

INTRODUCTION

The military intervention in Grenada in October 1983, which had been preceded by the assassination of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and a number of his colleagues, focussed international and, in particular, Commonwealth attention on the problems of small states. A decision was taken by Commonwealth Heads of Government, when they met in New Delhi in November 1983, to request the Commonwealth Secretary-General to undertake a study of the special needs, including the security needs, of small states not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere in the Commonwealth. This study — **Vulnerability, Small States in the Global Society** — and its recommendations were endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Nassau in October 1985; the implementation of these recommendations will be reviewed later this year in Vancouver.

In the Caribbean itself the tragic events in Grenada had a traumatic effect, confronting the regional leadership with political and moral dilemmas as to what should have been appropriate action. They have led to “polarisation” in approaches to security and development and to questioning of the diplomatic basis on which the member states of the Caribbean Community had hitherto pursued these goals. Both analysts and policy makers in the Caribbean have tried to grapple with and resolve the many interrelated questions which were posed so starkly by the events in Grenada.

In order to consider these questions further a workshop on **Peace Development and Security in the Caribbean: Perspectives to the Year 2000** was held in Jamaica, in March 1987. It was co-sponsored by the International Peace Academy (IPA), and the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security (CIIPS) with the co-operation of the University of the West Indies through the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), Jamaica, and the Institute for International Relations (IIR), Trinidad & Tobago. A list of participants is attached in Appendix I.

The workshop was based on the perception that, for the small states in the Caribbean, both the definition and the resolution of their problems are inextricably linked with the effects of the geo-political environment. It was therefore necessary to begin by examining both the external and national environments. The responses of the small states to the range of issues and challenges which derive from their environment, especially in the two areas of diplomacy and security, were then examined by the workshop.

Among the problems which the workshop's inaugural session