

He went to see the progress of the building of the airport, and he said:

The construction work is being handled by Cubans with their engineers and technical people as well as workers. I was also advised that a large number of Grenadians were employed. A U.K. group has recently been given the contract to do the terminal and the lighting system.

All this I quote, Mr. Speaker, because I want to establish the quality of government and regime which Maurice Bishop succeeded in establishing in his country. I will try to compare that with the way he was criticized last spring by the American administration. The report also speaks of the better quality of life there, and I quote:

To start with I would judge that the great majority of the Grenadian people appear to favour Bishop over his predecessor Eric Gairy, who had dissipated the island's resources, and manipulated the electoral system to retain power (as well as employing the private roughhouse gang he kept on the payroll under the name of "Mongoose Squad") Bishop and others had sought appeals through parliamentary elections, but the prior administration held much too tight a physical control for this to happen. So the revolution.

His report concluded with the following comment:

I cannot take Ronald Reagan too seriously when he excludes Grenada from the C.B.I.—

The Canadian Basin Initiative.

—because they have discarded the Westminster system.

That is Reagan saying he excluded Grenada because they had discarded the Westminster system.

The U.S. discarded it many years ago . . . The people of Grenada are most unlikely candidates for outright Marxism—a steady and deep fundamental religious faith is clearly visible. In addition they have an ingrown attachment to individual enterprise, more so than many of the Caribbean lands I have visited.

This is a time for friendship and understanding, and continuance of some material assistance.

He ends his report with:

OTTAWA,  
OCTOBER 1ST, 1982

The author of this report is our former colleague, Ged Baldwin. I take his word. He and I had discussed the situation in Grenada upon his return and he told me that he found very offensive the remarks of the Reagan administration about the administration of Maurice Bishop. Mr. Baldwin was angry because, he said, "Every time I hear these remarks it questions my intelligence and my judgment on things. Having been in Grenada I was in a position to know better than what was described on TV so often during the spring of 1983".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet Maurice Bishop on a few occasions, the first time in Belize and the second time in Mexico. He had an engaging and dynamic personality and he was trying to establish a political regime designed to improve the quality of life for his people. He was probably the most popular and most honourable politician ever in Grenada. My colleague from Halifax and Minister of State (International Commerce) (Mr. Regan) recalled that his father had known the same fate a few years before, that he was thorough-

ly dedicated to improve the living conditions of his people, and how successful he had been in his endeavours.

I should like to give some information concerning the economic activities of Grenada under the helm of Maurice Bishop, and say as well how justified he was to build the airport. I have here a list of airports in the Caribbean Islands whose population is roughly the same as that of Grenada.

In 1982, Aruba, which has an area of only 72 square miles and a population of 60,000, had an airport and a 9,000-ft. runway. The same applies to Antigua, with a population of 85,000. Barbados, which is more densely populated, has an 11,000-ft. runway. Curaçao, with a population of 60,000, has a runway of 11,187 feet. In Grenada, which has 111,000 inhabitants, engineers are building a 9,800-ft. runway, while St. Lucia, with its 120,000 inhabitants, much like Grenada, already has an airport with an 9,000-ft. runway. Nevertheless, this unfortunate country has been accused of building an airport to provide landing facilities for Russian bombers, when everyone knows it depends on the tourist trade to survive and that this was the only way to end a situation where people had to land in Barbados and wait two or three days, like Jed Baldwin said in his report, to get to Grenada, and because this unfortunate country has received aid from Cubans and Americans, because a Florida company did the initial excavation to install a sewage system and Canadians did other work, and the British who participated as well and so on, because this emerging country refused to accept the kind of society that was being forced on it and which Gairy had imposed for such a long time, it is being accused of being Communist and building an airport to receive Russian bombers. This is absolutely ridiculous!

Mr. Speaker, I would not wish to monopolize the time of the House, because I know other Members wish to take part in the debate. Nevertheless, I may say I am very anxious to hear some of my colleagues, especially the Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) who was a member of the Sub-committee, and also my colleague from Waterloo (Mr. McLean), who I hope will have a chance to speak, because he will be the only member of the Sub-Committee to have an opportunity to express his views on this very important matter of the events in Grenada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recall the words spoken by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) at the United Nations on September 27 of this year. Perhaps I may quote him in the language in which he held his speech. He said:

● (2310)

[English]

One year ago, the Secretary-General inspired us to take a hard look at this Organization. We measured expectations against realities and, to no one's surprise, found ourselves wanting. We recognized that we were in the midst of what the Secretary-General called a "crisis in the multilateral approach in international affairs". We unanimously agreed on the "imperative need to