

Mondale adviser Pastor stands up for Grenada coup-makers

Walter Mondale, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, has refused to take a clear stand on President Reagan's decision to send in the Marines to keep the Caribbean island-state of Grenada from becoming a Soviet base for military and terrorist operations, including the possible taking of U.S. hostages.

Not so Robert Pastor, who advertises himself on Capitol Hill as one of Mondale's men and appears on Mondale campaign lists as a top foreign policy adviser. In testimony on Nov. 3 to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Pastor harshly criticized the Grenadian rescue action. Introducing himself as a habitué of Grenadian ruling circles, Pastor asserted, "The available evidence would suggest that U.S. citizens had less to fear from the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) than from the invasion."

The Mondale counselor admitted that he had prepared a strategy document for the government of Gen. Hudson Austin and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard *after* the two had led a Soviet-backed coup on Grenada, and *after* the deposed prime minister, Maurice Bishop, was butchered along with many of his followers.

Pastor asserted to the Foreign Affairs Committee, "There is substantial evidence to suggest that U.S. citizens were not at substantial risk." As evidence, he cited a telex from St. George's Medical School where only 10 percent of students expressed a desire to leave. But according to interviews with students by the Fact-Finding Division of the National Democratic Policy Committee, that telex was sent under pressure from the school's vice-chancellor, Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, the father of former Carter administration drug-policy adviser Peter Bourne, who reportedly assured the students there was no danger from the Austin gang.

Unfortunately for Pastor and Mondale, Dr. Bourne told the Nov. 14 *Atlanta Constitution* that he will testify in Congress that the American students at St. George's were indeed in danger and the U.S. action was "essential."

Trying to discredit the Reagan administration's statement that it had secret documents showing that the Grenadian government considered taking U.S. citizens as hostages, Pastor claimed that, were that true, "*an invasion would have endangered the lives of U.S. citizens rather than protected them.*" He then sneered: "*Is it possible that the 'Marines got*

there just in time' before the new Grenadian government could prove to the international community that it was a government, and that it could assure the safety of U.S. citizens? [emphasis in original]"

Why the Mondale adviser was so concerned to give the "new Grenadian government" a chance to prove itself, especially after the mass murders of Prime Minister Bishop and his followers on Oct. 19, then emerged in his testimony. Pastor said that after the killings, "The Grenadian leadership realized they were in an impossible position and tried through a number of channels to find an exit. Austin asked Geoffrey Bourne from the Medical School for some ideas on how to do that, and Bourne sought advice from his son, Dr. Peter Bourne, who was an adviser to President Carter. Peter, who is a friend of mine, called me about 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24, and asked my advice."

Quite a telephone chain! The younger Bourne was dismissed in 1979 as Carter's "drug policy adviser" when an international scandal erupted over his dispensing phony Quaaludes prescriptions. Peter had come into the Carter-Mondale government from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), otherwise known as the "legalized pot lobby."

Pastor reported to Congress his response to the request. "I suggested that . . . Austin should break with the past and announce his intention to serve as a transition figure toward re-establishing Parliamentary democracy. But even those steps wouldn't be sufficient. In order to regain the confidence of Caricom, he would have to prove his sincerity with clear actions. At that time, I did not know the Caricom decisions [to break relations, to suspend Grenada from Caricom, and to impose trade sanctions], but those decisions would have provided such a test."

Pastor argued, "We do not know whether Austin was sincerely seeking an exit or just trying to buy time, because the Marines landed before Bourne could convey this message, and before the Caricom decisions could take effect. If you believe that the killing of Bishop was a premeditated effort to seize control by an extreme leftist group tied even more tightly than Bishop to the Soviets and Cubans, then one would properly judge Austin's effort as a ploy, and conclude he wasn't worth dealing with."

Ironically, Mondale's foreign policy adviser's enthusiasm for giving the Soviet-puppet government of Hudson Austin a chance to prove its "sincerity" outdid even the Cubans, who have distanced themselves from the Hudson gang.

Speaking at the funeral ceremonies for the Cubans who died fighting in Grenada, Cuban President Fidel Castro said that Cuba was fully behind murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Bishop; but—unlike the Soviet Union which embraced Gen. Hudson Austin and Bernard Coard after their bloody coup—Cuba never gave its support to the group that replaced him. Asked about Castro's statement, Cuba's ambassador to the U.N. commented at a New York press conference Nov. 14: "I can explain why we did what we did, but I cannot explain Soviet actions."