

Mr. President,

The General Assembly today has been confronted with a series of events which strikes at the very heart of the United Nations Charter. We in Canada are particularly concerned over what has happened in Grenada, because like Grenada we are a part of the Western Hemisphere and, like it, we belong to the Commonwealth. We are also bound by common interests, similar institutions and shared values with those countries which sent troops to Grenada on October 25. The United States is a neighbour with whom we have a close friendship and with whom we share global commitments to peace and security.

We deeply regret the loss of life that has occurred on all sides. A significant number of Canadians was put at risk, but we are relieved that at least there were no casualties amongst them.

Mr. President, we understand the concerns of our Caribbean friends over what was seen as developments in Grenada threatening the stability of the region.

We understand, too, the concerns of the United States over the welfare and safety of its citizens in the light of events leading to October 25. This is a proper, indeed obligatory, concern of every government.

Mr. President, we have examined the principles and practices of international law as they bear on this regrettable course of events. We have, in particular, reviewed Articles 2, 33, 51 and 52 of the Charter. We are not yet convinced on the basis of the evidence available to us that the invasion of Grenada was a legitimate exercise of the right of self-defence. Nor are we satisfied that it was consistent with the principle of the prohibition of the use of force in international relations.

It follows from what I have said that there is much in the draft resolution before us that we support. We "deeply deplore" the grave events in Grenada that led to the murder of its late Prime Minister and the death of many innocent civilians. It should be obvious that, in keeping with the United Nations Charter to which we all subscribe, we must show "strictest respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity" of Grenada. If all governments and not just those who

.../2