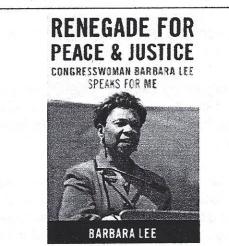
Radical Representative Hails "Revolutionary" Obama, Calls Obama Record Phenomenal, and Urges Recognition of Cuba

Rep. Barbara Lee, who admits in her book that she has been called everything from a radical to an anti-American communist, is very pleased with the record of her friend, President Barack Obama. In fact, she thinks he has been "phenomenal."

At a February 4, 2009, event sponsored by the National Press Club, where she was introduced by Helen Thomas, Lee said that she's very excited about the bills he has signed and the executive orders he has issued. And she thinks there is much more to come. She is even working for normalization of relations with Communist Cuba.

Lee, the chairwoman of the 42-member Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, is perhaps best known for casting the lone vote in the House against U.S. military action to remove the Taliban regime in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. The Taliban had harbored the Al Qaeda terrorists responsible for 9/11. Afterwards, she said, Rep. Steny Hoyer, now the House Majority Leader, was among those hailing her "courageous" stand.



In her book, Renegade for Peace & Justice,
Lee declares her support for "a world vision of peace" and a Cabinet-level
Department of Peace.

Lee calls House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "a magnificent woman" and "one of California's greatest representatives."

Regarding President Obama, whom she served as a presidential campaign adviser, Lee says that, "I liked his message of fundamental change, which was as close to a revolutionary message as we have had in decades." She served as Obama's Western

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Regional co-chair during the campaign "and I participated in rallies, phone banking, and behind-the-scenes advising on issues and politics."

Lee's effusive comments about Obama's record and agenda were made at a National Press Club event and illustrate a fact of political life that has been lost amid the media controversies over Obama's tainted nominees and "stimulus" bill. She made it clear that, on issues ranging from the war on terrorism to federal spending bills on children's health and pay equity for women, Obama and his "progressive" allies are winning.

However, on the foreign policy front, while Lee said she favors normalizing relations with Communist Cuba, she is not sure yet what the Obama Administration will do.

Asked if Obama would normalize relations with Cuba, she said, "I don't know. But I know there are members of Congress who want to do that. So we're working very hard. It's a 40-year-old policy. It hasn't worked. And it's time to change the policy."

Asked if she had talked to Obama about this, she claimed, "No, I haven't."

Putting the U.N. First

Lee did say, however, that Obama will emphasize a foreign policy "based on diplomacy and multilateral cooperation." As a member of Congress, Lee notes in her book that she was a sponsor of the "Common Sense Budget Act," cutting \$60 billion from the Pentagon.

She introduced two bills dealing with Iran, the Iran Nuclear Accountability Act, and the Iran Diplomatic Accountability Act, which are designed to prohibit U.S. military action against Iran, in the absence of an imminent threat, and require diplomatic talks with the regime.

In her book, she declares her support for Communist Cuba, saying, "On many occasions I have taken people to Cuba to educate them about the realities of Cuban society so that they can make judgments for themselves whether the negative propaganda about Cuba that we consume in the United States is justified." She attacks the Bush Administration for deposing Jean Bertrand Aristide, the Marxist proponent of "Liberation Theology" who once ruled Haiti.

While she acknowledges that her statement of opposition to the resolution to remove Al Qaeda in Afghanistan was crafted with the aid of "close friend "Marcus Raskin of the pro-Marxist Institute for Policy Studies, her book makes no mention of two major controversies that have dogged her career. One was her involvement in supporting the Communist regime on the island of Grenada, when she worked for her predecessor, Rep. Ron Dellums, and the other was her membership, when she was in the California State Assembly, in the Committees of Correspondence, an off-shoot of the Communist Party.

Herbert Romerstein, a former professional staff member of the House Intelligence Committee, explains, "In 1992, while a member of the California State Assembly, Barbara Lee was elected to the National Coordinating Committee of the Committees of Correspondence. Most, but not all, of the members of this group had been active in the Communist Party USA." See Exhibit 1.

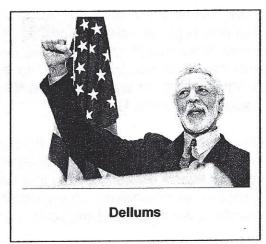
Exposure of Lee's role in the controversial pro-communist group led one of the members to propose a "non-public" status for those wishing to be active behind-the-scenes.

Covering for Communists

The Grenada issue, which emerged after President Reagan ordered the liberation of the country in 1983, involved the discovery of documents showing that Lee was a member of a Dellums delegation in 1982 that sought the Communist regime's input for a congressional report on whether an airport under construction on the island was a strategic threat to America and its allies.

Herbert Romerstein and Michael Ledeen analyzed the captured documents and wrote the introduction to a mammoth 1984 U.S. report, *Grenada Documents: An Overview and Selection.* See Exhibit 2.

On the matter of the Dellums delegation,
Romerstein states, "In 1982, under the name
Barbara Chisom, she and Carlottia Scott
accompanied Dellums on a trip to Grenada.
Dellums purpose was to investigate the
airport being built by the Grenadian communist
regime. Dellums' report to Melvin Price



(See Exhibit 3), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was leaked by Dellums, Lee and Scott to Lt. Col. Ewart Layne, the Deputy Minister of Defense of Grenada. Layne made corrections to the report, which Dellums then sent to Price. Layne's much deserved nickname, given to him by the Grenadian communists was Comrade Headache."

Romerstein has provided a copy of the notes, with corrections to the report, made by "Comrade Headache." See Exhibit 4.

The regime had claimed that the airport was for tourism. But captured government documents revealed that it was for the benefit of Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Romerstein explains, "Another Grenadian communist assigned to the Ministry of Defense was Liam James, who wrote in his diary, 'The Revo (revolution) has been able

to crush counter-revolution internationally, airport will be used for Cuban and Soviet military." This can be found in Document 23 of *Grenada Documents: An Overview and Selection* (See Exhibit 5). But Dellums had claimed to Price that the airport would be purely civilian.

Romerstein says that Maurice Bishop, the communist Prime Minister of Grenada, regularly received advice from the Cuban Ambassador Julian Torres Rizo, and cites a document proving that Rizo also provided Bishop with reports on the activities of the Congressional Black Caucus in the United States (See Exhibit 6). Rizo was a top Cuban Intelligence (DGI) officer who also served at the U.N. and was a liaison with members of the Weather Underground terrorist group.

Lee's book says that she was involved in a group known as the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society, talks about "traveling in Grenada" during the 1980s, and mentions working on "foreign policy issues involving the Caribbean when I was a staff member" for Dellums. But it doesn't mention the Grenada documents controversy.

However, Lee freely admits involvement in the "progressive" Black Panther Party, a group that regularly denounced police officers as "pigs," and names one of the other members of the group as Angela Davis, "the noted African American member of the Communist Party." Lee quotes a Panther official as denying that the Panther program was based on the Communist Manifesto but admits that she was called "Comrade Barbara."

Lee also describes close political relationships with the Rev. Jesse Jackson; she had chaired the California branch of Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition; and Barack Obama, whom she refers to by his first name, Barack. She writes, "Barack and I spoke on several occasions before my endorsement [of his presidential bid] and in our conversations we discussed his position on the [Iraq] war and other issues..."

Another close associate is Rep. Lynn Woolsey. Lee recalls the time she and Woolsey and others marched into and disrupted a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing chaired by conservative Senator Jesse Helms to demand ratification of a U.N. women's rights treaty, known as the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Obama has announced that he wants to see CEDAW ratified by the Senate.

Before heading off to an event at the White House, Lee told the National Press Club audience that "I think he's doing a great job. I think his appointments have been great." She called his record "phenomenal." She then ticked off a number of Obama executive orders and statements and bills that he has signed or plans to sign:

- 1) Announcing the eventual closing of the Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention facility.
- 2) Prohibiting the use of "torture" by U.S. personnel when dealing with terrorists.

- 3) Limits on compensation for CEOs at banks getting bailout money.
- 4) "Understanding what we need to do to get out of this economic crisis," a reference to the federal spending "stimulus" bill now in Congress.
- 5) Signed the children's health bill, officially designated the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (passed the House by a 290-135 vote and the Senate by a 66-32 vote).
- 6) Signed the women's pay equity bill, designated the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (passed the House by a 250-177 vote and the Senate by a 61-36 vote).
- 7) "By the stroke of the pen got rid of that very damaging global gag rule that Mexico City language on family planning funding." This new Obama executive order authorizes federal funding of pro-abortion groups.

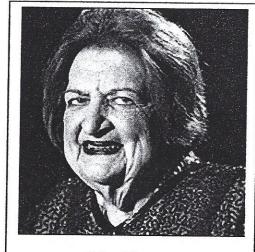
In addition to these achievements from the "progressive" point of view, several controversial Obama nominees have been confirmed by the Senate.

Hillary Clinton was confirmed as Secretary of State by a 94-2 vote while Eric Holder was confirmed as Attorney General by a 75-21 vote. Holder had been involved in Clinton Administration pardons of terrorist members of the Weather Underground and the Puerto Rican FALN.

Despite his tax cheating problems, Timothy Geithner was confirmed as Treasury Secretary by a 60-34 Senate vote.

Lee was introduced at the National Press Club event by Helen Thomas, the outspokenly radical correspondent who made headlines during the George W. Bush presidency by denouncing U.S. foreign policy from her position as the most senior member of the White House press corps.

Thomas hailed Lee for her role and votes in Congress. "Courage is her second name," said Thomas. "She has walked in where angels fear to tread." She proceeded to take another shot at Bush, denouncing his "disastrous war against Iraq."



Helen Thomas

In the acknowledgements section of the book, Lee names Helen Thomas as an inspiration behind the book itself. It is published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. and includes an endorsement on the back cover from Bono, the rock star.

The event was officially sponsored by the book and author committee of the National Press Club.

Best Wishes for a New Year of Peace and Progress

CORRESPONDENCE CURRESPONDER

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JANUARY 1993

Review of the Month:

Labor movement debating its role in '93

By Pat Fry

The post election celebration was barely over when word started filtering through the labor movement that the Clinton team had asked the AFL-CIO Executive Council to back away from mobilizing grassroots campaigns in support of labor issues.

The first casualty was a mass postcard campaign organized by Jobs with Justice in support of single payer health care. The goal is to present Clinton with 1 million postcards soon after his inauguration, pressing him to back "real national health care insurance."

Three major unions announced that although they continue to energetically support a single payer system, they will not be participating in the postcard campaign. The Teamsters union said it is opting to build its own campaign, while the UAW and AFSCME say it is more effective for the labor movement to influence Clinton from the inside, now that it has a friend in the White House.

"The important thing is that we have access to the White House by picking up the phone and talking to Bill Clinton," said a local AFSCME labor leader. He was speaking at a labor forum sponsored by AFSCME Local 1930, the New York Library Guild, in early December. The topic was: "Clinton: What Can Labor Expect?"

Clinton, after all, is a member of AFSCME. And it was AFSCME that endorsed Clinton when all others were supporting Tom Harkin or Jerry Brown in the early primary days. Gerald McEntee, AFSCME's president, stressed the importance of "access" to the White House as well, at a Labor Research Associates dinner where he was the honored guest.

But how much can labor win with a phone call? Will friendly persuasion and seats at economic summits be sufficient to enact its political agenda?

The answer should start with a sober assessment of what Clinton represents. Can labor forget that Clinton did everything he could to publicly distance himself from the trade union movement during the election campaign? Positioning himself politically to the right of the traditional liberal coalition of the Democratic Party, he campaigned on the theme that he would not be tied to "special interests" (read labor, the civil rights organizations, etc.).

Certainly, the left sees Clinton's victory as hugely significant, a milestone

Continued on page 3

How the Friendshipment broke 32-year U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Carmen Rumbaut

Rev. Lucius Walker was the first member of the Friendshipment caravan to cross the border at Laredo with goods on Nov. 20. He rolled a wheelchair to the turnstiles at the international bridge and was surprised when the customs officer grabbed the chair to help him lift it over, rather than to block his progress.

He was stopped again in the middle of the bridge by another customs official who asked if the chair was going to Cuba. This second official, after listening to Walker's explanation of why the caravan was formed, said,

"God bless you," and let him pass.

These are only two of the anecdotes that were recounted during the trip to Cuba, as caravan members shared their experiences. Most anecdotes were about encounters with a U.S. citize who was convinced of the right-



Launching the Friendshipment in New Jersey

eousness of the cause as soon as she or he was given information about the embargo against Cuba. Most people then realized that the policy is based on strangling Cuba by preventing food and medicine from entering the

Continued on back page

Profiles of the NCC Members

acquittal in 1984. Over the last 25 years, she has lectured across the country and around the world. She now teaches at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Her books include: If they Come in the Morning, Women, Race and Class; and Angela Davis: An Autobiography.



current to the total control of the 1948 Henry Wallace campaign and went on to op-

pose the war in Korea and agitate against the execution of the Rosenbergs. She was executive director, consecutively, of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women Strike for Peace and, most recently, the U.S. Peace Council, and has pushed the peace movement to reach out to other constituencies. She created WILPF's Middle East Committee in 1973, when few peace groups would touch the issue. She represents Eastern Pennsylvania on the NCC.



PAT FRY was active in peace and justice movements in her home town of Detroit for 25 years. In 1983 she joined the Communist Party USA and held several leadership positions until leaving in 1992. From 1984-91 she

was Michigan correspondent for the **People's Weekly World** and its predecessors. She continues to write on the labor movement, particularly UAW-organized industries, and is active in U.S.-Cuba solidarity work.



MARSHALL GARCIA, a vice president of Local 1199 in New York City, was part of the rank and file that brought the hospital workers union to greater levels of democracy, militancy and social commitment in 1986. He is active on

solidarity issues and is a board member of the NAARPR. In 1960 he was elected

a district committee member of UAW Local 906 (Ford Mahwah, N.J.) and organized support for UAW Freedom Riders in Ocala, Fla. In 1963 he took part in CORE's campaign to integrate jobs at White Castle restaurants.



MARY IDOSIDIS
worked for many
years as a teacher. As
national fundraiser for
the *People's Dally/ Weekly World*, she
organized national
tours for Chris Hani,
Vladimir Pozner, Tawfiq Zayyad and Felicia
Langer. A cultural

activist, she has been involved in improvisational theaters and sings with the Freedom Song Network. She is a member of the Billie Holiday Cultural Club, and helps organize its annual Bolshevik Cafe. She was West Coast Coordinator for the CoC National Conference in Berkeley this summer.



MAURICE JACKSON is a fellow at Georgetown University, where he is pursuing an advanced degree in early American history. He has worked as a longshoreman, shipyard worker, house painter and construction worker, and

received a B.A. in political economy and political science from Antioch College. In 1971, he was an intern for Rep. Gus Hawkins (D-Calif.). He worked in the Washington office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, later becoming its assistant director. A longtime member of the D.C. Statehood Party, he was elected as a delegate to the D.C. Statehood Convention in 1981. He serves presently as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. A member of the Communist Party, USA, for 20 years, he served as chair of its D.C.. Maryland and Virginia districts, as its Legislative Director, and on the National Committee and National Board. He left the party following its support for the coup in the former Soviet Union.

GEOFFREY JACQUES is a poet, journalist, essayist, curator, editor, activist and critic. Born in Detroit, he moved to New York in 1983. He has been active in the peace, trade union and social justice movements for over 20 years, and



has published poems and articles in over two dozen periodicals. For six years he served on the National Board of the U.S. Peace Council. He is currently Associate Editor of 1199 News in New York and the author of Hunger and

Other Poems and The African American Political Movement Today.



ARTHUR KINOY, a professor of law at Rutgers University, is national co-chair of the National Committee for Independent Political Action (NCI-PA), a vice president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and a national board

member, National Lawyers Guild. He is an advocate for individuals and causes involved in the central legal and political issues of our time - including the defense of victims of McCarthyism and of civil rights and anti-war activists. Landmark Supreme Court victories he has been involved in include United States v. United States District Court, in which the court rejected the Nixon administration's claim to "inherent power" to engage in illegal wiretapping; Powell v. McCormick, holding unconstitutional the exclusion of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell from the U.S. House of Representatives; and Dombrowski v. Pfister, which significantly extended First Amendment rights.



HON. BARBARA LEE represents the 13th Assembly District (which includes Oakland, Alameda and Emeryville) in the California State Assembly. She serves on five standing legislative committees and a wide range of com-

missions. Lee founded a community health center while working on her graduate degree in Social Work in the mid-70s. She served as a senior advisor and administrative assistant to Rep. Ronald V. Dellums from 1975-87. She is a member of the Rainbow Coalition, Black Women Organized for Political Action, and many other organizations.

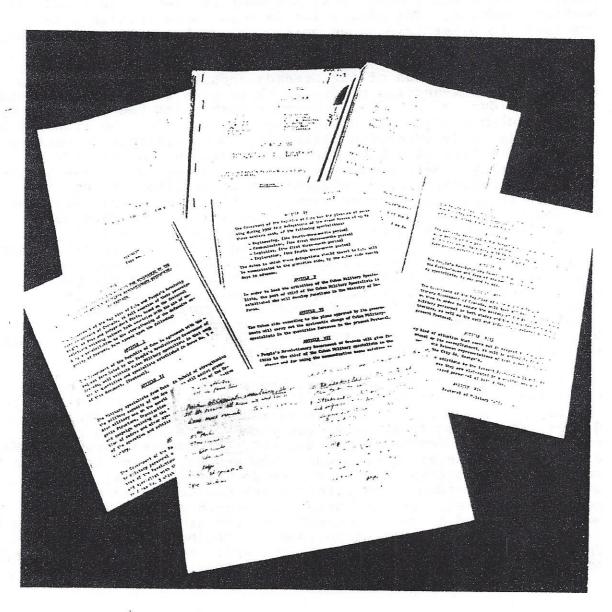
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Committees of Correspondence Newsletter - Page 11





GRENADA DOCUMENTS: AN OVERVIEW AND SELECTION



Released by the Department of State and the Department of Defense September 1984 Washington, D.C.

INTRODUCTION BY MICHAEL LEDEEN AND HERBERT ROMERSTEIN

The military action by the United States and the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in October 1983 brought to a close the four-year rule of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) on the island of Grenada. During their stay on Grenada, the combined forces found a considerable body of documents, constituting an extensive archive of the NJM regime. There were roughly 35,000 pounds of material, ranging from official government treaties, orders, minutes, and correspondence to personal diaries, telexes to and from many foreign countries, and bank documents concerning the finances of government and party leaders. Rarely has such a complete documentary picture of a Communist state been available to Western students. The entire lot is being made available to scholars and other interested parties through the National Archives in Washington.

Pending completion of the Grenada archive, we were asked to assemble a cross-section of documents to give a preliminary picture of Grenada during the rule of Maurice Bishop and the NJM, from April 1979 to October 1983. It was a daunting task, for the richness of the material made selection difficult. The collection presented here could easily have been replaced almost in its entirety by other, equally significant material. Nonetheless, we have striven to provide representative samples from areas likely to be of interest to students of communism and of international relations. We expect that in the future other scholars will produce more detailed studies using the substantial documentation in the archive. We judged the area we selected to be most important for a first look at the Grenada documents. To these we added some material dealing with life on the island during the NJM period, particularly documents illustrating human rights abuses by the Bishop regime. These include reports of treatment of prisoners and legal proceedings, as well as the attempts by the regime--with the help of its international allies -- to deal with political opponents, particularly the churches.

Finally, while this work was authorized and paid for by the Government of the United States [Ledeen worked as a consultant to the Department of State; Romerstein is an official of the United States Information Agency], we are entirely responsible for the selection of the documents and for the introductory material. We did our work without any pressure from anyone, except insofar as we were urged to work as fast as was reasonably possible. We are grateful for freedom to make the selections we deemed most representative and for the patient support throughout the many months we worked on the documents. We are grateful above all to the two senior officials who authorized the project: the then Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger, and the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Fred Ikle.

this book) showed that the Soviet, Cuban, North Korean, and Czechoslovakian agreements included the following items, which were to have been delivered by 1986:

-- Approximately 10,000 assault and other rifles;

-- More than 4,500 submachine guns and machine guns;

-- More than 11.5 million rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition; --294 portable rocket launchers with more than 16,000 rockets;

--84 82 mm mortars with more than 4,800 mortar shells;

--12 75 mm cannon with 600 cannon shells;

--15,000 hand grenades, 7,000 land mines, 60 armored personnel carriers and patrol vehicles;

--More than 150 radio transmitters, 160 field telephone sets, approximately 23,000 uniforms, and tents for about 7,700

By U.S. Department of Defense estimates, equipment found on the island (not all of it had arrived) would have been sufficient to equip a fighting force of roughly 10,000 men. Furthermore, there evidently were some plans for special forces, since the Soviets promised to provide an airplane capable of transporting 39 paratroopers, as well as other special equipment.

All of this made Grenada a real military threat to its neighbors, most of whom had only local constabularies rather than standing armies. And there was little question that the airport was going to be used for military purposes, since General Hudson Austin's deputy, Liam James, reported in his notebook on March 22, 1980, "The Revo has been able to crush Counter-Revolution internationally, airport will be used for Cuban and Soviet military" (Document 23). This apparently reflected a decision of the NJM leadership.

The Soviets appreciated the geopolitical significance of acquiring another proxy in the Western Hemisphere, as can be seen from the picturesque account of a meeting between Major Einstein Louison, Chief of Staff of the Grenadan Army (who had gone to Moscow for military training), and his Soviet counterpart, Marshal N.V. Ogarkov. According to the Grenadan notes on the meeting (Document 24), Ogarkov told Louison, *over two decades ago, there was only Cuba in Latin America, today there are Nicaragua, Grenada and a serious battle is going on in El Salvador. The Grenadans saw themselves as Soviet proxies. Their Ambassador to Moscow, W. Richard Jacobs, reminded his comrades in Grenada that their importance to the Soviets would eventually depend on their success in exporting revolution: "To the extent that we can take credit for bringing any other country into the progressive fold, our prestige and influence would be greatly enhansed [sic] (Document 26). Jacobs felt that the first such project should be Suriname.

Honorable Melvin Price, Chairman TO:

Committee on Armed Services

Ronald V. Dellums FROM:

Member, Committee on Armed Services

SUBJ: Fact Finding Mission - Grenada

INTRODUCTION

In my capacity as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I conducted a fact finding mission to the Eastern Caribbean Island of Grenada from April 13 through April 15, 1982. Accompanying me were the following members of my staff: Mrs. Barbara Lee-Chisom, Ms. Carlottia Scott and Mr. John Apperson. Prior to departing on April 7, 1982, I traveled to Norfolk Virginia, the Atlantic Fleet Command Headquarters. Ms. Marilyn Elrod and Mr. Robert Brauer of my staff accompanied me to this briefing. In addition, prior to departure for Grenada, I was briefed on April 8, 1982 by the Air Defense Command for the Caribbean at Homestead Air Force Base.

PURPOSE OF TRIP

Secretary of Defense, Casper Weinberger, in his 1982 Annual Report to the Congress stated the following: "Cuba has not only : been active in Nicaragua and El Salvador, but has also coordinated clandestine support organizations in Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala. In fact, convincing evidence of Cuban subversion has surfaced in virtually every Caribbean Basin country. In Grenada, Cuban influence has reached such a high level that Grenada can be considered a Cuban satellite. Cubans are constructing air and naval facilities on Grenada, which far exceed the requirements of that tiny island nation." Mr. Weinberger makes these comments in the context of the challenge to the western hemisphere that he alleges is posed by the USSR, Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua. Given this statement, I

Bishop and the Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard Coard. Our discussions centered around the aforementioned issues.

Regarding the proposed naval base, I was told that the site in question was the Calivgny Inlet (see appendix 1) which has a tightly restricted area called Egmont Harbor. It is this area which is said to be off limits to all but Cuban technical advisors due to the construction of a possible submarine base.

The Prime Minister indicated to me that the inlet is too shallow to admit or accommodate large boats, and the only restricted area was Egmont Harbor where Camp Feldon, a military installation is located. My request to visit this site was granted and my observations are noted.

During this meeting, the Prime Minister also indicated to me that since 1955, studies have been conducted which conclude that the current airport retards the potential economic growth of the island. Tourism is the island's second largest industry and is greatly impeded by the current airport which has a 5000 foot runway, cannot accommodate large planes and has no night landing. In addition, I was told that the airport is needed for trade purposes. Mr. Bishop indicated that Point Salines, the site of the airport now under construction, is the only site on the island where such an airport can be built due to the mountainous terrain of the country.

In sum, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister reiterated Grenada's position with regard to the new international airport. It is needed for the economic development of the island and not for military uses as has been stated by the Department of Defense, Department of State and the CIA.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA GRENADA

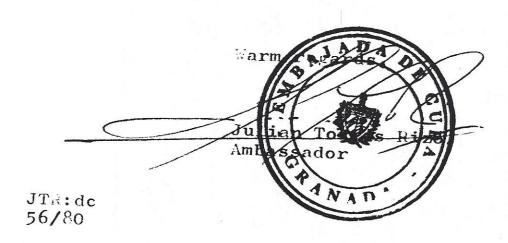
17 July, 1980

Cde. Maurice Bishop Prime Minister People's Revolutionary Government St. George's

Dear Comrade Bishop:

Enclosed are the most recent declarations by members of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, related to the Caribbean.

Johnnetta Cole, of the U.S. Grenada Friendship Society asked me to forward them to you.



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