

S.O. 30

Senate have done. They have made their decision. The Tories are still waiting to make their decision. I think that the Liberals have made their decision, although I was not entirely sure about that after listening to the Minister tonight. I hope that they have.

May I repeat for the benefit of the empty Tory benches that the motion we introduced is as follows:

This House supports the judgment of the Secretary of the Commonwealth who just recently described the invasion of Grenada as:

"A deplorable act of blatant aggression".

We all regret to say that that is exactly what it is. The Hon. Member for Yukon said that he totally and entirely disagreed with this motion. I cannot quote him exactly, Mr. Speaker, but I wrote down what he said as carefully as I could. He said that it is justified to intervene in a way similar to the intervention of the United States in order to prevent a takeover by tyrants. That is how the Soviet Union would justify an invasion. Now the Hon. Member for Yukon justifies an invasion on those grounds. I never thought we would see him taking a position that is totally immoral as well as illegal under international law and one which is in accord with the positions that we have seen taken by the Soviet Union.

The Hon. Member for Yukon made another incredible comment when he said that Britain does not relish the liberation of a former colony by the United States. Does anyone in the House think for a moment that that was Britain's concern? Does anyone think that Britain did not mind the action being taken but it simply did not like the fact that the U.S. took that action? Presumably Britain would have preferred it if another nation were to have taken that action. Apart from the fact that it is a tremendous misuse of the word "liberation," that is all that I can make of the Hon. Member's statement.

I would like to discuss the Government for a moment because the Minister is now in the House and he may wish to intervene about a matter on which the Canadian Government has not yet come clean. I hope that he will. We all understand the enormous confusion that there must be on this tiny island. The island is so tiny that one can fly over it in a helicopter in only two minutes. I understand that there must be a great deal of confusion there since all of the phone lines are jammed and so on. Nevertheless, the fact is that Prime Minister Adams, the Prime Minister of Barbados, in a speech on television last night that was referred to earlier, although this part of it was not, said that he had met with the Canadian High Commissioner, Noble Power, in Barbados last Friday at 8 p.m. at Mr. Power's request. It was the wish of Mr. Power to relay on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada the concern about what had been happening until that point and more particularly the concern about the murder of Prime Minister Bishop and the concern for Canadians and nationals of other countries.

Last night on television, Prime Minister Adams who was in Barbados said that when he talked to Mr. Power, he told him that the only option was military intervention. He did not specify any particular nations but he did say that he had told Mr. Power that the only option for the Grenada situation was

military intervention by a state or states unnamed. The report on the television program came from people who were there and who heard the comment. Perhaps it has been mixed up in transmission somehow, but it did come directly through the electronic device of television. If it has not been mixed up, it really gives me and my colleagues the concern that that was not communicated to Ottawa. I am sure the High Commissioner would have communicated that because it is quite alarming to hear that the only option in the Grenadian situation was military intervention. If that was communicated, I assume he did so probably for the Minister of State for External Relations (Mr. Pepin), whom, I understand, at that juncture was acting for the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), whom we have not seen too often in the House concerning this matter.

● (2210)

We could have acted then to try to persuade the Canadians to leave. I am sure many of them would have left if they had been told that the only option was military intervention. I suggest there was Saturday and Sunday, and possibly Monday, when they could have come out. While I am aware of the difficulty in getting the regionally based airline which the Minister told us about, I am speaking about the time earlier than that.

Mr. Regan: The airport was closed.

Miss Jewett: Not on Saturday.

Mr. Regan: Yes, it was.

Miss Jewett: There are other indications that it was not.

Furthermore, there is the most interesting fact that there was another evacuation planned. I do not know if the Minister realizes this, but he has never even told us about it. It would have involved evacuating American, British and Canadian citizens on the Cunard liner *Countess*. This story is in today's *New York Times*. That ship was due to dock in Grenada on Tuesday. The article states:

American officials said that in response to a request from the American Embassy in Barbados, the captain of *Countess* had radioed that he would take on free of charge all American, Canadian and British citizens who wanted to leave the island, but had to have word if this plan were acceptable by Monday.

Perhaps we did not hear about that, but I would think that our High Commissioner would be in touch with the American Embassy in Barbados. I feel quite strongly that we still have not been told clearly that the opinion of military intervention was being discussed and that it was known Friday evening. I assume that the High Commissioner told External Affairs, so that there is either great confusion in that Department or the Minister for External Relations was excluded from any further discussion on this matter since nothing was done on Saturday or Sunday.

What disturbs me even more is that the Minister is not coming clean about this. Yet this is exactly what Prime Minister Adams of Barbados said on television last night.