

NEWS RELEASEGRENADA . SHOWS WHERE HISTORY IS HEADING: ANGELA DAVIS

Angela Davis one of the most well known progressive political activist, in the United States has said that in Grenada she has acquired a sense of where history is heading, through the process that is being built by the Grenadian masses.

She made this statement on Monday March 8 at a press conference in St. George's. Sister Davis said that what she has seen in Grenada is the building of a society which is based on the needs of the masses and not on profits.

She also pledged to use any platform on her return to the U.S. to assist in breaking the negative propaganda that is being portrayed of the Grenada Revolution in the American press; and at the same time tell the masses of the United States : what is really going on in this country.

She also said that her party the Communist Party of the U.S.A. and other progressives in the United States have launched a mass campaign calling on the Reagan administration to leave the peoples of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada to determine their own future. Meanwhile, she said, the struggles of the poor and working masses in the United States against the inhumane, anti-worker and oppressive measures of the Reagan administration is continuing.

Sister
Davis arrived in Grenada a few days ago at the invitation of the NJM National Women's Organisation (NWO) to participate in a mass rally on Sunday March 7, marking International Women's Day.

Besides being a member of the American Communist Party, she also represents the National Alliance against Racism and Political Repression and Women for Racial and Economic Equality.

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NEWS RELEASE

BISHOP URGES GRENADIAN WOMEN TO
JOIN STRUGGLE FOR WORLD PEACE

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has urged members of the National Women's Organisation to actively struggle for world peace and for the Caribbean to be maintained a zone of peace, development and independence.

He was delivering the feature address at the opening session of the NWO's first congress at the Dome, Grand Anse, on Monday, 6th December.

Prime Minister Bishop urged the NWO to strengthen and deepen its internationalist commitments and to raise the internationalist consciousness of its members at the same time.

The NWO has begun to assume greater internationalist duties, he noted, recalling the organisation's mobilization of material and financial support for the people of El Salvador, Angola and Namibia.

He also pointed to the NWO's membership in the world's largest women's organisation, The Women's Democratic Federation, and in the recently formed Continental Front Against Oppression, a committee of Latin American women opposed to imperialist oppression, and to facism.

"It is important for women to raise people's consciousness on the need for world peace and an end to the arms race", comrade Bishop said.

He declared that peace was a necessary requirement to ensure that our objectives were met and mankind's social, political and economic achievements were preserved.

Linked to the question of peace was ideological pluralism, the peoples right to self-determination. He added that politicians should be accountable to their peoples as to where they stand on that principle.

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- 2 -

The leader of the Grenada Revolution also saluted the establishment of the ministry of Women's Affairs, the first of its kind in the English-Speaking Caribbean.

He revealed that some sixty-seven percent of the delegates attending the congress were either members of the rural or urban working class, a fact which, he said, indicated that more women were receiving jobs and the country's economy was growing.

Last year the NWO raised some eight thousand dollars for refugees of strife-torn El Salvador and collected about five hundred boxes of clothes for women and children in Angola and Namibia.

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NEWS RELEASE

MINISTER STRACHAN PRAISES NWO

Minister of Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan, has given the National Women's Organisation the assurance that the People's Revolutionary Government and the New Jewel Movement, will continue to stand by them.

He was addressing the closing session of the first congress of the NWO in St. George's, Tuesday night, 7th December, 1982.

He attributed the success of the congress to the March 13, 1979 Revolution and "The Strong Leadership" of the NJM and Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

He described the NWO leadership as strong, and united. He said the congress will feature prominently in Grenada's History.

The development of the serious, organised work plan the NWO presented, showed the development of women, Minister Strachan said.

The resolutions they passed showed their interest in international news, and the NJM was proud of NWO's leadership, Strachan said.

Congress showed that women were more united than they were three years ago, and Minister Strachan said that he wanted imperialism to know that whenever the women of a country became conscious, and moved to the front of the struggle, against oppression no force could stop them.

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10TH DECEMBER, 1982



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NEWS RELEASENWO MEMBERS AMEND CONSTITUTION

Delegates to the First Congress of the National Women's Organisation this morning adopted more than twenty amendments to the NWO's constitution to take into consideration "The growth and development of the organisation", the attendant need to decentralise its structure, and the pace of national development.

One of the amendments provides for the NWO executive, the highest decision making body of the organisation, to hold congress every three years instead of every six years as previously provided for in the constitution.

NWO president and deputy Minister for Women's Affairs, Phyllis Coard explained that this amendment resulted from a recognition of the tremendous pace at which the Grenada Revolution was moving, a pace which was certain to lead to changed priorities in three years.

She spoke also of the expansion and growth of the National Women's organisation which had necessitated decentralisation of the leadership and expansion of the secretariat.

The constitution has been amended to provide for the creation of parish executives to supplement the work of the national executive. And recognising the growth of the organisation at the parish level, another amendment gives these parish executives the right to form committees and co-op NWO group members to these committees to strengthen their work. Individual groups also now have the right to form committees which members consider necessary for the carrying out of the NWO's workplan.

Yet another amendment to the constitution provides for the expansion of the central secretariat from eight to ten to be elected by the national executive, for the co-option of two more members.

The amendments were unanimously approved by the delegates.

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7TH DECEMBER, 1982

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NEWS RELEASE

NWO ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE

The National Women's Organisation has elected a new executive of twenty-three persons to serve for the next three years.

The announcement of the new executive was made following elections held during a closed session of the organisation's first congress yesterday .

Sister Phyllis Coard has been returned to the post of president, while sister Claudette Pitt has been elected vice-president. Other members of the national executive include sisters Lana Mc Phail, Patsy Romain, Tessa Stroude, Gardenia Louison, Faye Thompson along with two representatives from each parish and from Carriacou.

Speaking after the elections, sister Coard said that the new work programme of the organisation presents new challenges which must be met to increase employment for women and to build the revolution.

She said the new executive will put every effort into making the programme a success.

The other officers of the organisation will be chosen from the newly elected national executive.

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8TH DECEMBER, 1982

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NEWS RELEASENWO CALLS FOR LEGAL REFORM

Members of the National Women's Organisation have resolved to urge the People's Revolutionary Government to amend the present laws to make all children equal under the law, by abolishing the concept of illegitimacy, in one of two resolutions on the local situation passed at the end of the organisation's first congress.

Calling for a change in the laws affecting children, the resolution said all the children of the revolution should enjoy the human right to be supported financially. It noted that despite the vast improvement in the living standards of our people, more than a quarter of our young children are still under nourished. The NWO urged the PRG to amend the present laws so that where a parent is living apart from his or her child, it shall be compulsory for that parent to provide adequate financial maintenance for the child.

The resolution further urged the PRG to set up legal machinery which will make it easy to establish the paternity of a child in a private family court and which will enable an unsupported parent to easily collect the maintenance payment decided upon by the court.

It also urged the mass organisations in the society to intensify the political education of their members as to "The need to support all our children".

Recognising the importance of education to the total development of Grenadian women and to qualify them for the new types of jobs that will be created over the next three years, the delegates at the congress passed another resolution which will make education the NWO's first priority for the period 1983 - 85.

The delegates resolved to work closely with the Centre for Popular Education in mobilising women to join and maintain full attendance in the adult education programme and to step up the work of the NWO in the organisation of political and social education, including leadership and organisational training for all members of the organisation, and to extend this educational work through NWO publications to the other women of the society.