



TEN GRENADIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS MURDERED BY GAIRY'S THUGS. BUT FIGHT GOES ON.



For the last few weeks a massive protest movement has been growing in the Caribbean island of Grenada. Grenadians are demanding the resignation of Premier Eric Gairy, and the abolition of his secret terror police - the "Night Ambush Squads". Gairy is caught like a rat in a trap. The only way he can keep power is by sending his 1,500 thugs on terror raids into the community, looting shops and murdering people in his avowed aim to "cinderise" opposition. The people of the island have responded by refusing to go to work; thousands of men, women and children have marched in the streets, and workers in other islands are blacking Grenada goods. Everywhere people are uniting to fight for a new life in a new society.

Behind the facade of palms and cricket, is this vicious reality, and West Indian brothers at Ford have suggested we write about it.

'GRENADA: WEST INDIES'

The problems of the Caribbean are nothing new to many of us at Fords. Ever since Dagenham started Ford workers have been migrants. Whether from Ireland, the Punjab, Clydeside or the Caribbean, we've had to leave our homes and families to come to England looking for work. The system denies us jobs at home, the bosses force us to come here.

Look how the rich and fertile Caribbean has been devastated for years. 'Independence' can't hide the fact that:

*****People are forced off the land, creating masses of unemployed people,
*****Agriculture and Fishing are left to rot while we are made slaves to Tourism
*****The big monopolies - Geest, Tate & Lyle, Texaco, Barclays etc. still rob the islands' fruits, sugar, oil, bauxite etc.

*****Every year hundreds are forced to leave the islands to work in Britain's hospitals, transport, food factories and holes like Fords.

Now, as the crisis deepens in the UK, many West Indians hear Powell baying and dream of going home. But this is out of the frying pan and into the fire. A Crisis here means a bigger one in the Caribbean. Tate and Lyle close their West Ham factory and makes unemployment in the canefields. Like at Ford Cologne, the Turkish workers get sacked when there is a crisis.

World Trade conditions worsen, and Caribbean people "back home" are fighting like hell for a better life. In Martinique, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Trinidad there are strikes and struggles right now! Struggles for better wages and conditions, to get rid of Governments which sell the islands' resources cut-price to the monopolies. Put why are all eyes on Grenada now?

NO INDEPENDENCE BEFORE A REFERENDUM.....GAIRY MUST GO....

Tomorrow, Thursday Feb. 7th, Heath is "giving Grenada independence". This is why thousands of Grenadians are on strike. They know that "independence" under this madman Gairy will be a shadow of darkness, economic underdevelopment, continued murder. But Gairy and his "Mongoose Gang" won't just vanish. If Civil War breaks out it will be the responsibility of Heath's gunboat support for this 'Lucifer' because Grenadians are determined: Gairy must Go!

There is a support movement in London organising meetings and dances. They would welcome all possible help. You can contact them at: Grenada Cause for Concern
142 Highbury Hill, London N5.
Tel: 01-226-6700.

WE'RE NOT PLAYING THEIR GAME.

For weeks now we havn't known whether we're coming or going, whether we'll work or not. Fords havn't dared lay us off because they know the strength of feeling that layoff pay should be paid from cash earmarked for 'profit'. Anyway Fords are making the most out of the Tory inspired 'Crisis'. They are using it to move us around, screwing as much production out of us as they can under the present industrial conditions, even if it means slower schedules. Some production is better than none, and if they've got to keep us working on something to keep 'good-will', and save lay-off pay, then they'll make the best of it. Moving us around breaks the unified sections. With the Claim looming large, movements mean less unity in our fight for £44 basic, work or no work. If Ford are losing production during the State Lock Out, then they'll try to gain in their fight to dominate us.

- * In the PTA they stopped running the Granadas and moved blokes onto Cortina lines. Speed was up from 28 to 33. they expected blokes to hit top timing immediately. Then they blame us for tatty work!
- * In the Body, most of the Mk 5, except the dash panels, were moved onto the spare line. It kept having breakdowns - we were running 20 an hour.
- * In the Engine, the Pinto line has been put on permanent days, and blokes have been moved all over the place. This means a £9 - £10 drop in wages and section militancy that has been built up over months, is destroyed in days.

We are supposed to feel grateful for all this ! When blokes in the upstairs Body, A-Shift, refused the extra work the foreman was trying to palm off on them, he shouted: "you are bloody lucky to be working 5 days, and you shouldn't complain", they stopped work till they got an apology, ... nice .

Fords think that they can get away with shoving us around as if we were part of the machinery. They don't care about us, they want our labour power, and use threats of no pay to get it. We are only moved when it suits them, not us !

WE'RE NOT MOVING

We must resist movements, Fords don't even care about the seniority principle. We can't allow the breaking of section unity. They don't get away with that at Halewood. there its the blokes who decide who moves, not the management. That is the right approach.

To have a good section is one of the few protections we have at Ford. Movements, are the way Ford is starting their fight over the claim. We are already financially weaker, inflation is going to get worse, why should we cooperate? A few more days pay now and a shit deal for two more years, because we'll be too weak to fight for anything.

- * Where we're strong enough, we should refuse to move, like in Halewood.
- * If we find ourselves on a new job, our motto should be: DO WHAT YOU CAN.... WHAT YOU CANT DO, LET GO.

- * We need regular meetings. In parts of the Body we havn't had meetings for the last 3 months, this suits the Management fine - but its no use to us, because none of us know what's happening. The Union certainly isnt saying. We need meetings now on every section in order to organise our own fight. Otherwise, not only will we remain casual labour, but Ford workers will remain the poorest paid car workers in the country, at an even more wretched level.

Organise for the claim!
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LONDON BIG FLAME