

extradite Gairy to face charges of conspiracy to murder and attempted murder did nothing to calm Grenadian suspicions.<sup>83</sup>

It may well have been that Grenada would have moved under any circumstances to establish broad ties with the socialist community, and notably Cuba and the Soviet Union. But American hostility to the new regime, and the insecurities which American policy nurtured, could only have accelerated such a trend. Conversely, it is legitimate at least to ask, whether a more constructive American approach to the regime might not have slowed both the domestic radicalization of Grenadian social and economic policy and the Grenadian rapprochement with states whose influence in the region the United States has consistently sought to minimize. It is simply not good policy to attempt to dictate terms to radical Third World movements the leaders of which are prone to anti-Western attitudes, who harbour intense resentments of what they perceive to be a legacy of exploitation and domination by the Western Powers, and who are aware of the possibility of support from, and possess considerable affinities with, the international rivals of the United States.

The American position hardened further with the inauguration of President Reagan, and this despite a series of friendly overtures from Grenada. The United States International Communications Agency rapidly unleashed a media barrage against the Grenadian regime and enlisted in its efforts a number of prominent regional newspapers.<sup>84</sup> The CIA, meanwhile, embarked on a more substantial programme of political destabilization, but this was cut short by order of the Senate Intelligence Committee in July 1981.

The principal levers employed by the Reagan Administration, however, were again economic. In particular, the United States opposed Grenada's major development project, the Point Salines International Airport. Like many Caribbean Islands, Grenada was to a considerable degree dependent on tourist revenue as a source of foreign exchange and aware of the potential development gains associated with the expansion of the tourist trade, particularly if the industry were structured in such a way that a substantial portion of the profits stayed within the country. Grenada was seriously hampered, in its attempts to realize the potential of the tourist

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<sup>83</sup> At least one observer maintains, though without reference to documentary evidence, that these activities did benefit from the support of official agencies of the US government. Thorndike, *op. cit.* (note 71), p. 122.

<sup>84</sup> Thorndike, *op. cit.* (note 71), p. 123.