

SHOULD THERE BE A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES, COULD ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES BE EXONERATED? By Matthew Thomas, March, 07, 2022.

I am calling on all Vincentians at home and abroad to strongly object to the vitriolic attacks that Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is constantly unleashing on the US administration and in particular President Biden in favour of his rogue states and associates, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. His constant attack on the US is of no benefit to us, we can only suffer for it.

The sooner we realize this, the better. SVG. is not a friend of the US, it is not an enemy of the US, it is not an associate of the US, it is not an ally of the US, it is part of the US. It may be argued that the greater part of the Vincentian population lives in the US. Vincentians of all walks of life, like all other CARICOM nationals are engaged in a very meaningful way in every facet of American life, administrative and otherwise. For example, (1) Betty Boyea King of Byrea (first cousin to PM Gonsalves), was appointed US Ambassador to the UN under connective US Administrations, led by George Bush Jr. and Bill Clinton, (2) Roy Austin of Rose Place (Bottom Town), Kingstown was appointed US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago during the 8 year reign of George Bush Jr.

Dr. Jan Yves Remy, Director of the Sir Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, Cave Hill Campus; under the headline:

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND US- CARIBBEAN RELATIONS, wrote:

“Whatever one might think of the politics of the ix summit of the Americas due to take place 6-10 June in Los Angles, one thing is incontrovertible; for CARICOM leaders, the hemispheric meeting is an opportunity to upgrade economic and trade relations with the US at the highest level. We must not squander it.

“While the CARICOM region does not have the advantage of a huge population or an abundance of human and natural resources, it certainly has ‘capital’ in areas the US will find attractive. With an educated labour force and proximity to the US we certainly can advance its nearshoring and self - sufficiency imperatives, with our democratic process and respect for civil liberties and the rule of law, we can promote the Biden Administration’s Labour-Centered Agenda.....The US highest earning female musician and fashion icon. (Rheana- Barbados) The second most powerful Government official in the US (Vice president Kamala Harris)has a parent from the region (Jamaica). The stars are perfectly aligned for re-imagining a new dawn for economic relations with CARICOM.”

Compare the measured approach of Dr. Remy with the audacity of Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves in response to the non-invitation of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. The following examples bear testimony.

1. The St. Vincent Times of 28/05/2022 under the caption: GONSALVES ASSURES HE WILL NOT ATTEND THE IX SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, wrote:

“The summit is called the summit of the Americas. Not the summit of some countries of the Americas and in any case the host country cannot decide who attends... in this context it is an incredible act of rudeness.”

Can you imagine the audacity of Ralph Gonsalves, a virtual nonentity in world politics, saying that the President of the United States is rude. Can there be a better expression of an insubordinate chastising a superior for rudeness, an employee to his employer or a child to its parents?

2. ST. VINCENT PM BLASTS THE US ADMINISTRATION’S HYPOCRISY AT ALBA SUMMIT –St. Vincent Times 27/05/2022

“On President Joe Biden, Gonsalves said, ‘I didn’t expect him to do this because it has brought us backwards and what do we answer? Do we take the metaphorical crumbs? No manners!’”

3. GONSALVES URGES REGIONAL LEADERS TO BOYCOTT SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS By Peter I Richards –CMC, Barbados.

In a 5-page letter of 11/05/2022, among other things, Gonsalves wrote: “‘I realize it is a difficult decision but our American friends have left us with no credible, principled and practical choice.’ The letter was copied to CARICOM Secretary General, Carla Barnett.”

This letter is one of a series of three written to CARICOM heads on 11/05/22, 20/05/22, 22/05/2022. Gonsalves holds no authority. He is not the Chairman of the OECS, CARICOM nor the OAS. Is this not a man on a mission?

4. St. Vincent abstains from vote to expel Russia from the Human Rights Council.

5. In light of the criminally devastating effect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ralph Gonsalves announced that he had written a private letter to President Putin. At the same time, among his rogue colleagues/associates; Maduro declared “Full support for Russia”; Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega; “Praised Putin’s Move”; Cuba said, “Russia had the right to defend itself”, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus has sent troops into Ukraine.

6. On the heels of writing a private letter, PM Gonsalves in the company of his wife and two sons spent over a week in Venezuela as guests of Maduro. On his return from Venezuela, he headed a delegation accompanied by his wife to Cuba, where they spent in excess of a week.

7. GONSALVES SAYS ST. VINCENT AND RUSSIA SHARE THE SAME VALUES:

“‘On the broad fundamental questions we (St. Vincent and Russia) share similar perspective’”, Gonsalves stated (784 news, 19/01/2020)

8. In all forums of the OAS that dealt with the crisis in Venezuela, SVG on every occasion voted in opposition to the US and its allies. On one occasion SVG was one among three that voted for Maduro. The others are Nicaragua and Bolivia.

9. “**Once again** SVG joins with Venezuela in opposing a resolution in Nicaragua. Votes -20 in favour, four against- SVG, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.” (Caribbean News Now, Aug. 3, 2018)

10. PM Gonsalves participated in Anti-Imperialist meeting in Cuba. (News 784, 15/11/2019)

11. At the 36th Meeting of CARICOM heads held in Barbados on 04/07/2015 to discuss the Guyana-Venezuela Border Impasse, PM Gonsalves, boycotted the meeting. He chose to send Ambassador Elsworth John as SVG's representative, while he and his wife Eloise were in Venezuela as guests of Maduro, the aggressor.

This is only a sampling of the abuse of the office and the contempt for the Vincentian electorate. Ralph Gonsalves has proven to be an over ambitious individual. He has vowed to carry on the work of Maurice Bishop. When America was requested by the OECS heads of Governments and Barbados to rescue Grenada during the crisis which had resulted in the death of Maurice Bishop, their battle was against Cuban soldiers. Don't underestimate the influx of Cuban soldiers that is likely to be in SVG under the pretext of health workers. The newly inaugurated weekly flight from Venezuela to Cuba via St. Vincent, is questionable. It is not commercial. It is neither agricultural nor tourism oriented. A stitch in time saves nine. Join me in sending a clarion call to the USA. Let them know that the actions of PM Gonsalves are not the wishes of the populace. Silence gives consent. We must be resilient in getting rid of this autocratic oligarchy.

Join me in the struggle. Call 784 456 2133; email mattpharm@hotmail.com.

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