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were so concerned about what was going on in Grenada at the time.

I should like to turn now to the statement of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica, who was trained as a lawyer in the City of Toronto. Her statement to the OECS Permanent Council on October 26 is quite lengthy so I shall only refer to a few points that she made. She said:

Member governments considered that the subsequent imposition of a draconian 96 hour curfew by the military group in control was intended to allow them to further suppress the population of Grenada which had shown by numerous demonstrations their hostility to this group.

Then she said:

Member governments have also been greatly concerned that the extensive military build-up in Grenada over the last few years had created a situation of disproportionate military strength between Grenada and other OECS countries. This military might in the hands of the present group has posed a serious threat to the security of the OECS countries and other neighbouring states.

She went on to say, and I will paraphrase it, that the military group in control under General Austin was going to consolidate the position of the regime and that the country could be used as a staging post for acts of aggression against its members. Then, referring to Grenada, she said:

—a level of sophistication and size far beyond the internal needs of that country. Furthermore the member states of the OECS have no means of defence against such forces.

● (2140)

As Hon. Members here will know, she went on to cite Article XVIII of the Caribbean Treaty establishing the OECS, which is concerned with defence and security and indicates that members can take appropriate action.

I will raise a completely different point at this time, and that is the question of Canadians who have been taken today by American Hercules planes to North Carolina. I would put it to the Government, Mr. Speaker, that if its expressed desire that only Canadian planes should take Canadians out of Grenada had endangered the lives of those people, the Canadian people will never forgive this Government. I feel sure that when the facts come out there will be many people who will be interested in knowing whether Americans were removed from the Ross Point Inn more quickly than the Canadians who were gathered there. Given the fact that the United States offered to take Canadians out on an equal priority basis with Americans, if our Government, out of a perverted sense of national pride, kept those Canadians waiting in that hotel while Americans staying in the same hotel or nearby were removed safely, then I submit this Government will hear a lot about this during its remaining life in office. That is one of the matters which will come out in the days ahead. For the sake of those 40 innocent Canadians, I pray that this Government did not put its petty nationalism ahead of their lives and safety.

I next ask the question, why is it that Barbadian Prime Minister Tom Adams gave a speech on television last night indicating that Canada had been advised of the planned invasion of Grenada? This certainly would appear to me to contradict the statements made by the Government here in

Ottawa. I would hope that that matter would be clarified in the days ahead as well.

On the question of consultation on the possible invasion, when did the Government of Canada first realize that this invasion was taking place? Was it really when the helicopters were in the air, or was it earlier? Canadians are entitled to know that, Mr. Speaker. What was it the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was getting at today when he told us that someone from the Caribbean was supposed to phone the Canadian Government to tell it what was going on, but forgot to do so? I feel that is something Canadians are entitled to know about as well. Why, for that matter, was not the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) recalled from the Middle East to try to deal with the question? He has good relations, I gather, with Secretary of State Schultz. One would wonder as a Canadian why he was not back here to deal with that important question which arose some time ago.

I ask again, Sir, why it was that after the execution of Mr. Bishop our Government did not more actively pursue the question of evacuating the men and women from Canada who were there? Was every avenue of escape investigated? Or were only avenues which involved the use of Canadian aircraft discussed? Why was it that the Canadian Government was reluctant to accept the American offer to evacuate the Canadians? When did the United States make that offer? For that matter, I do not believe the Canadian Government has ever indicated how many Canadians are on Grenada and I would like to know why it does not know. Were the lives of Canadians placed in danger by the policies of the Canadian Government on the matter? That is something again that Canadians would like to know.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the all important question of the future. Will the Canadian Government really participate in the Commonwealth peacekeeping force? Will it take an active role in creating a new government which is broadly representative of Grenadian society? Will it give this House a chance to debate the nature and quality of such representation?

These are some of the questions which occur to me, and there are many more which may occur to other Hon. Members. I wish I were as certain about these matters as the Leader of the New Democratic Party. However, I believe that in fairness to our allies we owe it to them not to prejudge, not to decide prematurely that the United States is guilty of this or that. I believe that none of us should be making rash statements such as those made by the Leader of the New Democratic Party or the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand). We should all wait a little and act in fairness and goodwill to all parties involved in this matter. Then, and only then, should we be making categorical statements.

Mr. Pierre Gimaël (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I want to take the first few moments of my speech to come back to what the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) said when he referred to a speech I made in this House about two years ago. I speak in English because I want to address myself to the