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We have become our enemy
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[Washington]—We have seen the enemy—and the enemy is ourselves. In the last few weeks, the world has again seen the country that professes to represent truth, justice, equality and freedom for all mankind, unleash the ugliest side of its government. It would appear that government of the few, by the few, for the benefit of the few, at the expense of the masses, again reigns supreme. We continue to denounce the government of the Soviet Union for its violations of human rights, both at home and abroad, yet our own policies bear a striking and disconcerting similarity. The United States, through its administrative officials, led the chorus of world governments in expressing outrage over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, calling it a horrendous abuse of power and an injustice to the Afghan people.

After watching over two hundred of our sons, brothers, fathers and husbands killed during the occupation of someone else's land, we wake up to find that a disturbed small group at work within our government has orchestrated an invasion of Grenada, one of the smallest countries in the world. Our invasion was supposedly to restore order after a suspicious coup that led to the assassination of the Grenadian prime minister. However, let us note that elements within the American intelligence-military-finance complex have been increasingly at the forefront of suspicious coups and assassination over the past years. With the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., following his spoken recognition that the horrible conditions being perpetrated against the poor white and poor black Americans struggling to survive within a socio-economic ghetto, was the same war that was being waged against our fellow human beings in another tiny country called Vietnam. Let us not forget that the time of John F. Kennedy's assassination 20 years ago directly coincided with his decision to withdraw our troops from Vietnam. Again, a war that posed great financial benefit for corporations that produced the weaponry at the expense of each American's humanity, self-respect and possibly, our future freedoms. Fifty thousand of our children, husbands, fathers and brothers died in that financial bonanza for the large weapons and agricultural companies.

Were you aware that Vietnam went from a major rice producer and exporter, rivaling the U.S. rice belt states in production, to a country that was dependent upon others for its rice supply? Many of the Congressmen who served on the Armed Service Committees prior to and during the Vietnam conflict were representatives from those rice belt states. It is important to note that hundreds of thousands of our fellow human beings in that far-off land were brutally killed and mutilated, their land poisoned with chemical sprays to kill their crops and foliage—besides, who could plant crops while dodging American-made bombs and bullets?

The invasion of Lebanon, El Salvador and now Grenada is yet another vicious blow to our humanity and compassion in the eyes of our children and our neighbors throughout the world, including the masses of our fellow human beings who happen to live in the Soviet Union. Despite the fervent attempts of a paranoid few who would have

the masses of American people view the Russian people through paranoid eyes, as something other than human beings and families like our own, we must see the "light." Such programming and brainwashing is exactly what spreads fear, anxiety, insecurity and polarization. All of which are necessary to collude with the world-wide destructive mental illnesses of racism, or dangerous nationalism. After this indoctrination, frightened individuals will desperately try to decrease these artificially induced fears through a psychological justification and preparation for war.

Capitalizing on these induced fears appears to be quite lucrative for the sicker portion of a few hate-mongers, as the masses of people in the world bear the price tag of the \$1.4 million per *minute* their governments spend on weapons and military procurements—to protect us from whom, ourselves? During that same minute, the economics of these countries plunge deeper into cyclic depression and collapse as a direct correlate of being a war-based economy (i.e., Argentina, Israel, the Soviet Union and the U.S.) During that same minute still, 30 of our children throughout the world die from starvation, lack of medical care and inexpensive vaccines, and exposure due to inadequate housing.

While the nightmares of the human lives lost during these conflicts/wars was still fresh in our minds, we find out that another attack has taken place on justice, freedom and humanity with the firing of three members of the Civil Rights Commission. This, serving as yet another statement of this country's march toward blatant fascism, similar to the played-out end-product (through historical documentation) of a collapsing and corrupt capitalistic system whether it be a Nazi-Germany, South Africa, Argentina, El Salvador, Chile, Israel, the Soviet Union, Washington, D.C. and, yes, our own neighborhoods. This comment could continue into a series of encyclopedic volumes that each mother, father, and child must understand if we, as world citizens, are not going to be continually programmed puppets in colluding with our own destruction spiritually, physically, emotionally and economically. If you do not think so, look at the end point of the domino, through the rates of homelessness; unemployment in general and minority unemployment specifically; dispossessed farmers and businesses; alcoholism and drug abuse among our children and adults; commission of homicide and other crimes of violence among adolescents; adolescent suicide; as well as child and spouse abuse.

We, as Americans, must stop colluding with this small group of individuals (i.e., the Secretaries of State and Defense) who in any way profit from the mutilation and death of our children. We must stop and question their motives particularly when we know in this instance they are both graduates of the same corporate boardroom, belonging to one of the world's largest weapon system manufacturers and suppliers. Is Hitler really dead or has his mentality been reincarnated in each of us? We have located the enemy and we remain the only people who can rescue us from destroying ourselves. *We* have become our enemy and the trend must be changed!