

GUTLASS

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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

UNITED PEOPLES MOVEMENT

In recent months, dictators have been ousted in Grenada, Nicaragua and Dominica, while a progressive Government has been elected in St. Lucia. But the seeds for a victory over imperialism are also being sown in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and CLS in conjunction with the Society for Progress in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, aims to fulfill a pledge it made some months ago: to aid Yulimo, that country's Marxist-Leninist party, in the purchase of a mini-bus. With an election due on 5th December 1979, this aid is vital.

Like so many progressive organisations in the English-speaking Caribbean, Yulimo's origins can be traced back to the "black power" movements of ten years ago. In 1973, when Mitchell, then Premier, came down heavily on all progressive groups, moves were made towards unity. February

1974 saw the merger of three groups - Yulimo, and its newspaper "Freedom", were launched. When the Labour Party ousted Mitchell and unleashed a wave of victimisation against the progressive movement, it was Yulimo which led the fightback. But the "black power" ideology was still strong in the party and the need was felt for an effective analytical method. Thus Marxism-Leninism was officially adopted as the party ideology in August 1975 and the year 1975-76 was dubbed the "year of ideological development". In 1976, Yulimo decided to contest the next general election and issued its minimum programme.

Much of the party's practical work has been conducted in the trade union sphere, forming the National Public Workers Union in late 1976, for example, and participating in the teachers' strike of that year.

Since the formation of Yulimo, the party has always been able to count on the support of the youth. Of late, however, older people, women and members of the middle strata have been coming forward. To fight the election, Yulimo has forged an alliance with the Democratic Freedom Movement, a democratic socialist group composed largely of academics, and Arwee, which is rurally-based. The alliance is fighting under the name of the United People's Movement. Given a fair election, it is felt that victory is attainable.

Come what may in the election, however, Yulimo needs assistance to expand its already considerable work. CLS will do its utmost to see that the party gets its mini-bus.

Donations may be sent to Ken Fuller, Basement, 15, Alexander Street, London W2.

PUERTO RICO

FREE AFTER 25 YEARS

While hypocritically spouting his concern for 'human rights', Jimmy Carter has been preparing public opinion in Puerto Rico for statehood, the next stage in the denial of the basic human right of independence for that country's 3 million citizens.

Nevertheless, the Peanut King has been forced to make a major concession with the release of the four remaining nationalists held in US jails. On September 9th Lolita Lebron, Raphael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores and Oscar Collazo were uncondi-

tionally released after a quarter of a century in prison. Their comrade Andrea Figueroa Cordero was released in 1977, but only because he had terminal cancer.

The release of the four must be considered a victory for progressive world opinion. The theory that their release was solely due to Cuba's release of several CIA agents does not stand up to objective scrutiny. When they arrived in San Juan, for example, the four were greeted by 6,000 people chanting "Viva Puerto Rico Libre". Thus it is clear

that the four were a symbol of the independence struggle and that their release would be seen as a victory in that struggle. What, on the other hand, did the CIA agents symbolise, apart from the corruption of human values which pervades US life? How many US citizens turned out to welcome them back?

We are convinced that the international campaign to free the four was of decisive importance, and if Carter did make a "deal".. well, he wuz robbed!

STOP PRESS 5.12.79 Cato's St VLP won 11 seats, Mitchell's party won 2 following the results there was an uprising in Union Island, one of the neglected Grenadines. A state of Emergency has been declared throughout the country.

CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION

The political situation in the Caribbean has changed dramatically since Outlast last appeared and CLS's activity during this period has reflected these changes.

First came Grenada, with Gairy being ousted by a popular revolution led by the new Jewel Movement. CLS was represented on the Grenada Committee for the Defence of the Revolution by assistant-secretary Millicent Gordon. Our first monthly meeting after the revolution was devoted to Grenada and we subsequently participated in several public meetings called by the GCDR.

When island-wide strikes and demonstrations convulsed Dominica, with the aim of ousting tyrant Patrick John, CLS invited a member of the Dominica Democratic Association to address a monthly meeting. This was of great assistance in clarifying the situation.

The third great event in the Caribbean area has been the revolution in Nicaragua, and CLS members have been assisting the Nicaragua Support Committee with the production of their journal 'Nicaragua Libre'.

The joint meeting, in Central Hall, Westminster held by Maurice Bishop of Grenada, George Odium of the progressive new St. Lucian government, and Michael Douglas of Dominica provided an ideal opportunity to keep abreast of the

changes sweeping the Eastern Caribbean and CLS members both attended and participated in the organisation. Of course, not all recent events have been so encouraging. In Guyana, Burnham's arrest of several progressives, among them Walter Rodney, on trumped-up charges of arson, prompted us to invite Lal Singh of the PPP UK branch to address our September monthly meeting. CLS is represented on the Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Guyana.

At the time of the eruption of La Soufriere on St Vincent, Mike Browne, an executive member of Yulimo, was passing through London and spent an afternoon session with executive members of CLS, making many valuable suggestions to improve our work. The following day, CLS members were in attendance when Comrade Browne addressed a large meeting of Vincentians at the Keakidee Centre.

The most tangible assistance we have given the anti-imperialist movement during this period was our fund-raising for UAWU leader Trevor Munroe, who was faced with £10,000 libel damages; through appeals to trade unions and academics, two public meetings and a highly successful dance at The Factory, we raised over a thousand pounds.

The other main social event of the period was a joint evening with the Committee for Puerto Rican Independence at the Latin American Centre which combined a disco with readings of Caribbean poetry.

Continuing our link with the struggle in Southern Africa, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa opened a discussion at one of our monthly meetings in the summer.

Finally, we have to note with regret that Millicent Gordon, our Assistant-Secretary, has returned to Jamaica to live. We are sure that the contribution she will make to the struggle in her homeland will equal the one she made to the work of CLS.

CLS:
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CLS LITERATURE

CLS Bookstall has been seen at 15 events in the past 6 months, including the Cuban Revolution 20th anniversary rally in May, the Liberation AGM and the Peoples Festival in June, and at Grenada support rallies.

Reprinting of Dick Hart's 'The Cuban Way' is still in hand. Another CLS publication Struggles of the Jamaican People is available at many bookshops with in most cases the papers "Struggle" and "Socialism"; New Beacon Books, Finsbury Park. Sabarr Books, Brixton Grass Roots, Paddington Bogle L'Ouverture, Ealing Central Books, Holborn Centreprise, Hackney Bookmarx, Finsbury Park Collets Bookshops, Charing Cross Compendium Books, Camden.

We would like to assemble a small exhibition to accompany the Bookstall - we urgently need artistic help.

New on the Bookstall: 'Socialism' 6th Summit Conference, Havana, Cuba. (Vol. 6, No.4 35p).

CARIBBEAN LABOUR SOLIDARITY MONTHLY MEETING

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 1980 11AM
THE FACTORY, CHIPPENHAM MEWS
LONDON W.9

RICHARD HART WILL REPORT ON HIS TRIP AS CLS DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, AND TO JAMAICA.

CLS AGM 20th January 1980, The Factory, Chippenhams Mews W9. SUNDAY 11AM to 5.30 PM including speakers on Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and Puerto Rico