

Western powers suggested a desire to dissociate the country from the American and European economic domination of the region and a basic lack of sympathy for the main lines of American policy in the Caribbean Basin. It is reasonable to assume that this refocusing of Grenadian foreign policy away from the country's traditional friends reflected not only a pragmatic desire to balance US preponderance in the region through ties to other states, but also a deep sense of grievance over purported foreign economic exploitation, and a genuine sense of solidarity with other components of what was perceived to be a global movement of struggle against imperialism and for national liberation.

Grenada is perhaps the clearest case considered here of *initial* deeply rooted hostility to the United States and ideological affinity with the socialist camp. That said, the Grenadian leadership also realized that there were solid pragmatic grounds for seeking to establish a good working relationship with the United States. Despite their antipathy towards "American imperialism", public statements of the NJM regime in the earliest stages of its rule are almost devoid of explicit criticism of the US. When reference was made to such issues as imperialism, oppression and dependency, these tended to be abstract, rather than pointed at any specific state.<sup>80</sup> This presumably reflected the leadership's concern to avoid provoking the United States into reprisals. It is also resulted from the considerable economic problems faced by the NJM and a consequent desire for economic assistance. This suggests that here, as elsewhere, the United States possessed considerable leverage over Grenadian foreign policy.

The United States, however, rebuffed early overtures on the part of Grenada. US Ambassador Ortiz was dispatched to Grenada from his base in Barbados on the 23rd March, immediately after the revolution, to assess the situation. In his meetings with Grenadian leaders, he pointed out the weakness of the country's foreign exchange position and warned against policies which might discourage tourism, noting the Jamaican experience under Manley. He stressed, as noted above, that the United States would view with disfavour any improvement in Grenadian ties with Cuba. He then responded to an early Grenadian request for economic assistance by offering \$5,000. Somewhat later, the United States refused to accept the credentials of Dessima Williams, the Grenadian Ambassador-designate to Washington.

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<sup>80</sup> Viz., for example, "Imperialism Is Not Invincible", *op. cit.* (note 73), *passim.*, and in particular pp. 88, 89.