

## PM back from Grenada

Prime Minister Edward Seaga returned to Jamaica yesterday evening after visiting Grenada where he

joined other Caribbean Heads of Government at the inauguration of the new Grenada Parliament. The inauguration

came after the country's first elections in eight years.

Mr. Seaga left for Grenada Friday morning in response to an

invitation from Prime Minister Herbert Blaize of Grenada.

**Jampress** said in a release that Prime Minister Seaga was

accompanied by Senator Olivia 'Babsy' Grange, Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister.

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The Daily Observer

Nov. 20, 1985

P. 7.

## Grenada trial set to Feb.

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Nov. 19, Cana

Grenada high court judge James Patterson today adjourned the much-delayed Maurice Bishop murder trial until February on the suggestion of both defence and prosecution lawyers.

Patterson said the case, which arose out of the October 1983 execution of the leftist Prime Minister and nine aides in a military coup, would be down for hearing at the February sitting of the high court. The trial was due to start in October 1984.

The judge made the disclosure after chief

prosecutor, former Trinidad and Tobago Attorney-General Karl Hudson-Phillips, had told the court he was instructed by the state that all should be in place by then for the start of the trial.

This was seen by legal observers as a reference to the appointment of a new Chief Justice to replace Sir Archibald Nedd who retiring at the end of this year. At the previous sitting, Patterson indicated that Sir Archibald's successor would be the trial judge for the case.

Three of the 19 defendants — former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, former

National Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, and Lieutenant-Colonel Liam James — attended the brief proceedings at the number 2 St George's high court.

Before the court adjourned, defence lawyer, Jamaican Ian Ramsay said he hoped that by the time of the next sitting everything would be in place, including the legality of the court.

Two defense motions relating to the constitutionality of the court and pre-trial publicity are to be heard on Thursday.

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# Time the Grenadians learn

by Vincent Tulloch

**G**RENADA, once the hottest news story in the region, is almost forgotten, except for the occasional hearing of a motion to further delay the trial of 19 military and political personalities, who have been languishing in the Richmond Hill Prison for nearly two years now.

However, the events that led to the invasion of that country by the United States, Jamaica and other regional states will ensure that for some time developments in that state of 100,000 will be of interest even to Jamaicans who would rather forget about that little island in the eastern Caribbean.

Since this year the government led by an old guard figure, Herbert Blaize, has been in control and there has been the withdrawal of foreign troops. Security is now under the Royal Grenada Police Force and a select squad of para-military police trained by the United States.

Nevertheless, many Grenadians are not quite happy with the arrangements as they are of the opinion that the communists and fellow travellers, though down, are not out and will seek an opportune moment to make a grand return.

## Jobs offer

This is perhaps one of the reasons why there has been a howl in recent weeks when it was learnt that some 40 nationals who were trained in Cuba and other socialist countries were being interviewed for jobs within the public sector.

The leading newspaper in the country and other prominent Grenadians have attacked the government ministers responsible for offering jobs to these people as it is feared that within the public sector they will undermine the society.

One understands the fears of the more conservative elements in the society. However, if the government were to follow the strictures of the more conservative sector

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of the country, it is likely that it would hasten the disintegration of the society, the very opposite of what it set out to do when three major parties formed the New National Party (NNP), to provide a unified approach to the problems of the troubled nation.

Opponents of the Grenadians who were trained in socialist countries have not been able to provide any serious accusation about their involvement in subversive activities. It seems obvious that if the only complaint is that they were trained in Cuba or East Germany, a great dis-service would be done to bar them from employment in their own country.

### Employment

I know of a case of a Grenadian who was trained in Britain and later accepted a scholarship for a postgraduate position in Cuba. He returned to his homeland before the bloody events of October 1983. He was employed as a teacher, but he is now paying for daring to undertake a postgraduate course which he did not even complete. He is on the unemployment list picking up the

odd job here and there. Yet, the country obviously needs trained and dedicated teachers.

It is not an unfair comment to say that Grenadians need to fear some of their political leaders more than a handful of nationals trained abroad.

Indeed, the autocratic rule of Herbert Blaize has led to widespread dissension within the government and the society at large and it is an open secret that the United States has been siding with a certain faction within the ruling Party.

Many of those now howling about the employment of foreign trained nationals were the same ones who stood silently and allowed Eric Gairy to rule with impunity ensuring the rise of the Bishops and Coards.

It is time they learn how to deal with their own in a fair manner. Going overboard to please Washington will not ensure their security. One would have thought that Grenadians learned from the mistakes of Central American states.

The Daily Observer

Oct. 26, 1985

P. 7

Oct 26 1985

# ...Celebrates second year since U.S. led invasion

St George's, Grenada, Oct 25, Cana

**Grenadians today offered prayers for national prosperity on the second anniversary of the U.S.-led "rescue mission" and paid tribute to the 19 American servicemen killed during the operation to free the island from hardline leftist rule.**

The main highlights of the day, a public holiday, were an ecumenical service at the Roman Catholic cathedral here and a wreath laying ceremony at a memorial for the fallen American soldiers.

The landing of American and Caribbean forces here two years ago followed the brutal assassination of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a military coup that climaxed a fierce leadership struggle among hardliners and moderates within the then ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM).

A population, terrified by the strife and hemmed in by a four-day round the clock curfew immediately after the coup, welcomed the American and Caribbean forces as their liberators.

In a radio address last night, acting prime minister Ben Jones extended a hand of friendship to the former leftist leaders but made it clear government would tolerate no trouble from them.

By their overwhelming support for the centrist New National Party in last December's elections, Grenadians showed a preference for democracy to revolution and government would ensure democracy stays intact, he said.

"The New National Party government would enforce the law and will ensure that the revolution which the initiators themselves destroyed and buried would remain forever in its grave," Jones said.

Jones said Grenada owed a "great debt of gratitude" to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the leaders of Jamaica, Barbados, and the organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and others who played a pivotal role in mounting the "rescue mission".

"We cannot repay that debt in a material way, but we believe that a prayer that god will continue to bless America and its people will be acceptable as an adequate and appropriate substitute," he said.

On behalf of the virtually defunct NJM, central committee member Ian St Bernard issued a statement today calling for "a free and fair trial" of the 19 former military and political figures accused of the murder of Bishop and 10 associates.

"The NJM is confident that the truth of the October 19 tragedy - resulting in the death of party

leader Maurice Bishop, and others - would one day be known," St Bernard said.

The 19 defendants in the Bishop murder case, including former deputy prime minister Bernard Coard and leader of the short-lived military regime, General Hudson Austin, are in jail awaiting trial which has been bogged down with a series of delays.

The business community, in a statement on the anniversary, urged Grenadians to observe the day of "their liberation from tyranny and oppression as one of commemoration and thanksgiving for the gift of democracy which was bestowed upon us"

THE DAILY GLEANER, FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1985

# New motions delay Grenada trial

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Aug 8, Cana

Grenada's Chief Justice, Sir Archibald Nedd, adjourned the start of the much-delayed Maurice Bishop murder trial after two hours of sitting today to facilitate two motions filed by eight defense lawyers.

One of the motions seeks to censure the Commissioner of Prisons, Lionel Maloney, who the lawyers accuse of preventing them from having adequate access to their clients.

The other challenges the constitutionality of the court to hear the trial.

The motions were filed by a team of Jamaican lawyers headed by Queen's Counsel Howard Hamilton a few minutes before the start of today's sitting. The lawyers want the case stayed until judgement is handed down on the motions.

The lawyers have been retained by the state for 17 of the 19 defendants, excluding ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife, Phyllis, reported to be in the final stages of negotiations with another Jamaican lawyer, Ian Ramsey, to defend them in the trial.

The group is charged with murdering leftist Prime Minister Bishop and seven others during an October 19 palace coup in which more than 100 people died.

At the start of proceedings, head of the prosecution team, former Trinidad and Tobago Attorney-General Karl Hudson-Phillips said he was ready to proceed with the case but Hamilton indicated that the defense was encountering difficulties in their "sustained efforts" to have reasonable access to the defendants.

"We have been constrained to file in the high court of Grenada two constitutional motions, one of which will seek to enable us all reasonable access to our clients," Hamilton said.

Copies of this motion later shown to reporters by the lawyers call for the court to grant the defendants "adequate time and facilities" to prepare their case for the trial, already hit by several postponements since the detainees committal a year ago at the conclusion of the preliminary inquiry into the murder charges.

The motion alleges that the commissioner of prisons and his subordinates inflicted inhuman, and degrading treatment on the prisoners violating their fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution.

In addition, the lawyers are seeking what they refer to as a restoration of provisions agreed to during the preliminary inquiry such as allowing the defendants to use food provided by their families, adequate medical attention, and writing materials to communicate with their lawyers.

The constitutional motion is similar in nature to the one filed earlier by Guyanese lawyer Clarence Hughes on behalf of the 19 challenging the legality of court set up by Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in 1979 to replace the court provided for by the then suspended constitution.

The Grenada High Court, and the Appeal Court of Grenada rejected Hughes' motion that the Supreme Court is not legally qualified to

try the defendants. The Privy Council in London in a ruling last month refused to entertain the motion, noting that the right to appeal to the Privy Council was abo-

lished by a decree of the PRG.

The Jamaican lawyers are apparently basing their new motion on the appeal court ruling that "on the basis of state

necessity," the court was deemed legitimate.

The island's constitution is largely back in place but laws passed by the PRG have been validated by parliament.

The Daily Gleaner June 13 1985

P. 7.

THE DAILY GLEANER, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1985

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# U.S. in final withdrawal of troops from Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S June 11 (AP):  
The invasion of Grenada ended where it began, with a ceremonial goodbye in a tropical downpour at the Point Salines International Airport.

The U.S. withdrawal of its 60 remaining 82nd airborne division troops followed a short ceremony at the airport Tuesday, where the soldiers handed over their headquarters' Grenadian flag to Police Commissioner Russel Toppin and boarded a C-130 transport plane for the return flight to Port Bragg, N.C.

About 50 people huddled in an open hangar as Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, soaked to the skin and his words nearly drowned out by the roar of aircraft engines, stood in the rain to say goodbye to the Americans.

Members of the Grenadian police force and a police band stood in formation with the Americans. The band played both national anthems and then struck up auld lang syne as

the Americans filed aboard their plane.

"Grenadians are bidding the soldiers farewell with mixed feelings, but with assurances from the Americans, including Vice President George Bush, that the U.S. is not abandoning them," he said.

Blaize announced that a commemorative medal was being struck and would be presented to all American troops who participated in the invasion and peacekeeping force.

"Grenadians can take heart from the fact that the Caribbean security unit will still be around for some months to allow the island's newly reconstituted police force to fully resume its law and order duties," Blaize said.

The Caribbean peacekeeping team numbers about 100 men and women, the majority soldiers from Jamaica.

The U.S. soldiers were part of a team of military police, medics and communications experts stationed here since the last combat troops withdrew in December, 1983. The number of troops had been reduced from 250 soldiers during the last two weeks.

A 25-member security assistance

unit from the Caribbean Command headquartered in Key West, Florida, will remain on the island until Sept. 30 to help train the Grenada police, although U.S. officials said it had no connection with the 1983 invasion of Grenada. Grenada has a 500-member police force, mostly new recruits.

U.S. forces invaded before dawn on Oct. 25, 1983, to oust a radical military junta that had seized power and executed marxist troops on the 133-square-mile island in the Grena-

dine chain numbered about 6,000, including 5,000 from the 82nd airborne division. The invasion fighting lasted four days, leaving a death toll by Pentagon count of 24 Cubans, 44 Grenadians and 19 American soldiers, most of them killed in accidents such as helicopter crashes.

President Reagan described the invasion as a rescue mission to evacuate some 600 American students at St. George's University School of Medicine.

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# Grenada 19 ruling Friday, despite...



Coard



Austin

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, May 8, Cana:

The Appeals Court here will rule Friday on a motion by 19 former military and political figures, challenging the authority of the High Court to try them for murder in connection with the 1983 slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

President of the Appeals Court, Guyanese jurist J.O.F. Haynes said today the court will give

its decision despite the expected absence of Attorney General Carlyle Payne who is representing the state, and Guyanese Attorney Clarence Hughes, who is appearing for the 19.

Court sources said that the three-man panel could not remain in Grenada until the two attorneys return next Monday because they had other commitments elsewhere.

The 19 are challenging the legality of the High Court to which they have been committed to stand trial following the October 1983 army takeover that led to the deaths of Bishop and several of his close associates, as well as up to 100 civilians.

The takeover sparked a United States invasion of Grenada which ousted a military council

that had assumed power after Bishop's death.

The 19 include most members of the council, among them former army commander Hudson Austin, as well as former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife Phyllis.

The Appeals Court ruling will, in large measure determine whether or not the 19 will face trial at the June sitting of the High Court.

Meanwhile, the court was due to start hearings today on an appeal from former government minister, Derek Knight, against a six week jail sentence and EC5,000 dollar fine for contempt of court imposed by a High Court judge who deemed remarks he made in court as rude.

Knight is now a practising attorney in Grenada, and served under the Eric Gairy government which was deposed in the east Caribbean's first coup d'etat in march 1979.

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The Daily Observer

May 1, 1985

# Court to rule on Grenada 19's appeal

GEORGES, Grenada,  
May 6, CANA:

The Grenada Court of Appeal will announce on Wednesday when it will rule on a motion by 19 former military and political figures here challenging the legality of the High Court to try them for murder following a bloody, but short-lived army takeover in October 1983.

The court today announced its intentions to hand down a decision on the motion, after the Grenada Parliament approved a decree of the former Peoples' Revolutionary Government creating the Grenada Court of Appeal.

The 19, among them former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, wife Phyllis and former army

commander Hudson Austin are charged with murder in connection with the October 1983 slayings of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several of his close associates in a bloody military takeover that sparked off the United States invasion of Grenada to oust a radical revolutionary council which took the place of the bishop government.

The 19, through their attorneys, are challenging the legality of the High Court to hear the charges against them.

When the appeal court met briefly today, acting Director of Public Prosecutions Ms. Velma Hylton asked that the court put the matter down for Wednesday, with the ruling itself to be made at a later date. The Judges agreed, and decided to announce on Wednesday the date for

the ruling into the constitutional motion.

Ms. Hylton said she expected attorney for the accused, Guyanese Clarence Hughes to arrive in Grenada shortly.

Meanwhile, the court also decided today to set a date on Wednesday for the start of hearings into an appeal against a contempt of court conviction, filed by former government Minister, now a practising attorney, Derek Knight.

Knight was sentenced to six weeks in prison, fined EC\$5000 and ordered to pay EC\$1000 in court costs after High Court Judge James Patterson held him in contempt of court for remarks the judge deemed rude.

Former Grenada Attorney Gener-

al Ernest John, who is representing Knight, told the court he was not yet ready to proceed with the matter because he did not see it listed among the cases down for hearing in the current sitting of the Appeal Court.

All parties agreed that the case would begin at a later sitting.

The Court of Appeal is made up of a three-man panel headed by Guyanese jurist J.O.F. Haynes. But Justice Haynes was a notable absentee from the sitting.

The other members of the court are former West Indies Associated States Supreme Court Judge Sir Fred Peterkin of Grenada, and Dominican Nicholas Liverpool of the University of the West Indies Faculty of law.

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*The Daily Gleaner*  
March 11, 1985

## **Appeal of Grenada 19 dismissed**

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada,  
May 10, Cana:

The Grenada Court of Appeal today dismissed a motion challenging the legality of the High Court here to try 19 former military and government officials accused of murdering leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The three-man panel of judges ruled that the High Court which was set up in 1980 by Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is legally qualified to hear the case pending against the officials including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Today's ruling gives the state the go-head to proceed with the murder charges against the 19 during the next sitting of the High Court in early June.

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The Daily Weather,  
March 8, 1985

# No pressure for troop withdrawal from Grenada, says U.S. March 8 1985

ST. GEORGE'S, March 7 (AP)

The U.S. Embassy here has denied opposition charges that the Grenada Government pressured Washington to withdraw American troops from the island.

The Grenada United Labour Party of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy made the charge after the United States announced troops would be withdrawn over a two-month period beginning April 12. Some 250 American military police remain on the island along with about 350 Caribbean troops in the aftermath of the October 25, 1983 U.S.-led invasion.

"Since the rescue mission in October 1983, it has been the policy of all governments involved that when Grenada was in a position to assume responsibility for its security, the foreign police and military personnel, who had been invited to remain in Grenada, would depart," said Roy Haverkamp, Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy here.

"No pressure was brought on the U.S. Government or any other government," he added.

The *Grenada Guardian*, official organ of the United Labour Party, had said editorially that it was "difficult to see Americans voluntarily withdrawing from any country in which the communists are interested.

"It is obvious that the New National Government must have brought a little pressure on the Americans to act so out of character," the editorial said.

Haverkamp said representatives of the United States and the seven Caribbean states contributing troops to the peacekeeping force agreed in January, in consultation with the newly elected Grenadian Government, that all remaining foreign military personnel could begin to

withdraw.

"I hope these facts will lay to rest any misunderstanding about the long-standing policy to withdraw U.S. military personnel at the appropriate time without jeopardizing Grenada's security," Haverkamp said.

The Interim government that took over after the invasion asked that the foreign troops remain until the Royal Grenadian Police Force could be reorganized and trained. That invitation was reiterated by the Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize after the December 3, 1984 elections.

But Gairy's party has called for indefinite U.S. military presence here, and the new opposition Grenada Democratic Labour Party lodged a formal protest with the U.S. Embassy over the troop withdrawal.

The Democratic Labour Party, formed by opposition Parliamentarians who bolted Gairy's party, said in a letter made public today that "we are forced to take this stand because of the political differences that still exist within our society and the possibility of a recurrence of the incidents of March 13, 1979, and October 19, 1983. "The dates refer to the New Jewel

Movement coup that toppled Gairy's Government in 1979 and the slaying of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a military takeover that triggered the U.S.-led invasion.

Democratic Labour Party leader Marcel Peters, who won the only opposition seat in Parliament in the December 3 elections, said at a news conference he's concerned about Grenada's security in the absence of the U.S. military presence.

He said it was too soon to judge how efficient the new Grenada police force will be.

Albert Forsythe, one of three opposition Senators appointed by the new party, recalled that Grenadians took Cuban soldiers posing as construction workers at face value before the invasion. They were building the international airport at Point Saline, that U.S. President Ronald Reagan charged would be used by Cuban and Soviet military aircraft.

"We have Grenadians in other parts of the world who are now training as medicos in other fields, and we don't know whether when they return, they will be coming back only as medicos or as guerrillas," Forsythe said.

The Grenader

March 3, 1985

## Grenada murder trial could start in May

ST. GEORGE'S, March 18, (CANA)

Grenada's Legal Affairs Minister Ben Jones says the Government is optimistic that the long-delayed Maurice Bishop murder trial can start in May or June.

Nineteen former Government and army officials are charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three Cabinet colleagues, and seven others at army headquarters in a military coup in October 1983 by hardliners in Bishop's leftist administration.

Jones told reporters that the state is still in the process of trying to work out a satisfactory arrangement with Queens Counsel Howard Hamilton in order to retain the same seven Jamai-

can lawyers who represented the defence at the preliminary inquiry.

The trial was fixed for hearing in the February assizes of the High Court. The start has been delayed by the postponement of a sitting of the Court of Appeal to hear a motion challenging the legality of the High Court to facilitate the trial.

The defendants, including Bishop's former deputy, Bernard Coard, and his Jamaican-born wife Phyllis, and ex-army commander Hudson Austin are also said to be unable to raise sufficient funds to retain lawyers of their choice.

Informed sources told CANA that Hamilton is asking for one million dollars for the defence team.

Grenader 19.3.85

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The Daily Gleaner Feb 23, 1985

# OPINIONS

# GRENADA AT PEACE

by TOM WICKER

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada:

Many a hard-pressed Third World leader would like to have the late-life opportunity that has come to Herbert A. Blaize, who at 66 has been called from political retirement to be Prime Minister of Grenada.

Blaize's centrist New National Party (an amalgamation of several moderate parties) won nearly 60 percent of a huge turnout and 14 of 15 seats in the island Parliament in the December elections. He has no real opposition save an old opponent, former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy — now largely discredited — whose party ran a bad second.

Leftist forces are in even worse shape, after the repressive Marxist rule of Maurice Bishop ended in the murder of Bishop in 1983, by a hard-line fringe of his own New Jewel Movement.

The United States, which intervened militarily after that burst of violence, has committed \$57.2 million in badly needed aid over two years — part of a Reagan administration effort to put the best face on the controversial intervention. Grenadians welcomed it at the time as a rescue from violence and repression; over a year later, most seem pleased at the consequences and friendly to a few hundred Americans remaining here.

## Dilapidated economy

The island, one of the most beautiful in the Caribbean, boasts a magnificent new jet airport, mostly built by Cuban labour before the U.S. intervention. Its police, corrupted and abused under previous governments, and a small security force have almost completed retraining by British and U.S. troops. Within the next few months, all foreign forces are expected to depart.

But Blaize, a soft-spoken man who expresses firm ideas in complete sentences and does not much admire the press, was anything but complacent when I talked with him at his office in the Botanical Gardens. He's facing a dilapidated economy, unemployment estimated by U.S. officials at perhaps 30 percent, and an infrastructure so decrepit that it inhibits economic development.

"We are not taking over a government," Blaize said. "We are MAKING over a government."

Asked why his predecessors, Maurice Bishop and Eric Gairy, had invested so little in the island's basic needs, Blaize laughed, not mirthfully, and replied: "They had other priorities" — an outsize military force, in Bishop's case, and what an American called "squandermania" in Sir Eric's.

Blaize's own priorities call first for reform of a tangled and burdensome tax system. A Grenadian earning EC\$11,000 (about \$4,200 U.S.) pays 50 percent in income tax; there's also a property tax and a bewildering array of consumption and indirect taxes. Sounding like a U.S. supply-sider, Blaize hopes to adjust the system "so that people can afford to pay and we'll still receive more revenue."

Next comes investment — mostly from U.S. aid funds — in roads, power lines (the island is not yet entirely electrified), water and sewer facilities, and a modern telephone system (the present hodgepodge uses outmoded equipment from East Germany, Libya, Trinidad and Britain, little of which works).

## Light manufacturing

Only after all that can Blaize realistically turn to economic development. He aims to focus on light manufacturing — of wooden furniture, for instance

— and on diversifying agriculture, with emphasis on food crops to save the foreign exchange required for food imports. A development corporation will seek and help foreign investors.

Grenada, with its beautiful beaches, its green mountains, the scenic old city of St. George's, and the new jetport, also has considerable tourist potential. But Blaize wisely wants only to "tap into" tourism rather than rely heavily on what he considers a "fragile" industry.

The island now has about 600 hotel rooms (none in the luxury class); the airlines would require about 1,400 before they'd schedule regular jet flights from Europe and the U.S.

So, despite some enviable circumstances, Herbert Blaize calls the immediate outlook for his new government "pretty grim". But that government is evidence, even for Americans who opposed the intervention, that it worked: Grenada is peaceful again, and has a new chance for prosperity.

P. 7.

The Daily Gleaner  
Feb. 14, 1985

## More on trial of Grenada 19

ST. GEORGES,  
Grenada, Feb 13,  
CANA

The trial of 19 former military and political leaders accused of the October 1983 murder of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, is unlikely to be held during the current sitting of the Grenada assize court, a court source said today.

Bishop's former deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and army chief Hudson Austin are among the defendants in the case.

Bishop was killed along with seven others, including three Cabinet Ministers, during a military take-over of his People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) following a fierce internal leadership struggle.

The court source said the trial was likely to be postponed because the state was as yet unable to make satisfactory arrangements for the defence of the accused. The Government undertook this responsibility after the 19 said they were unable to afford counsel.

The source also said a pending appeal of a judge's ruling on a challenge to the legitimacy of the Grenada supreme court could also contribute to the delay.

Last October, appearing before chief justice Archibald Nedd on behalf of the 19 accused, Guyanese barrister Clarence Hughes argued their case on the court, established by the PRG which had ruled Grenada by decree after suspending the constitution.

The Gleaner

Feb. 14, 1985

Feb. 14, 1985

## US troops to leave Grenada by Sept. 30

WASHINGTON:

**T**HE UNITED STATES has announced that all its remaining military personnel in Grenada will leave that island in a five and one-half month phased withdrawal that will be completed by September 30.

The state department said February 7 that 250 U.S. soldiers and the 400-member peacekeeping force drawn from neighbouring Caribbean States will begin to leave the island in mid-April.

The U.S. forces, and those of the Caribbean Peace Force (CPF), have remained on Grenada to help provide security while the Grenadian Government reconstituted and trained a new 560-member police force that is assuming responsibility for law enforcement on the island.

"Each step of the withdrawal will be co-ordinated with the Grenadian

Government and with CPF authorities to insure the orderly turnover of security responsibilities and to guarantee that Grenada's democratic tranquillity is maintain," said State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb.

U.S. and Caribbean Forces landed on Grenada in October 1983 to restore order after the overthrow and assassination of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop by radical elements of his own party.

At the height of activity, more than 6,400 U.S. troops were involved in the Grenada military operation. All U.S. combat forces left Grenada by December 15, 1983, leaving behind only 250 troops in support, training, and police functions.

UWI Librarian

The Daily Steamer Feb. 9. 1985

# Pentagon probing handling of Grenada gun smuggling

The

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, Reuter

The Pentagon is looking into widely different handling of cases involving an Admiral and seven lower-ranked men who tried to smuggle Soviet rifles back home after the war in Grenada, officials said today.

Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf, commander of the force which invaded Grenada in October 1983, was given a 'caution' after he was caught trying to bring home 24 Soviet-made AK-47 rifles captured on Grenada.

But seven soldiers and marines, including an army Captain, were given court-martials and sent to jail for up to three years for similar actions.

Asked about the apparent discrepancy, the Pentagon said it was investigating and further comment was inappropriate.

But U.S. officials said there might be trouble trying to make the punishments more equal because each of the services had its own regulations and penalty codes.

Navy officials said Metcalf intended to bring the automatic rifles home for souvenirs for himself and his staff.

The soldiers and marines brought back far fewer rifles, but at least one of them tried to sell one of the weapons.

The army and marine corps are known for tough discipline, but one navy officer said that even though he was a navy man he was outraged by the lenient treatment given Metcalf.

Metcalf has since been promoted to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for surface warfare.

A navy statement issued yesterday said Metcalf had been "cautioned regarding the capture and disposition of enemy weapons."

U.S. law prohibits bringing automatic weapons captured in battle back home as souvenirs.



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The Gleaner

Feb. 9, 1985

## Grenada to join regional security group

ST. GEORGE'S, Feb. 8, (CANA)

Grenada is to become a member of the two-year-old Regional Security System (RSS) which commits six other Eastern Caribbean countries to co-operation in security matters.

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize made the announcement during celebrations marking Grenada's 11th anniversary of independence yesterday.

The RSS came into being following the signing of a memorandum of understanding in 1982 by Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda. St. Kitts-Nevis later became a signatory.

Blaize said the crack Special Services Unit (SSU) of the police force, which is expected to be ready by the middle of the month, would form part of the RSS, which currently mainly concerns fisheries and coastal protection.

He said U.S. and Caribbean forces, stationed here since they staged an invasion of the island in October 1983, would begin a phased pull-out around April when training for the local police force should be completed.

The U.S. State Department said yesterday that the withdrawal would be completed in five and a half months, but Blaize said the foreign military personnel would remain longer than the next eight months.

Feb 9  
Gleaner

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## Opposition Senators leave GULP

ST. GEORGE'S, Feb. 8 (CANA)

Three Senators appointed by new opposition leader Marcel Peters today announced that they had left Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and were considering forming a new party.

Oliver Raeburn and Albert Forsythe, Ministers in the last GULP administration along with former Labour Commissioner, Franklyn Philbert, made their disclosure to CANA shortly after attending the first regular sitting of the Senate for almost six years.

This followed the December 28 historic reopening of Parliament after a general election in December, the first since 1976. Two coups — the first in March 1979, the last in October 1983 triggering a U.S.-led invasion, were followed by a year of transition with an interim Government.

The announcement by the three was made against the backdrop of a decision by the GULP executive to expell Peters from the party after he decided to take his seat in Parliament breaking the boycott imposed by the group over the alleged election rigging.

Gairy told CANA that if Raeburn, Forsythe and Philbert were appointed Senators the GULP executive would

meet on Wednesday to take a decision on their future with the party.

"We have not waited for their meeting. We have declared ourselves to be independent. We would go along with Mr. Peters and that is it," Raeburn told CANA.

Reaburn who is the spokesman for the trio is a former Minister of Agriculture and Education, Forsythe is a former Minister of Communications and Works while Philbert, a retired civil servant was the Labour Commissioner under the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The three ex-GULP members said they were considering the possibility of forming a new political party.

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The Gleaner Jan. 26, 1985

# Grenada breaks ties with North Korea

ST. GEORGE'S, Jan. 24, (CANA)

Grenada's seven-week old Government announced today it had broken off diplomatic relations with North Korea that were established in 1980 under the previous left-wing Government.

According to a Government Information Service (GIS) release, the break took effect from January 15, 1983.

The release said the move was in keeping with the foreign policy of the new administration as outlined in the throne speech delivered by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon on December 28.

Sir Paul said then that the centrist pro-Washington Government would review "certain relationships" with a view towards preventing the imposition of any philosophy which is hostile to the Parliamentary democratic lifestyle of the people of Grenada.

Under the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of slain Prime

Minister Maurice Bishop, Grenada broke off diplomatic relations with South Korea favouring the Communist North Koreans instead as part of a foreign policy thrust aimed at strengthening ties with the Soviet bloc.

But in the aftermath of the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion to topple a Marxist junta that had seized power in a coup in which Bishop was killed, the caretaker Grenada Government re-established diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Gleaner.

Jan. 26, 1985

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The Sunday Gleaner

Jan. 20, 1985

The Sunday Gleaner, January 20, 1985

## Public Affairs

# THE GRENADA ELECTIONS: SOME LESSONS

by Anthony P. Maingot

Professor of Sociology, Florida International University

- 1: *People's political instincts and interests in free elections had survived*
- 2: *Racial tension tends to recede during this time..*
- 3: *Inter-play between religion and family*
- 4: *Electoral method basically undemocratic*

Sunday Gleason

Jan 20, 1988

## Obvious illusion

Eric Gairy's star was quite well-known and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement's airplane was an obvious illusion to the airport which the murdered ex-Prime Minister had built. These, then, were the competing symbols of this new effort to get pluralist politics back on track after a decade of Eric Gairy misrule and nearly half a decade of Maurice Bishop's "socialist" monologue.

After some hours of meandering through the villages of St. David, Buxo decided that the majority of reactions had been decidedly in favour of "de house." While Buxo was tallying reactions, I was attempting to gauge the mood.

Maybe the real challenger would not be either Gairy's GULP or the MBPM, but rather disinterest reflected in a high voter absentee rate. After all, every report since the October 1983 invasion had highlighted the fact that Grenadians wanted as little to do with politics as possible. Our tour through St. David's, however, showed that the mood had changed dramatically.

The enthusiasm for the star, for the plane, but especially, for the house, was conveyed with such energy that it soon became enveloping and contagious. At least the people of St. David were showing as spontaneous a collective joy as I had witnessed anywhere in the Caribbean.

## First lesson

Buxo's unique polling ploy had been a smashing success; it gave him something quantifiable about the general mood and it presented me with the first lesson I would bring away from Grenada: that the people's political instincts and interests in free elections had survived the multiple tragedies of their young history. Previous elections in Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Tobago and the subsequent one in Belize showed that Caribbean Man, and especially Woman, love politics and the opportunity to vote periodically for the party of their choice.

It is their basic conception of what political rights — their citizenship — are all about. In the recent elections in St. Vincent, 89% of the electorate turned out despite torrential rains and tropical squalls. Grenada gave every evidence of coming close to that performance. That Buxo's polling gimmick seemed to be pointing in the right direction, at least as far as St. David's was concerned, was made evident with force that same evening.

Expecting a motor-motorcade of perhaps a dozen or so vehicles we had discussed whether the two of us, both light skinned West Indians, should join in; would this contribute to the accusation of both the GULP and the MBPM that the NNP was a "bourgeois" party?

## The doll house

We decided that the morning's experience with the doll-house made our presence not only possible, but indeed, desirable. And so I learned Lesson No. 2: West Indian racial (or better, colour) tension, always latent, tends to recede dramatically during periods which require collective, democratic participation.

Elections, like carnival, sporting events or religious processions, seem to bring out that intrinsic sense of humanity and fellowship which makes West Indian social relations so unique. But this lesson contains its antinomy: that same fellowship can turn into raw hatred and anger in the face of the people's collective sense of moral outrage or indignation.

ST. DAVID'S was the parish to study for the Selection. A traditional stronghold for the party of ex-Prime Minister Eric Gairy (GULP), a seat held by his wife Cynthia, the area was also the birthplace of the Joint Effort for Welfare, Education and Liberation (JEWEL) later to join Maurice Bishop's Movement for the Assemblies of the People — to become the New Jewel Movement.

It is arguably the most beautiful part of the Island, a series of valleys rich in cocoa, coffee, bananas and spice trees, the mainstays of the Island's important small peasant farmer. With 5,341 registered voters it is by far the largest constituency. My friend, Tony Buxo, the Island's only optometrist as well as its only graduate from Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy, was legitimately worried about how his party, the New National Party, would do there.

A coalition of one old and two recently formed parties, the NNP was hammered together on Union Island under pressure from the Prime Ministers of Barbados, Tom Adams, Dominica, Eugenia Charles, and St. Vincent, "Son" Mitchell. The U.S.A. was delighted with the outcome; they had invested money and prestige in a bring out-the-vote campaign and in making it clear that the NNP's Herbert Blaize was their choice.

But these were not the only outside influences. Eric Gairy was receiving strong support from Grenadians based in Trinidad and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement was receiving assistance from friends in the U.S. and, allegedly, Lybia. Grenada, it appeared, had not stopped being an object of international concern. And yet, after the Eric Gairy revolution of the 1950s and 60s which politicized the peasantry, and the New Jewel Movement's 4½ years of revolution which politicized the urban youth and the middle classes, no one in the know would predict that outside forces would determine the outcome of this first election since 1976.

Buxo — who himself had helped organize a telephone campaign to force the NNP merger — was not sitting still; on the eve of voting day he wished to test the mood of St. David's for the NNP and its candidate, Dan Williams. In one of those strokes of theatrical genius which makes West Indian carnivals such spectacular affairs, Buxo appropriated his daughter's doll house and strapped it to the roof of his car. The house, you see is the new symbol of the NNP.

Happily, this was not the mood, so we drove towards the caravan, and it was a sight. Snaking its way through St. David's magnificent valleys was a line of vehicles of every conceivable type, jammed with Grenadians of every conceivable colour singing to the beat of their specially composed calypso, "Dan is The Man in The Van." Beating on bottles, pans and on the sides of doors, the caravan wound its way like a giant "jump up" (the West India version of the conga line) to the screams of delight of clusters of humanity in every village they passed.

## Sexual terms

By the time we reached the meeting place — a typical crossroads where traditionally Caribbean peasant meets urban man — a large assembled crowd of all ages was already "jamming" (a mutual, erotic rotating of the hips) to the tune of a popular Trinidad Indian-imitating calypso, "Kuchibadbach" which the earthy Grenadians had translated into sexual terms. And then, as if by well practised synchronization, as a voice called them to open the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, the calypso went off the air and the crowds settled down to pray in unison. That religious note set the tone for the rest of the meeting: no more hatreds and violence, no more jails, no more killings; Grenadians were to behave as the big Christian family they had been before.

## Respect for religion

Lesson No. 3 stared me starkly in the face: Caribbean politics can be described as a counterpoint between the conservatism and the rebellion against virtually all constraints; the interplay between deep-rooted respect for religion and its corresponding themes of family, the Christian rearing of children and respect for ones elders, and an explosive — even nihilistic — "do-as-you-damn-well-please" syndrome of attitudes.

After all, weren't most of these young people only yesterday raising clenched fists and shouting "Power to the People!?" Who, one might ask, are the "real" Grenadians? No answer is possible because the question is not quite relevant. Once you take into account differences in style, in expression and presentation of self, all people have the capacity and the tendency to shift moods and loyalties. The difference is that democracy, by defending the

(Continued on Page 27)

# THE GRENADA ELECTIONS: SOME LESSONS

(Cont'd from Page 10)

right to be different, invariably seems more unruly or chaotic than the disciplined order of institutionalized "revolution."

## Marxist theory

It is precisely this flexibility — evident in Jamaica yesterday, in China and Spain as in Grenada today, and probably Cuba tomorrow — which disproves absolutely the Marxist theory of social change. Societies, i.e. social classes, do not move inexorably forward through an increasing social conflict, nor is it a question of Lenin's "two steps forward, one step back;" it can be forward or backwards, sideways or stationary — all movements quite unpredictable. Unless of course, there is a straightjacket of the police state. That fortunately, was not Grenada and St. David's in 1984.

And yet, throughout the political speeches that Sunday evening, there were direct and indirect illusions to the recent past. The past still has to find its historian but, in a way, it was precisely this frenetic and unpredictable swing between piety for either Christian beliefs or "revolutionary" and irracible independence which led the more dogmatic Leninists within the PRG to recommend putting the Island's youth under "heavy manners," i.e., severe discipline.

The clash over the advisability (not say feasibility) of censoring films, limiting freedom of movement, recruiting "armies of production" as well as regular militia, etc. contributed as much as the deteriorating economic situation to the division and then self-destruction of the PRG. The Marxist-Leninists failed miserably and tragically. The question today is, how will the new regime fare?

## Undemocratic

The regime begins with some important strengths. First, 84% of the electorate voted despite a cumbersome registration and enumeration system. Only in 1972 had there been anywhere that kind of turn-out (83.5%). In St. David's Dan Williams received 60.5% of the 87.7% who turned out to vote; GULP received 37% and the MBPM 2.3%. And the story was repeated in all but one of the 15 constituencies.

The victorious NNP had won more than 2/3 of the parliamentary seats needed to change the Constitution, something they promise to do. But the very size of this victory gave me Lesson No. 4: In the Westminster parliamentary system, the electoral method (the so-called "first-past-the-post") is basically undemocratic, and as such, tends to distort the real weight of the voting.

The Table No. 1 shows how with 58.6% of the vote the NNP secured all but one seat. On a strict proportional basis they should have had 9 or 10 seats depending on the formula used to handle residuals. Since the one GULP winner has stepped down it is conceivable that Grenada, like Jamaica today and Trinidad during 1971-76, will be governed without official opposition. This is a very bad situation in parliamentary systems designed as they were to accommodate opposing positions within the system itself.

## Political consciousness

Fortunately, there will be opposition. Some of it will certainly come from the Island's important middle class which has come off the fence and taken sides. This is no longer the "docile and confused bourgeoisie" Maurice Bishop described in his secret "Line of March" blueprint for a Marxist-Leninist Grenada. Their new political consciousness has contributed to a clarification of political and ideological positions and terminology on the Island.

"Right," "Left" and "centre" have now been defined; terms such as the

much-used notion of a "mixed economy" are being scrutinized. Does it mean a partnership between government and the private sector (as the NNP says) or is it a mere "stage" on the route to the total socialization of production as the captured documents now show the PRG had intended? Another form of opposition will most probably come from the younger, more left-leaning members within the NNP.

Clearly the leader of this group will be 42-year old George Brizan who had brought his own National Democratic Party into the NNP alliance. Running in the City of St. Georges with its heavily young and restless population (it had been an NJM bastion), Brizan took 71% of the 85 who turned out to vote, and he was running against one of GULP's most formidable campaigners, Albert Forsyth who received 24% of the vote.

## Irony of politics

It is a fascinating comment on the irony of politics in general that it is precisely the 4½ years of New Jewel Movement rule which generated this political awakening. Virtually all the leaders on the present political scene had been victimized by the "revolution:" Gairy and Winston Whyte on the right, Elaize, Alexis and Brizan in the centre, and even those stout Bishop loyalists, Radix and George Louison on the left. Grenada's apparent commitment to parliamentary pluralism, to freedom, is probably more authentic than most, based as it is on bitter experience not just theory.

scramble for capital, for investments, and for service sector development evident in Miami every December during the Caribbean-Central American Action meeting. The Leninist idea of a capitalist world overflowing with excess capital looking for opportunities abroad is something believed only by ideologically committed types. There is a struggle out there and Grenada is competing not only with Haiti, but indeed with states such as Florida and New Jersey.

This new reality has led to all types of innovations, not all salutary by any means. Already the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Panama and Curacao have strong "off-shore" service sector (banking, real estate and brokerages of all types.) The successful "off-shore" medical school in Grenada shows that there is a ready market for these services and most are legitimate. But the risks involved to small, fragile societies are also all too evident.

The recent Commission of Inquiry into the corruption of the Bahamas points to one of the most disquieting developments in the area: the corrupting and corroding power of drug money. With annual sales in the multiple billions of dollars, with banks, trading houses, lawyers and "investment experts" located from Miami to the Bahamas to the Cayman Islands all the way to Panama there is a formidable challenge to men like St. Kitt's Kennedy Simmonds who alternates his practice of medicine with lay preaching, or Grenada's Herbert Blaize who represents every trait of decency and honesty natural to his little island of Carriacou.

Will Grenada's new found democracy be able to steer a steady course in such rough waters? Will St. Kitts or Dominica or St. Vincent? It has, on surface, all the ingredients of an unequal battle. But the surface in the Caribbean is just that, for just below is that great capacity for moral indignation which gives hope that somehow, sometime, wrongs will be redressed. One can only hope that the costs will not be too heavy. And this is where the U.S. comes in.

The winds of change have been glowing in the Caribbean since before World War II; each island in turn has been in center stage. 1984 might well be recorded as the year in which Grenada put the U.S. right smack in center stage in that part of the region previously dominated by Britain. But the real test for the U.S. is yet to come. Having picked up a drowning Grenada in 30 feet of water, will the U.S. have the patience, the fortitude and the foresight to carry it to shore, or will it drop it in 15?

**Table No. 1****1984 Election Results & on PR Basis**

Party	Popular Vote		Seats on	Seats on
	No.	%	FPP System (1)	PR System (2)
NNP	23,984	58.6	14	6
GULP	14,677	35.8	1	5 of 6
MBPM	2,022	4.9	0	0 of 1

(1) **First-Past-the-Post:** Seats assigned on majority vote in each constituency

(2) **Proportional Representation:** Seats assigned in proportion to total votes cast for each party.

While there is never any guarantee that in politics experience tends to conquer over hope, in Grenada there is strong evidence that recent experience will help keep hope within the bounds of reality. And such an eventuality will come none too soon, for in fact, starting in 1985 politics will have to cede to stew of other problems.

First and foremost will be the economic one. Along with the rest of the Caribbean, Grenada is living in a period of economic transition: the traditional sources of wealth are now outdated. Certainly there are available stop-gap measures to help them along: the Soviets offered to buy tons of unsold Grenadian nutmeg for the same reason the Reagan administration bought Jamaican bauxite — to help out a friend. But these acts of charity only highlight the structural crisis in the Caribbean.

**Crisis in economy**

It is not just the bananas and spices of Grenada, or the sugar which Cuba and the rest of the area have historically depended on, it is also the oil refineries in Curacao, Aruba and Trinidad, the bauxite industries of Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname and even the manufacturing plants so eagerly sought after over the past three decades. And in what will generally be a bad situation, the Eastern Caribbean will be facing especially difficult circumstances. For if geography has given them an advantage over the Far East vis-a-vis the U.S. market, Haiti and Mexico are even closer, and...their wages and cost in general are much lower.

It costs Barbados U.S.\$6.00 more than Haiti to produce and ship a dozen shirts to the U.S. But the relative disadvantages do not stop at geography and wages. The fact that Barbados, for instance, has a standard of social welfare equal to that of Great Britain or Scandinavia means that they can hardly make the same tax concessions to new industries that Haiti, for example, can. And, the sad part is that a person with two years' schooling making 33¢ per hour in Haiti is as skilled an assembler as the one with 9 years making \$1.10 in Grenada.

**Fragile societies**

This crisis in the economy — individually and collectively — explains the

Jan. 11, 1985

## Court ruling on St. Bernard's fate postponed

ST. GEORGE'S, Jan. 10, (CANA)

Former Grenada Police Commissioner Ian St. Bernard, charged with "preparing by the show of armed force to procure an alteration in the Government of the state of Grenada", will have to wait until January 28 to know if he will be committed to the High Court for trial, Magistrate Jerome Forde said today.

The charge arises out of the disturbances here on October 19, 1983 in which leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three Cabinet Ministers were gunned down in a military coup at the height of a leadership squabble among moderates and radicals within the former ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Forde, who conducted a preliminary enquiry into the charge against St. Bernard, was to have handed down his ruling today.

But following a request from defence counsel, Jamaican Delano Harrison, who was unable to attend court today, Forde granted a postponement and agreed on the new date with the approval of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

St. Bernard was a prominent member of the NJM whose four and a half year rule ended on October 25 when U.S and Caribbean forces intervened on the island in the wake of the bloodbath.

The Grenader Jan. 6. 1983.

The following is extracted from a Christmas newsletter sent out by Grenadian journalists Alister and Cynthia Hughes.

# GRENADA

## Alister and Cynthia Hughes remember

"We did not send out a 1983 "Christmas letter", and that left us with an empty feeling. But, as you know, that last quarter of 1983 was for us, and for everyone on the island, a period of great stress.



Even now, at a distance of many months, the whole thing seems unreal and, notwithstanding the 1979 revolution, an impossible happening to be experienced in our tranquil Grenada.

Think of it again in the calm of today. The Prime Minister arrested and executed with members of his Cabinet — the guns of the Army turned on peaceful citizens — scores of people killed — scores more jailed — the entire population put under house arrest — chaos, anarchy, terror — then the rescue — military planes and helicopter gunships flying overhead — bombs, bullets, fighting, destruction and death — and all this where we have picnicked, feted, danced, laughed, loved and brought up our kids in the

bright peaceful Caribbean sunshine.

Thank God, all that is now behind us. Grenada will never be the same again, new and more subtle perils lie ahead but, pray God our recent General Elections will mark, for this island, the start of a new era of peace, understanding, reconciliation and love.

We have been wonderfully preserved!! We enjoy good health, experiences, traumatic and otherwise, continue enges and opportunities which make it all so worth while. Only God knows what the future holds, but His care of us has been so marvellously demonstrated that, whatever comes, we know we need not be apprehensive.

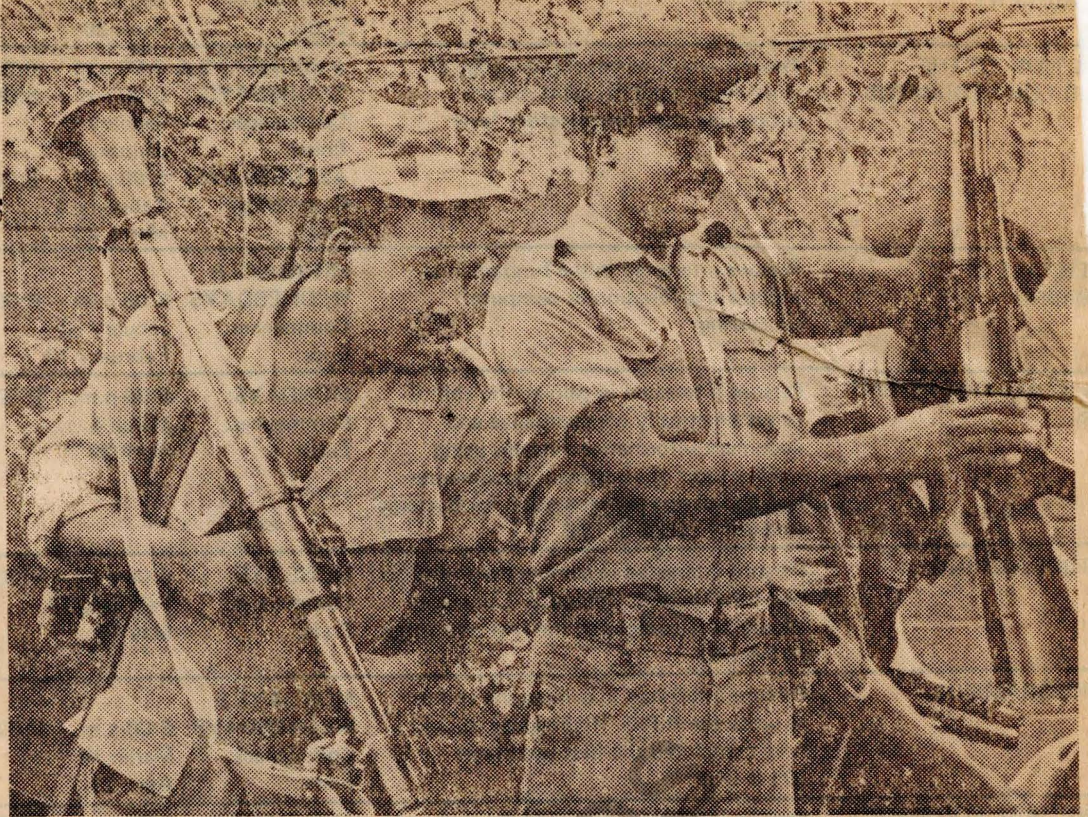
JAN. 6. 1983

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The Trencher.

# YOUR WORLD AND MINE

● *The fact that we had no coffins brought home should ...be measure of how well or men did....*



# OUR MEN IN GRENADA

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The Gleaner

Jan. 6, 1985.

When the editor of this paper asked me to write a short piece on the Personality of the Year, I nearly selected the JDF soldier and Coast Guard sailor in Grenada.

In the end, I did not. A personality should be kept singular. And the Jamaican soldiers and sailors who have been serving in our now restored sister democracy since October 1983 have constituted a team, in which each individual has played a part, and of which Jamaica can be very proud.

How difficult and responsible a job they had to do during fourteen months — between October 1983 and December 1984 — I did not realise until I went down for the elections a few weeks ago. We tend, alas, to take excellence by Jamaicans — whether at home or abroad — for granted. Even to make foolish fun about it — without compensating for a friendly joke with proper recognition.

The JDF, obviously, cannot blow its own trumpet about how taut and stylish a job our troops have done. Mr. Seaga's tribute to them, although no less than the truth, comes from the politician who sent them there.

It is necessary, I think, for an objective observer to say that any man or woman from our army or coast Guard who has done a stint of duty in Grenada between October 1983 and now richly deserves the special medal which the Prime Minister says he intends to have struck.

### No coffins

The fact that we have no coffins brought home should be, in itself, a measure of how well our men did in that first untidy week after they landed and were trying to help calm a badly frightened, bewildered society still counting those murdered by its own soldiers.

It would be false to pretend that some of the search for concealed weapons, or the worst elements of the Grenadian People's Revolutionary Army, was not severe and thorough during that first week. If it had not been then there might have been a few coffins brought back to Jamaica — and a few more Grenadian dead.

A lot of this search had to be done by our men. Once the fighting was over, the American troops had to keep a very low profile on the ground — in the city and the countryside. Only fellow West Indians could and should have been permitted to do the unpleasant, house-to-house work that falls to an army of occupation in a foreign country where native authority has collapsed. The American presence was in the air, from their helicopters, and in the knowledge that they could come back, in force, if any trouble erupted ... Trouble, I mean, of a size that our 300 men could not handle on their own.

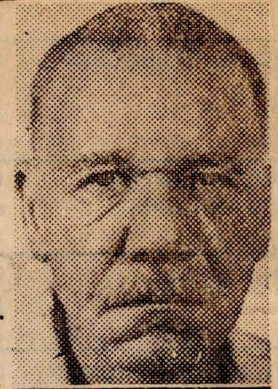
### Sense of security

What is remarkable is how quickly, the JDF and the Barbadian Police were successful in establishing a sense of security. If I stress the role of the JDF and Coast Guard, it is because they did act as though they had been doing this sort of job, in foreign countries for their entire history, and not learning on the job for the first time.

It should be noted that in the entire time they have been in Grenada, there has not been one single case of rape by our men, and not even one serious fist fight in a bar between what are foreign troops and jealous young local males.

**There have been accusations, of course, that the 'Jacans' have cornered all the most desirable young Grenadian women ... Again, it would not be only surprising but definitely alarming if a few of our**

By  
John  
Hearne



more aggressive or smooth-talking young soldiers had not stolen a girl or two from her local boy. They were not seminarians from a theological college we sent down there — but very fit, rather proud and feisty lads with an often tedious, always demanding and sometimes tense position to maintain. I would hate to think that every one of them, off-duty, did nothing but play cricket, take a cold shower and read an improving book before retiring to his virtuous bunk.

### Grenadian ladies

But three factors did seriously limit our troops from cutting any swathe through the Grenadian ladies. One was that they were rotated, company by company, every six to eight weeks, and that they were kept on very low pay (U.S. \$5.00 per day in a country where the local currency is about two and a half to one American dollar). You cannot exactly cut a dash with even the most willing lady on a little over twelve bucks per night.

Another factor was the iron discipline imposed by the Jamaican officers and senior N.C.O's on their men. The troops were kept on a pretty tight rein. Indeed, one experienced sergeant-major told me that he was glad that he only had to exercise the sort of regulations laid down for his men for six weeks at a time ... Six months, he remarked dryly, and he would have been in a bit of grief.

And the third factor, let us face it, was the handsome and legitimate pride our troops took in themselves, and in what was being asked of them.

It is not being pompously nationalistic to claim that they carried themselves with style, with a relaxed assurance and with a sense of responsible command of situation that were very impressive. They looked smart without arrogance — and even when carrying weapons on patrol did so almost as if they were going out for a bit of practice on the range.

A disagreeable necessity was forced on them last year.

I think we can safely say that many of them have come back home with some very valuable lessons learned from that necessity.

# Attorneys stun Grenada court

## *Withdrawal from Bishop case seen as defiance*

ST GEORGE'S, April 11 (CANA)

**D**EFENCE LAWYERS in the Maurice Bishop murder trial stunned the High Court today by announcing their temporary withdrawal from the court proceedings.

Defence counsel said they would take no further part in any "supposed" proceedings until an appeal filed against an earlier ruling by the Acting Chief Justice, Denis Byron is heard.



**RAMSAY....He read statement to Court.**

Byron had thrown out a defence application for a postponement of the trial of 19 leftists to await the Court of Appeal's decision.

Queen's Counsel Howard Hamilton told the court that the all-Jamaica defence team had agreed to pack their bags for home and would be returning in time for the sitting of the Appeals Court next month.

Byron who looked surprised at the turn of events said the defence move was in direct defiance of the court order he had earlier made.

"I would have to consider prompt action against all of you, and I wish to take time to consider it," he said, ordering the lawyers to return to court on Monday.

The 19 defendants are on trial for the October 1983 slaying of former Prime Minister Bishop and 10 associates in a bloody coup which sparked a U.S.-led invasion.

Two of the 19 including ex-deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard have hired leading Jamaican lawyer Ian Ramsay and three other barristers to represent them while a state-retained team of eight lawyers are appearing for the other 17.

Ramsay reading from a prepared statement said that the lawyers would be withdrawing and in the interim would prepare the appeal and

(Cont'd on Page 3)

# Attorneys stun Grenada

(Cont'd from Page 1)

record of appeal which would consist of nearly one dozen books of over 300 pages each.

"I want it to be perfectly clear and understood that we are not withdrawing from the case as a whole and that we continue to appear for the Grenada 19 but we will not cooperate with this part of the proceedings which we see as having the effects of pre-empting the Court of Appeal proceedings, and to face the Court of Appeal with a 'fait accompli' when the applicants appeal comes on," he said.

Ramsay said that the defence had no discretion in the matter since they had 'express and written instructions' from the defendants to withdraw and take no further part in the proceedings if the trial goes ahead before the appeal is heard.

"Their view is that since, if the applicants are successful in their appeal it will mean that this unconstitutional court cannot give the constitutional reliefs to which the applicants are entitled."

"Apart from it being, in our view, unfair and wrong, it is unrealistic to be expecting us to do a trial and an appeal in the same case at the same time. One must come before the other and that must be the appeal which will determine the shape

of the trial," he added.

The defence has consistently challenged the validity of the Grenada Supreme Court which was set up by a decree of Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government in 1979 to replace the east Caribbean court system the island shared with his neighbours.

The Court of Appeal said last may that the existing court in Grenada was functioning legally under the doctrine of necessity but felt that steps would have to be taken to return the island to the East Caribbean system which is recognized by the constitution.

There was further drama in the court when Deputy Commissioner of Police Fitzroy Bedeau attempted to stop Coard who was in the prisoners box from meeting with Ramsay on the grounds that the lawyer no longer represented him in the proceedings now before the court but only in the appeal case.

Coard and the other defendants shouted "stooge of the yankee imperialists" at the police officer.

In addition, all 19 defendants, hands raised in a revolutionary manner, shouted that the court was unconstitutional as they were being led back to the prison less than 200 metres away.

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# Defence lawyers withdraw from Bishop murder trial

ST. GEORGE'S, April 15, (CANA)

The often-delayed trial of 19 ex-government and military officials accused of killing leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a 1983 palace coup ran into further trouble today, with defence lawyers withdrawing from the case.

The move followed a refusal by Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron to grant the defence a stay in the proceedings pending the outcome an appeal on a constitutional motion.

Jamaican lawyer Ian Ramsay said he and three barristers representing ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife Pyhllis as well as eight lawyers retained by the state to defend the other 17 accused had been instructed by their clients to withdraw.

The state-retained lawyers told Byron that the instructions had been "clear and explicit."

Legal sources told CANA that the state was now in the process of requesting the lawyers to return their briefs of 300,000 U.S. dollars for the trial.

The trial arose out of the slaying of Bishop and 10 associates during a leadership feud.

The 19, when asked by the court whether they had voluntarily waived their rights to be represented by counsel of their choice in the case, said the court was unconstitutional and that they could retain lawyers of their choice for a trial to be heard only in a constitutional court.

The court in dispute was set up by a decree of Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government

(PRG) shortly after it came to power in a 1979 coup to replace the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court which withdrew from the island.

The Court of Appeal of Grenada in a ruling in May 1984 declared the Bishop-established body unconstitutional with its existence based on the doctrine of necessity and urged the state to regularize the court system on the island within reasonable despatch.

The withdrawal of the all Jamaica team of lawyers from

the case also followed a statement from Byron today that he had not changed his position to cite them for contempt of court if they violated his court order by withdrawing from the trial because of the rejection of their request for a stay pending the outcome of the appeal.

Before the withdrawal, Ramsay told the court that the defence would like to be granted leave in order to appeal against this ruling since the lawyers felt the rights of counsel in the case should be cleared up before the start of the trial.

Byron, however, reacted by telling Ramsay that he considered it an abuse of the process of the court if everytime he rules on an issue he would then have to grant a stay in the proceedings to facilitate appeals.

There were also some heated exchanges between Ramsay and the Acting Chief Justice on the interpretation of a defence statement to the court on Friday in which they threatened to withdraw from the case if the trial goes ahead before the appeal is heard.

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# Uproar halts Bishop murder trial

**Note: This story is reprinted in full as the final portion was inadvertently omitted from yesterday's Gleaner)**

ST. GEORGE'S, April 16 (CANA)

Sixteen of the 19 defendants in the Maurice Bishop murder trial today forced a temporary halt to the proceedings by clapping loudly and singing in court.

The defendants, including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, chanted "why are you afraid of the constitutional court?" and "this court is a yankee court" for about five minutes before Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron ordered their removal.

"I am not going to let this trial turn into something that it should not be," the judge told the accused prior to their attempts to disrupt the proceedings.

He later cited them for contempt of court and ordered their imprisonment until 9.30 a.m. tomorrow when the hearing will resume.

The defendants are charged with murdering Bishop, Prime Minister of the leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), and 10 associates in a coup in October 1983 at the height of a bitter power struggle between moderates and hardliners.

The chanting by the accused started

after one of the defendants, Major Leon Cornwall, was removed from the court by police officers after he refused to take his seat on the instructions of the Chief Justice.

The only three defendants who stood silent amidst the chaos in the court house were ex-soldiers Cosmos Richardson, Fabian Gabriel and Raeburn Nelson.

The local Supreme Court, whose constitutionality has been repeatedly questioned by the defence, was set up by a decree of Bishop's Government shortly after it came to power in a 1979 coup to replace the West Indies Associated States (WISA) Supreme Court which withdrew from the island.

Legal sources told CANA that if the defendants carry out their threat not to co-operate and proceed to disturb the trial, the Chief Justice might be forced to conduct the case in their absence.

The defendants are unrepresented by counsel following the withdrawal from the case yesterday of the all-Jamaica team of defence lawyers who said they were acting on the instructions of their clients.

The defendants had disagreed with a ruling by the Chief Justice not to grant a stay in the proceedings pending the outcome of an appeal on a motion related to the local court's validity.

Before the uproar in court, Coard and former Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan launched scathing attacks from the docks on the proceedings before the court with charges that there would be no justice.

"We are saying this is a secret trial. I would let history and the world judge what takes place here now," said Coard when asked to make a plea on the indictment against him before the court.

"I hope that everyone who participates in this kangaroo trial understands the consequences, and I want it to be clear that I am still a prisoner-of-war in my country," he added, referring to arrest shortly after the U.S.-led invasion of the island which followed the coup.

Strachan said the defendants regarded the case as political.

"Whether you jump high or you jump low, that fact cannot be erased because all of us here have been former leaders of this country either in the capacity as ministers, deputy ministers and army leaders," he said.

"We are not afraid of any trial. I am prepared to stand up in a constitutional court to let the world know what happened here in October 1983 because nobody has ever heard our side of the story," he added.

UWI Librarian

The Daily Gleaner, April 18, 1986

# Grenada 19 want Ronald Reagan brought before court

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, April 17, Cana:

The 19 defendants in the Maurice Bishop murder trial today called for United States President Ronald Reagan to be subpoenaed and brought before the Grenadian court trying them.

Spokesman for the group, ex-National Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, told the hearing Reagan should be made to account for documents he said were relevant to their defence and which were removed from the island after the October 1983 U.S.-led military intervention.

The 19 defendants — most of them officials in the former left-ist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) — are accused of murdering Bishop, the PRG Prime Minister, and 10 associates in a military coup that ousted the PRG. U.S. and Caribbean forces intervened days afterwards.

Among the documents are said to be records of meetings of the former ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM), leading up to the party's leadership crisis which culminated with the killings.

In a ruling on the issue, acting Chief Justice Denis Byron

told the defendants who ordered their lawyers to withdraw from the case on Monday, that the request would be made but only in keeping with the law.

Strachan requested the court to make an order for the documents to be handed over to him on behalf of the other defendants.

"I am asking the court to subpoena the government of the United States through Ronald Reagan to return all our original documents, tapes and personal diaries of the New Jewel Movement, People's Revolutionary Government, People's Revolutionary Army, and all other

security organs of the state which were seized on or after October 25, 1983, following the illegal and criminal invasion and occupation of our country..." he said.

Strachan said subpoena orders should also be served on those Caribbean leaders who were involved in the intervention, including Prime Ministers Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Edward Seaga of Jamaica, and John Compton of St Lucia.

He said the documents could prove the innocence of the defendants in a constitutional court. The defendants contend that the present court set up by the PRG is unconstitutional.

Official sources told cana that the documents have been in police custody here since mid-1984 when the U.S. State Department handed them back to the Grenada government.

The court was also told that prior to requesting their lawyers to withdraw from the case, the accused had given instructions for Legal Affairs Minister Ben Jones to be subpoenaed in connection with the documents.

Former PRG Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, one of the accused, told the court the defendants would only cooperate when the case is heard by a "constitutional" court.

He charged that the trial was

being held in secret, with members of the public including his own family not allowed on the compound, except for a few chosen reporters who he said had demonstrated their bias over the years.

He said the cooperation of the defendants would be given if the trial was held in a constitutional court in St George's with members of the public present so they can judge for themselves the account to be given by the 19 of what happened in 1983.

At tomorrow's court sitting, the Chief Justice is expected to begin the selection of the 12-member jury.

*(Trial halted — Page 3)*

The Daily Observer, April 23, 1986

## Dramatic twist to Bishop trial: Defendant to turn state witness

P.1.  
April 23, 1986

ST. GEORGE'S, April 22, (CANA)

The way was paved today for one of the defendants in the Maurice Bishop murder trial to give evidence against the rest when Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron granted a conditional pardon to former soldier Fabius Gabriel.

The dramatic move came at the request of the six-member prosecution team headed by former Trinidad and Tobago Attorney-General Karl Hudson-Phillips.

Informed sources told CANA that Gabriel handed over a written statement to the prosecution last night promising to give evidence for the state against the other 18 defendants accused of murdering Prime Minister Bishop and 10 associates in an October 1983 coup.

Byron told Gabriel that the pardon would be withdrawn if he failed to give "full and true" evidence in accordance with a statement he signed.

Gabriel was due to leave prison today.

The Acting Chief Justice also agreed to a request from Hudson-Phillips for a postponement of his opening statement in the much-delayed trial until tomorrow.

The turn of events was mentioned at the onset of today's court sitting in which Gabriel and another co-defendant Raeburn Nelson were the only defendants present.

The other 17 are serving prison sentences ranging from 7 to 10 days for contempt of court following their unruly behaviour in court last week.

The others — including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and former army commander General Hudson Austin — are serving sentences for contempt of court after disrupting trial proceedings last week. They were later brought into court and told about Gabriel's decision.

A copy of the statement of Gabriel — which was not read in open court — would be forwarded to them.

As on previous occasions, the defendants refused to answer their names but stood silently in the docks observing the proceedings.

They were removed from court last week after chanting slogans and vowing not to co-operate until the trial takes place "constitutionally."

Defence lawyers abandoned the case last Tuesday on their client's instructions after Byron refused to stay proceedings pending an appeal of his ruling against their motion challenging the court's legality.

The defendants — all former army or government officials — claim that the court is illegal, having been set up by Bishop's leftists revolutionary Government after a March 1979 coup. The issue has delayed the trial, originally due to start in October 1984.

Legal sources said the prosecution is expected to call 27 witnesses, including former Agriculture Minister and close Bishop colleague George Louison. Bishop's former bodyguard, Cletus St. Paul, is also expected to give evidence.

The Daily Gleaner,

24, April, 1986

## Defendants disrupt Grenada trial again

ST. GEORGE'S, April 25, (CANA)

For the third straight day, the Maurice Bishop murder trial was disrupted by chanting defendants, 17 of whom were sentenced to two weeks in jail for contempt of court.

Only the 18th accused — Raeburn Nelson, a former soldier, — was present to hear the evidence of two witnesses, including the mother of slain former Education Minister, Jacqueline Creft.

The former military and government officials, charged with murdering Prime Minister Bishop, Creft, and nine associates in an October 1983 coup, spurned two offers from Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron to read the evidence to them.

They responded with continued

chanting, clapping and stamping of feet, before being led away for the second time today to Richmond Hill Prison where they have been held since 1983. Raeburn, as on the previous occasions, did not join the chants.

The defendants are unrepresented after instructing their lawyers to abandon the case last week when Acting Chief Justice Dennis Byron refused to stay proceedings in the case while the lawyers appealed the judge's rejection of a motion challenging the validity of the court.

Both Mrs. Lynn Creft and Pamela Bullen-Cherubin, whose father died during the coup, told the court about injuries and deaths resulting from the heavy hail of automatic gun fire

which ripped through a building at army headquarters at Fort Rupert in which Bishop and supporters had sought refuge after they had freed him from house arrest.

As with yesterday's witness, neither was cross-examined.

Creft said she saw one woman whom she identified as Avis Ferguson having her buttocks and intestines blown away by gun fire.

Bullen-Cherubin, a nurse, also reported seeing a school girl, Jemma Belmar, with a hole in her head inside the room as soldiers pounded the building for several minutes before the late Prime Minister surrendered.

Among those charged with mur-

der are former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, former army commander General Hudson Austin, former Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, and ex-embassy to Cuba Major Leon Cornwall.

Creft told the court that she witnessed her daughter being taken away at gun point by a soldier she identified only as 'Goat' when the two of them tried to leave the fort after it was taken over by soldiers loyal to Bishop's opponents in the People's Revolutionary Government.

"When we (Mrs. Creft and Jacqueline) were going down the gap (of the Fort), one of the officers pointed the gun at her and he said you Jackie Creft stand up there with

(Cont'd on Page 3)

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24 April, 1976

## Defendants disrupt trial...

(Cont'd from Page 1)

you hands up, and I just looked at her and she said mammy go on," she told the court.

The mother of the slain Education Minister said that was the last time she saw her daughter alive.

Bullen-Cherebin said she was part of the crowd chanting "B for Bishop, C for Coard, and C for communism" which went to rescue Bishop from his home and that the chant soon changed to "we find we leader" after he was released.

Bishop, along with Creft and some of his close confidants were driven in a car owned by a local businessman to Fort Rupert where he later met his death.

Both Bullen-Cherebin and Creft stated that as soon as the building at Fort Rupert came under fire its occupants were ordered by Bishop to lie flat to the ground.

The former said that during the seige the late Prime Minister asked one of the soldiers in the room for a gun but Bishop was told he could not fire from inside the building because there was no window and that everyone inside would get hurt.

She spoke about someone in the room shouting out "we surrender"

after the firing had ceased and that the reply from outside the building was that they should all come out with their hands in the air.

She said the women were carrying the injured school-girl and on reaching the verandah of the building there were three bodies that looked dead and in the yard trucks and cars were on fire.

Bullen-Charles also reported seeing the body of trade unionist Vincent Noel lying outside the building and armed soldiers in the yard.

She, however, said that before the firing started three soldiers, Lester Redhead, Cecil Prime, and Chris Stroude who were in the building had disappeared.

The three are among a group of eleven soldiers implicated in the slayings.

Bullen-Charles said that when she entered the building at Fort Rupert the late Prime Minister was trying to write something on a piece of paper but he had to hand it over to someone else since he looked nervous.

On her return to the nearby hospital, she reported seeing two more dead bodies and that several others with broken limbs were brought in for treatment.

UWI Librarian

## Bishop murder trial opens

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, April 23, Cana

Prosecutors today opened Grenada's biggest murder trial warning the 12-member jury it will hear about some of the most vicious executions to have occurred in the small Caribbean state.

In a near three-hour opening speech, chief prosecutor Karl Hudson-Phillip told jurors that the state would show that leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and some of his associates — who died in a 1983 palace coup — were executed at army headquarters, Fort Rupert, by a

squad of soldiers led by Lieutenant Callistus Bernard.

Hudson-Phillip said the six-member prosecution team would call more than 30 witnesses, the first to give evidence tomorrow.

The court, he said, would hear how Bishop was gunned down, then had his throat slashed to ensure he was dead, and also how a finger was cut off so a ring could be removed.

Among the key prosecution witnesses would be George Louison, the former Agriculture Minister in Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), Cletus St Paul, a former bodyguard to the late prime minister,

and soldier Fabian Gabriel who defected yesterday from the ranks of the defendants to become a state witness.

Ex-soldiers Beverley and Walter Charles would also appear for the prosecution to testify about the slaying, as well as others who saw Bishop and his colleagues being led away to their death, the chief prosecutor said.

The 18 former government and military officials are on trial for the slaying of Bishop and 10 others in the October 1983 coup.

The only defendant present dur-

(Cont'd on Page 3)

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The Daily Gleaner, April 24, 1980

# Bishop murder trial opens

(Cont'd from Page 1) ing the speech of Hudson-Phillips, a former Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago, was Raeburn Nelson, who handled one of the armoured cars ordered to recapture the Fort where Bishop had sought sanctuary.

The others, including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and former army commander General Hudson Austin, were removed from the court after disturbing the proceedings with loud chanting, clapping of hands and stamping of feet for nearly five minutes.

They chanted: "Why are you afraid of a fair trial?", "Why are you afraid of a constitutional court?", "Why are you afraid of a public trial?", "This court is a Yankee court", "This court is unconstitutional", and

"We want we documents now."

The defendants are unrepresented following their decision nearly two weeks ago to ask the all-Jamaica team of defense lawyers representing them to withdraw from the proceedings.

Their action followed a ruling from acting Chief Justice Denis Byron not to grant a stay in the proceedings until the Appeal Court meets next month to determine a constitutional motion.

At today sitting, Byron decided against citing the defendants who are nearing the end of prison sentences ranging from seven to 10 days for contempt of court following their unruly behaviour in court last week.

Hudson-Phillip told jurors the prosecution would present a case

showing that a number of top level meetings of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) leadership prior to the army massacre were held in order to "neutralize, isolate and eventually liquidate" the late Prime Minister.

He stated that the prosecution intended to show that the execution of Bishop and his close associates was not a "hot headed decision" but what he referred to as the culmination of an action plan.

He said the prosecution would reveal that the executions were carried out on the orders of the central committee of the NJM which convened a meeting at Fort Frederick shortly after the late prime Minister Was freed by supporters from under house arrest at his official residence.

Before the execution

took place, Hudson-Phillip said, the scene at Fort Frederick was one in which central committee members were preparing for battle with shouts of "long live the central committee" and with soldiers responding with "we obey, we obey" in reference to orders from the central committee.

He spoke of those soldiers selected to recapture the Fort at which Bishop and the others had sought refuge being given "machines of war" to go on a mission of "carnage and death" with their commanders ordering them to open fire with the armoured cars through the defenseless crowd.

The chief prosecutor indicated that one of the key prosecution witnesses would tell the court that Bishop and the others were lined up against a wall on the "top square" of Fort Rupert and shot by a firing squad led by soldiers Andy Mitchell, Cosmos Richardson, and Vincent Joseph.

He also said that this witness would testify that one of the accused

slashed the throat of Bishop to ensure that he was dead and chopped off one of his fingers in order to remove a ring.

In addition, he said the prosecution would use another witness from the fire station who reported seeing as many as 60 bodies lying on the ground when a fire truck arrived on the scene for a clean-up.

According to Hudson-Phillips there is evidence to show that the execution took place despite pleas from former Education Minister Jacqueline Creft that she was pregnant.

He said there was also evidence that Bishop showed bravery by facing the firing squad rather than the wall.

The prosecutor also told jurors that they would have to consider the fact that while this was going on there were shouts of "long live the revolution" and "long live the central committee" from Fort Frederick and then a flare was sent up from Fort Rupert to which ex-army chief General Hudson Austin shouted "mission accomplished".

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# One-legged girl tells court of army slaying of Bishop supporters

ST. GEORGE'S, April 30, (CANA)

An 18-year-old Grenadian student who lost her left leg during a bloody 1983 coup here today told the High Court about her ordeal and the army slaying of people who supported leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Ann Neptune was one of two prosecution witnesses giving evidence in the long-delayed trial of 18 former army and Government officials charged with murdering Bishop and some members of his Cabinet during the palace coup.

Neptune hobbled into court on crutches to take the witness stand after former People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) nurse Merlin Rulow had told the court about seeing Bishop, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Housing Minister Norris Bain, and trade unionist Fitzroy Bain lying on the ground at Fort Rupert looking dead.

The 18 defendants, who are unrepresented by lawyers, again refused to question witnesses on the grounds that they would not co-operate with the court which they regard as "unconstitutional".

Both witnesses testified in the absence of the defendants with the exception ex-soldier Raeburn Nelson after the Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron ordered their removal from court for disrupting the proceedings.

Among those on trial are ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and former army commander General Hudson Austin.

Neptune told the court that before she was shot by soldiers who came to storm the Fort she had been part of the crowd which went to Bishop's official residence and freed him from house arrest.

She said the crowd was singing "We want our leader", "No school without our leader", and "no work without our leader" and that the chant changed to "we find our leader" after Bishop was freed.

Neptune stated that she was shot near the entrance to Fort Rupert. It happened while she was trying to elude approaching armoured cars which stormed Fort Rupert, where Bishop and his colleagues had taken refuge.

"I saw the armoured cars coming up towards the Fort and heard gun

shots coming from the direction of the armoured cars. I started to run towards a building not far from behind me but I fell. Before I fell my left leg was paining," she told the court.

"While I was on the ground and couldn't move many people were running all about and a boy came and pulled me away to the corner of the building," she added.

Relating her encounter from a seat in the witnesses box, Neptune said that the same boy was able to get the help of others to take her to the nearby hospital where she lost her left leg during a five month stay.

Rulow told the court about how trade union leader Bain pleaded for his life but to no avail after he was captured by soldiers who stormed the Fort.

She said that Bain, wearing only trousers, stood with his hands in the air surrounded by armed soldiers wearing helmets.

They were near a building where she and others sought shelter during the siege.

Rulow stated that after the firing had ceased she saw Bishop, Whiteman, Creft and the two Bains being led up a stair on the Fort with their hands in the air by an armed soldier, Callistus "Abdullah" Bernard.

Bernard is among 11 soldiers on trial.

Later as she moved towards the building known as the command post, the ex-PRA member said, she saw one soldier standing around some bodies on the ground which she recognized as those persons who were led up the steps by Bernard.

Rulow also said that she saw trade unionist Vincent Noel lying on the ground in the yard with blood streaming from holes in his trousers.

She said that Noel spoke to her and she brought him some water in a Coca Cola bottle which was also used by the defendant Nelson who was around but could not hear the conversation which she had with the slain trade unionist.

Rulow, who said she was sympathetic with "the masses" responsible for freeing the late Prime Minister from house arrest, told the court the crowd which had assembled on Fort Rupert seemed to be happy prior to the attack by soldiers.

The trial resumes on Friday after tomorrow's Labour Day holiday.

The Daily Observer

Sat May 3, 1986

# Despite pleas, Bishop and others were lined up and shot, court told

ST. GEORGE'S, May 2 (Cana) Leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and close associates were lined up against a wall and shot dead by three soldiers during an October 1983 palace coup, the Grenada High Court was told today.

Prosecution witness Walter Charles, a former soldier, said that Bishop was shot by Lieutenant Callistus 'Iman' Abdullah Bernard while the others were sprayed with bullets fired by Cosmos Richardson and Vincent Joseph.

He said the shooting took place despite pleas from Education Minister Jacqueline Creft,

the mother of an eight-year old son fathered by Bishop, that she was pregnant.

Bernard, Richardson, and Joseph are on trial along with ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis and former army commander Hudson Austin and 13 others for the slaying of Bishop, Creft and nine colleagues at army headquarters, Fort Rupert.

Only defendant Raeburn Nelson was present to hear Charles' evidence. The other 17 were ordered out of court again by Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron for disrupting proceedings with their loud chanting and clapping of hands.

The defendants who are unrepresented by lawyers have pledged not to co-operate with the proceedings which they say is taking place in an "unconstitutional court," set up by Bishop's Revolutionary Government.

Charles who is the first witness to describe the slayings said that the late Prime Minister, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, trade unionist Fitzroy Bain and others he could not identify were lined up against a wall on the 'top square' of the Fort and shot to death.

He told the court about seeing the late Prime Minister and

his colleagues being led up to the 'top square' by armed soldiers after the Fort was over-run by armoured cars.

He said that Bishop was standing about four to five feet in front of his other colleagues before Bernard gave the command to both Richardson and Joseph to start the execution.

Charles said that Bernard shot Bishop in the head and after he fell to the ground and started to roll the gunman "concentrated fire on him."

"Jacqueline Creft turn and say: 'Comrades, I am a pregnant woman' and Richardson turn and say 'It ain't have no f---preg-

nant woman at this time'," Charles said.

He said that both Richardson and Joseph were in a lying position using machine-guns perched on a wall over-looking the top square as they fired bullets into the bodies of those in the line.

Bishop and supporters had sought refuge at the Fort after he and Creft were freed earlier in the day from house arrest.

Within minutes of the shootings, he said he went down to the 'bottom square' where he saw about four dead bodies lying on the ground including that of a minister whose name he could not remember.

Prior to the executions, Charles spoke of seeing Major Chris Stroude — one of the defendants — with a pistol on his side leading Bishop and the others to the top square with Bernard carrying a sub-machine gun followed by two other armed soldiers.

He said that Stroude had assembled soldiers on the Fort in the 'mess hall' before the executions and told them that "the reason why they have to pass out them kind of elements is because they came to take the arms from the soldiers to defeat the soldiers."

Charles told the court that he (Continued on Page 3)

Sat. May 3, 1986

## How Bishop died

(Continued from Page 1)

saw Bishop arrive at Fort Rupert with supporters.

He said the late Prime Minister, several government ministers, and others were inside the 'ops room' of a building when the Fort was stormed by soldiers using armoured cars.

The witness quoted Bishop as telling soldiers on his arrival not to use their arms against the masses.

Charles said that one of the Bains who was later executed told soldiers to put down their arms and join with the masses because "we didn't come for bloodshed."

He also quoted Lieutenant Cecil Prime, another of the defendants as shouting "long live communism" to Bishop after the late Prime Minister asked him in the 'ops room' whether he really wanted socialism.

Shortly after this he said two BTRGSs (armoured cars) came towards the direction of the Fort and a command was given by a soldier he named as Connie Mayers to concentrate fire on the Fort.

Mayers was among a group of soldiers named by Austin later in the night as having died in the military action.

Charles spoke of seeing several

ing to run when the armoured cars opened fire and that others jumped over a wall which led to a precipice.

Charles also told the court that after the executions he saw former army Chief of Staff Major Einstein Louison, a pro-Bishop supporter, jump off a high wall from the Fort with two guns in his hands as he was pursued by another soldier.

The star witness stated that he also saw a piece of wrist and part of the lower hand of a human near to the 'bottom square' of the Fort after the assault by soldiers.

On his way down the Fort, Charles said he was attracted by someone "bawling" only to discover that it was a girl who was shot on her foot and he took her to the nearby hospital.

Charles said he left Fort Rupert the day of the executions without permission but was taken back by soldiers to the army headquarters where he met with Lieutenant Bernard.

"He (Bernard) told me how I could leave the compound in this kind of a situation, and I told him Maurice Bishop dead so what am I doing on the compound," he said.

Charles is due to return on the witness stand on Monday when the

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the

P. 5

May 16, 1986

## Coard wants Byron disqualified from Grenada trial

ST. GEORGE'S, May 14, (CANA)

Ex-Grenada Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard Coard, today told Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron he should be disqualified from the high court's hearing of murder charges against 18 former military and political figures.

Coard, one of those accused of killing leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others during a 1983 palace coup, made a near two-hour presentation, during which he accused the Kittian-born Byron of bias against the defendants.

Three Cabinet Ministers and seven other associates of the late Prime Minister were killed during the coup, sparked off by a leadership feud in the marxist-oriented New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Coard's address to the court focused on charges the defendants have made, ranging from violation of their rights in prison to removal from the island of documents they said are critical to their defence.

Today the prosecution was able to call only one witness, Barbadian police Sergeant Colin Brawaithe, who completed evidence he started giving yesterday.

Brawaithe's evidence related to pictures taken at Fort Rupert where Bishop and the others were executed and at an army installation in the south of the island where the bodies were allegedly burnt.

Coard referred to what he said were several incidents in court which any "fair minded observer" would agree showed Byron was biased.

He said the Acting Chief Justice was creating history by allowing the trial to continue while the Court of Appeal was meeting at the same time to consider a constitutional motion relevant to the case.

"You are making world-wide history. Do not be an object of history but be a maker of history", he said to Byron.

Coard also took issue with Byron over the threat to cite the all-Jamaica team of defence lawyers — who pulled out of the case a month ago — with contempt of court.

The lawyers withdrew after being denied a stay in the proceedings until the Court of Appeal met to decide the motion

which sought to refer to the Eastern Caribbean supreme court the question of whether the rights of the defendants would be violated by a trial in the court here.

Coard also complained that Byron was allowing defendants to be brought into court handcuffed and their names to be called in front of witnesses who are later called upon to identify them.

"I submit that your Lorship has not shown any concern with respect to the fundamental requirements of the accused in a murder case especially in the context where matters have been raised every single day for the past four weeks in this court and nothing has been done", he said.

Coard also complained that Byron had made a ruling a few weeks ago for the trial to proceed after some of the defendants had made reports about being beaten. He said the ruling was made even without there being medical reports to ascertain the seriousness of the injuries.

Coard said this was allowed to happen even when it was clear that former Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan could be seen quite visible in court with a swelling under his eye as a result of the beatings.

"That is proof of bias", he said, "but you tell the Court march on and call the next witness."

The prosecution has already called 19 witnesses to give evidence.

Coard also accused Byron of committing a grave error in allowing the jury selection process to take place in the absence of most of the defendants.

"You must not confuse justice with injustice, and you must not confuse smoothness with fairness," the burly ex-Deputy Prime Minister told Byron.

When asked by Byron whether he would like him to investigate the allegations being made from the docks in camera, Coard said this was being done "fatally late" and that the only thing which could be done now was for Byron to disqualify himself from the proceedings.

Coard's presentation in court was witnessed by an official of the London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International who is here to observe the trial.

May 16, 1986

## ...Case adjourned until Tuesday

ST. GEORGE'S, May 15, (CANA)

Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron today adjourned the Maurice Bishop murder trial until Tuesday at the request of state lawyers.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions Velma Hylton told a brief high court sitting that the prosecution team was depleted as a result of the engagement of other senior counsel in an appeal court case.

She was referring to prosecution leader Karl Hudson-Phillip, and barrister Doodnauth Singh who are arguing against a constitutional rights motion brought by the 18 trial defendants.

"There are only three of us here and two other senior counsel are not here, and because of what we propose to do in calling seven police officers to give evidence, I think I need to have their assistance, and I am craving leave for an adjournment until Tuesday morning," Hylton told the court.

The police officers are expected to give evidence about statements made by several of the former army and government officials charged with the October 1983 murder of Bishop, Prime Minister Of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

They are also charged for the murder of 10 others including Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Housing Minister Norris Bain, and trade unionists Vincent Noel and Fitzroy Bain.

Prior to the adjournment of the case, Byron removed jurors from the court to consider whether to accept a statement taken by a Barbadian police officer from one of the defendants, ex-soldier Vincent Joseph.

Shortly afterwards, Byron called back the jurors inside the court and told them that his investigations in their absence had not concluded and that he was adjourning the trial until Tuesday because of Monday's public holiday.

Joseph disrupted the proceedings on at least six occasions with loud chanting and clapping of hands whenever the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions rose on her feet to solicit evidence from the policeman.

The other defendants with the exception of another former soldier Raeburn Nelson had to be taken out of the court for engaging in similar disruptive behaviour.

P. 8.

*The Daily Gleaner, May 17, 1986*

## Appeal judge disagrees with Ramsay

GEORGE'S, Grenada, May 16, 1986

The president of Grenada's Court of Appeal, J.O.F. Haynes says the local Supreme Court is set out to perform all the functions of a constitutional court.

Haynes made the comment as the appeal court continued hearing yesterday on a constitutional rights motion brought by the 18 leftists charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a 1983 case.

He told lawyer Ian Ramsay that he disagreed with the defence contention that there are two courts functioning in Grenada and that one had greater jurisdiction than the other.

Haynes was responding to Ramsay's interpretation of an appeals court ruling in 1984 in which it said the local Supreme Court, set up by

Bishop's revolutionary government in 1979 to replace the court system which Grenada shared with its neighbours, owed its existence on the doctrine of necessity.

"I did not intend to say there are two courts, one with jurisdiction to hear civil and criminal matters and one to hear constitutional matters. There is no separate court. What you have is one supreme court," he said.

In arguments before the high court last month, Ramsay said that the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Supreme Court was the constitutional court in Grenada and that it conflicted with the court set up by the revolutionary leaders.

Ramsay contended then that the local court was unconstitutional.

The Appeal Court President said that Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron was right in refusing to refer the motion to the OECS court since he had constitutional jurisdiction to

deal with the matter.

Byron struck out as an abuse of the process of the court the request for him to refer to the OECS court the question of whether the constitutional rights of the murder accused would not be violated in a trial by the local court.

"Since nothing was referred to him, there was nothing for him to decide because you were asking him to refer for a decision by another court," Appeal Court Judge Dr Nicholas Liverpool told Ramsay.

Haynes in setting the record straight told the defence that although the OECS court is functioning it is not operating in Grenada.

He indicated that the defence would be better advised to focus their arguments on whether there is any jurisdiction for Byron to refer from the local High Court to the OECS high court, as well as whether

there is any provision for Byron to refer anything to a judge in another court, and where is the jurisdiction to do that when the court is not functioning.

Haynes said that the Appeal Court judges in handing down their ruling in the 1984 case which stemmed from another motion brought by the defendants "did not say what jurisdiction it (the local court) had or did not have."

"This present court is set out to perform all the functions set out under the constitutional court. If it does not mean that then what would happen to all the people's rights. This present court is exercising the functions which the OECS court would have been performing," he remarked.

Haynes said that the only thing the Appeal Court judges could tell the Acting Chief Justice is that he

(Cont'd on Page 3)

UWI Library

The Daily Gleaner,

May 17, 1986

# Appeal judge...

(Cont'd from Page 1)

was wrong "to strike out" from the motion the request to refer the question raised.

Guyanese barrister Clarence Hughes, who is appearing with Ramsay, suggested that the Appeal Court urge the legislature to set a definite time frame in which the "period of necessity" would cease and the court system regularised.

Like Ramsay, Hughes also called on the court to take the historic step since the eyes of the world is now on Grenada and bring about "judicial creativity" in helping to resolve the position of the court system here.

Arguments were continuing today.

UWI Libraries

The Daily Observer, May 18, 1986

P.1.

# Ramsay challenges charges

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May 18, 1986

St. GEORGE'S,  
May 17, (CANAL)

Ian Ramsay, Jamaican defence attorney in the controversial Maurice Bishop murder trial, who has been charged with contempt of court, has challenged the right of the Director of Public Prosecutions, (DPP) Velma Hylton, to lay those charges.

But hearing of the motion has been set down for next Thursday.

In her motion filed May 14, the DPP asks that Ramsay "do stand committed to Richmond Hill prison for his several contempts", which she contended include referring to the murder trial as a "supposed trial", a "so-called trial", and a "travesty of justice".

Ramsay is charged also with writing to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize saying, "the reasons for holding the trial in secret are clearly to prevent first hand observation of illegal atrocities which are now occurring by the manipulation of a tame and accommodating press to muffle and stifle the cries for redress and constitutional rights, so that a corrupt verdict might be accepted in silence by an ignorant world."

In a notice of motion to strike out the DPP's notice for committal, Ramsay says Hylton has "no standing in a motion for committal and is acting *ultra vires* her constitution powers ....."

He says also that the leave of the High Court was not applied for before the DPP's motion was filed and that he was not given a requisite eight clear days notice for the hearing.

Among other objections, Ramsay says, Hylton's motion does not disclose sufficient grounds for committal, the High Court has no jurisdiction in the matter and the High Court is unconstitutional.

UWI Press

May 21, 1986

## Grenada 18 win short adjournment

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, May 20, Cana

Defendants today secured an adjournment of the Maurice Bishop murder trial to discuss a weekend setback in their attempts to force the case to another court.

"I would grant the adjournment that you are requesting until Thursday morning," Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron told former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard who made the request on behalf of the 18 former government and army officials accused of murdering Bishop, the Prime Minister of the ill-fated People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and 10 associates in a coup in October 1983.

Coard told the court that he and the other defendants needed to discuss what action to take following the ruling of the appeal court which

was handed down on Saturday had just been communicated to them by one of their lawyers.

"We now wish to discuss the matter and decide what instructions to give (to our counsel)," he said.

The appeal court turned down the defence application to refer to the Eastern Caribbean Court the question of whether the constitutional rights of the accused would be violated by trial in the local supreme court.

Coard and 16 of the other defendants have denounced the local court system—set up by the PRG to replace the Eastern Caribbean Court—as unconstitutional and have frequently disrupted proceedings with supporting chants. Today they were ordered out of court again for handclapping and chanting.

Several of the defendants also hurled abuse at Barbadian policeman

Decourcey Holder who was on the witness stand giving evidence about a statement made by Vincent Joseph, one of the ex-soldiers accused of being part of the squad which executed Bishop and his colleagues.

Ex-junior minister for womens affairs Phyllis Coard, wife of Bernard Coard, labelled holder as a "so-called witness" who helped other police officers to "drag" her from the Richmond Hill prisons in early 1984 for interrogation in connection with the slaying.

Trade unionist John Ventour called Holder a "torturer and illegal immigrant".

The Barbadian police officer denied the accusations.

Informed legal sources told cana that there is a strong possibility of the defendants requesting their lawyers to re-enter the trial from which they pulled out just over a month

ago after Byron refused to grant a stay in the proceedings pending the outcome of the appeal case.

The sources said that if the defence counsel returned then all the witnesses who have already given evidence would have to be brought back for cross examination.

The prosecution have called 20 witnesses to date.

During the recess for lunch Jamaican barrister Delano Harrison who represented the defendants in the motion before the appeal court was given permission by the Acting Chief Justice to communicate its outcome to the accused.

Harrison was also a member of the all-Jamaica team of defence lawyers in the trial.

Prior to the recess for lunch, the defendants had to be ordered out of

(Cont'd on Page 3)

UWI Librarian

May 21, 1986

## Grenada case adjourned

(Cont'd from Page 1)

court for disrupting the proceedings with loud chanting and clapping of hand.

The chants focused on calls for the trial to be "free and fair" and to be held in public unlike previous occasions when their chants centered on the alleged unconstitutionality and illegality of the court to facilitate the case.

Former soldier Ewart Layne challenged the Acting Chief Justice to subpoena Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and several others in connec-

tion with an inquiry carried out several months ago into alleged torture in order to prove the truth of the charges levelled by the defendants.

Layne also told Byron that those who would have to be subpoenaed include several Jamaican soldiers who served in Grenada with the Caribbean peace-keeping force. The diary of the prisons which would indicate the precise length of time the defendants were taken away for interrogations, and the report submitted by the prison doctor would also be required.

UWI Libraries

The Daily Gleaner, 28 May, 1986

# Bishop trial halted so lawyer can meet defendants

May 28, 1986  
P. 3

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, May 27, Cana

The Maurice Bishop murder trial in Grenada was adjourned early today to facilitate a meeting between Guyanese lawyer Clarence Hughes and 16 of the 18 defendants.

Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron granted the adjournment in keeping with a court order he made last week following an application by the defendants after the Court of Appeal ruled against them in a constitutional rights motion.

The Court of Appeal ruled that Byron was right in refusing to grant their request for him to refer to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Supreme Court the question of whether their rights would not be violated by a trial in the Grenada High Court.

The 18 are accused of the murder of Bishop, the Prime Minister of the ill-fated People's Revolutionary Gov-

ernment (PRG) and 10 associates in a 1983 palace coup.

Hughes along with Jamaican barristers Delano Harrison and Jacqueline Samuels-Brown represented all the defendants with the exception of ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife Phyllis during the motion before the Court of Appeal.

Coard and his wife were represented by Jamaican barristers Ian Eamsay, Enos Grant, Maurice Tenn, and Carlton Williams.

Ramsay had previously headed a team of all-Jamaican lawyers who represented the 18 in the trial which is well into its second month.

After the Court of Appeal ruling, the defendants said they needed to see their lawyers in order to find out the legal options open to them.

Since none of the defence lawyers who took part in the motion before the Court of Appeal reside here, Byron had to despatch telegrams to them.

Informed sources told Cana that Tenn was due to arrive here today to join in the discussions with the defendants on behalf of Ramsay.

The defendants are unrepresented in the trial. They say the court hearing the case is unconstitutional.

Hughes, was however present in court witnessing the proceedings.

Before the adjournment was taken, the prosecution was taking evidence from Barbadian police Sergeant Ashford Jones who was involved in the questioning of several of the defendants shortly after U.S. and Caribbean troops invaded the island to topple the leftist junta that had ousted Bishop.

Jones showed the court several photographs which were taken by another Barbadian police officer Colin Brawaithe at Fort Rupert where Bishop was executed and at Camp Calivigny where his remains were burnt and buried in a grave.

The Barbadian police officer said one of the photographs would show the spot where Bishop and his colleagues were lined up against a wall on the "top square" of Fort Rupert and gunned down by firing squad.

Jones stated that the distance was pointed out to him by Lieutenant

Callistus "Iman Abdullah" Bernard, one of the murder accused.

Another of the pictures, he said, was taken after former murder accused now star prosecution witness Fabian Gabriel in the presence of Bernard had pointed out the hole where the bodies were destroyed.

"Fabian Gabriel said this is where Abdullah poured gasolene on comrade Maurice Bishop and the others and burned and buried them. Callistus Bernard then said it was the orders of the central committee (of Bishop's party) that they must die," Jones told the court.

"I saw in that said grave burnt materials, a lot of flies and a stench coming from that grave," he added.

At the time of the adjournment, Jones was about to give evidence for the prosecution on a statement he said he took from Captain Lester Redhead, one of the soldiers implicated in the slaying.

However, the court has agreed to a prosecution request for Jones to be excused from giving evidence tomorrow since he had to fly back home for Barbados's general election tomorrow.

Informed legal sources told Cana that the prosecution intends to put Cletus St Paul, the body-guard to the late Prime Minister, on the witness stand tomorrow.

The Daily St. George's

May 24, 1986

# Charge against Ramsay deferred

986/128 Pro W. P. 1.

ST. GEORGE'S, May 23, (CANA)

The contempt of court charge against Jamaican barrister Ian Ramsay has been deferred for two months.

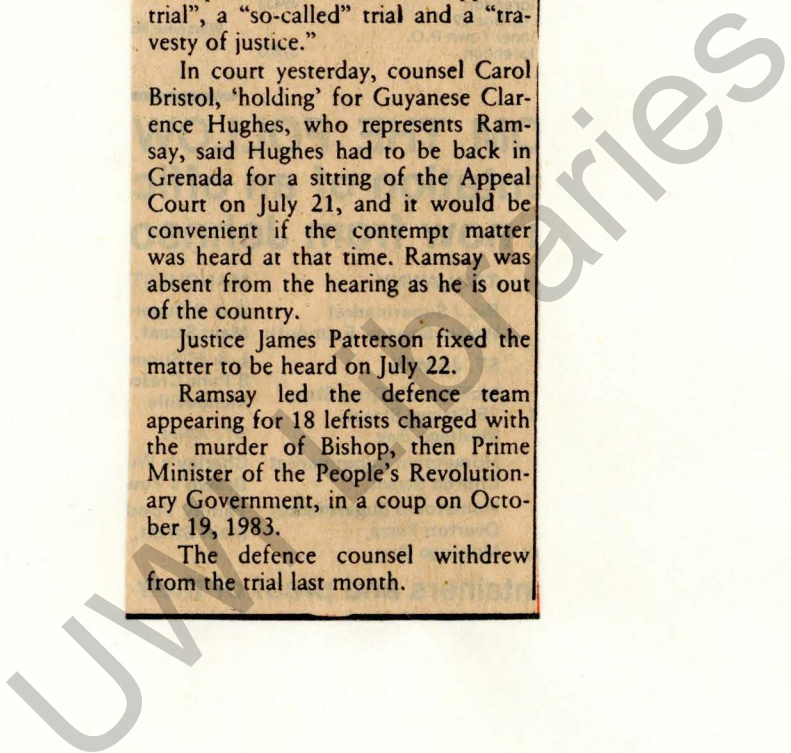
A motion filed by Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Velma Hylton, asks that Ramsay be jailed for "contempt" including allegations that he referred to the Maurice Bishop murder trial as a "supposed trial", a "so-called" trial and a "travesty of justice."

In court yesterday, counsel Carol Bristol, 'holding' for Guyanese Clarence Hughes, who represents Ramsay, said Hughes had to be back in Grenada for a sitting of the Appeal Court on July 21, and it would be convenient if the contempt matter was heard at that time. Ramsay was absent from the hearing as he is out of the country.

Justice James Patterson fixed the matter to be heard on July 22.

Ramsay led the defence team appearing for 18 leftists charged with the murder of Bishop, then Prime Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government, in a coup on October 19, 1983.

The defence counsel withdrew from the trial last month.



KINGSTON, JAMAICA, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1986

## Crown witness implicated in Grenada killings

ST. GEORGE'S, May 23, (CANA)

The star prosecution witness in the Maurice Bishop murder trial was today implicated in killings at army headquarters, scene of a bloody military coup in October 1983.

The charge was contained in a statement read out in the High Court by Barbados police Sergeant Ronald Bowen.

Bowen said he took the statement from ex-soldier Vincent Joseph shortly after U.S. and Caribbean troops stormed Grenada to topple the junta that had seized power from leftist Prime Minister Bishop.

The declaration claimed that for-

mer murder accused turned crown evidence, Fabian Gabriel, and fellow soldiers Cosmos Richardson and Andy Mitchell finished off those persons who apparently survived the first hail of bullets from the firing squad on the orders of Lieutenant Callistus "Iman Abdullah" Bernard.

Richardson, Mitchell, Bernard and 15 other former government and army officials are charged with murdering Bishop and 10 associates at Fort Rupert.

Among those killed were Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Housing Minister Norris Bain, and small business proprietors Evelyn

Maitland, Evelyn Bullen, and Keith Hayling.

Joseph said that Gabriel came onto the "top square" of Fort Rupert where the execution took place after he and other soldiers had fired on Bishop and his colleagues who were lined up against a wall on the orders of Bernard.

He said that Gabriel along with Richardson and Mitchell sprayed the bodies of the late Prime Minister and his colleagues who lay on the ground with bullets.

The Barbadian police officer told the court that during the interrogation of Joseph the ex-soldier said that he was only doing what he was ordered to do in firing on Bishop

and the others.

Joseph was on one of three armoured cars which stormed the Fort where Bishop had sought refuge after supporters had freed him from house arrest. He admitted to firing shots into the building occupied by Bishop and his colleagues at the Fort.

"I heard another soldier say that the Prime Minister was in the building and I stopped firing my gun," Joseph said.

The ex-soldier also made reference in the statement to a conversation he heard between slain trade unionist Fitzroy Bain and Major Chris Stroude, one of the murder accused.

"I hear Fitzroy Bain asked Stroude to save his life and Stroude told him that he could not do so," he said.

Joseph reported seeing Bishop and several others with hands raised over their heads being led by Bernard, Richardson and Mitchell to the "top square" of Fort Rupert where the execution took place.

The ex-soldier stressed in the statement that Bernard told the late Prime Minister and his colleagues to take off their shirt and face the wall.

"I saw sister Creft looked back at Abdullah (Bernard) and said something to him. I did not hear what it was but comrade Bishop

said something to her and she looked back towards the wall again. Abdullah left and came back shortly afterwards with a machine gun," he said.

"He (Bernard) told comrade Bishop and the others in the line to face him and they did. He told them something which I did not hear very well, but he was saying something about the Central Committee and that they was to be executed. He then tell them to face the wall again and they faced the wall again," he added.

Joseph indicated that Abdullah ordered him and another soldier  
(Cont'd on Page 3)

## Crown witness implicated...

(Cont'd from Page 1)

P.C. Noel who is believed to have died in the invasion to cock their weapons and prepare to fire on the late Prime Minister.

"I had obeyed the order to cock my weapon, and I hear Abdallah said fire. I aimed my fire at the line of people in which comrade Bishop stood and fire. The people in the line in which comrade Bishop stood fell to the ground. Blood was running all about there. After about four to five minutes, Abdallah shouted cease fire. I stopped firing," he said.

Earlier, Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron ruled against a submission by Lieutenant-Colonel Ewart Layne that he was not in a position to defend himself in the proceedings unless he saw his lawyers to secure his rights under the constitution.

Layne also told Byron that he did not wish to have lawyers represent him in the trial.

Defence counsel withdrew from the case on April 15 after the High Court refused to grant a stay in proceedings to await the outcome of an appeal on a related motion. The appeal was subsequently rejected.

"I say that this court would not be made a poppy show. The trial would not be adjourned," the Kiltian-born Byron said in response to Layne's request.

Former army commander Hudson Austin, along with ex-Junior Ministers Liam James and Dave Barthlomew, Stroude, and trade unionist John Ventour also adopted the position outlined by Layne.

In a ruling handed down yesterday, Byron said he was against bringing a halt to the trial but agreed to send out telegrams to the lawyers who represented the defendants in the constitutional rights motion before the Court of Appeal to make themselves available since their clients wanted to see them.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions Velma Hylton called on Byron to stand firm, saying the defendants had apparently taken a deliberate decision to do without counsel.

## Defendant gives his version of slayings at Bishop murder trial

ST. GEORGE'S, July 17 (AP)

Calistus Bernard, a former army officer on trial here for the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and 10 others, blamed the rage of soldiers on a "legal mission" to restore order at Fort Rupert for the Oct. 19, 1983, slayings.

Bernard, who began his unsworn testimony from the dock Wednesday and continued today for more than three hours, told the jury he wanted to "destroy the false version established by the United States forces and put in its place the facts of what happened on 19th October, 1983."

Bernard said that after Bishop had been freed from house arrest by the crowd, he (Bernard) went to Fort Frederick and was told that the headquarters of the People's Revolutionary Army at Fort Rupert had been "overrun" by civilians who took over the operations room.

"This is the nerve centre of the army," he said. "All security plans and documents are kept there. If the enemy controls there, you are defeated without a shot being fired."

Bernard said officer cadet Conrad Mayers told him he had orders from Lt. Col. Ewart Layne, another of the accused, to restore order at Fort Rupert, get the civilians out, assess the damage and organize the defence of headquarters.

He said they decided to use three armored cars, and left Fort Frederick on "a legal and lawful mission."

On their arrival at the junction of the main road and the entrance to the Fort, the convoy was "ambushed" and a soldier was killed, he said.

"Bullets were flying over my

head," Bernard said. "Automatic rifle fire was coming from the direction of the Fort, but I could not tell where it was coming from and I instructed the soldiers to keep low."

He said his objective was to reach the upper part of the Fort, but the soldiers were "bogged down" for two or three minutes by the "hundreds of people streaming from the Fort as a result of the battle ensuing from the ambush."

He said some people jumped off the Fort walls, some were injured and some killed.

Bernard said that when he arrived at the lower parade square, he saw a soldier wounded in the chest, another wounded in the leg and Mayers with blood streaming from two holes in his groin.

"There was Mayers on the ground," he said. "A dear friend, a brother-in-arms, a comrade, the very best of our field commanders and well loved by all."

A soldier, "trembling like a leaf," pulled the pin from a hand grenade and was about to throw it at the main building, Bernard said, but he took the grenade from him and threw it over a wall.

"It was in the context of how they were feeling that these soldiers, who were sent there to restore order, held a number of persons prisoner," he said. "It was in this atmosphere of anger and rage, chaos and confusion that a number of people died at Fort Rupert on 19th October 1983."

He recalled that the army did not fire on the crowds that demonstrated in the capital that day and the day before, nor when the crowds freed Bishop from house arrest.

"But when people take over a

military objective it is a different matter," he said. "The action of the army in restoring order to our military installation was a defensive one."

He said he had searched his conscience, without success, to see if there was anything he could have done to avert what happened at Fort Rupert that day.

"Even if I die, I will die with my boots on as a soldier and my boots will be a symbol to the youths of the path I have trod," Bernard said. "It is a hard path but it is one of heroism."

Cosmos Richardson, another of the accused, also addressed the jury briefly today and declared himself innocent of the charges against him.

He was followed by Lester Redhead, another accused former army officer, who spoke for about 30 minutes before the court was adjourned, and was to continue of Friday.

## Hudson Austin denies involvement in Bishop's murder

ST. GEORGE'S, Aug. 7, (CANA)

Former Commander of the People's Revolutionary Army in Grenada, Hudson Austin today denied any involvement in the 1983 killing of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and 10 associates at Fort Rupert.

In a near six-hour address before Acting Chief Justice Denis Byron, he said that he was put on trial mainly for his role in helping to bring about a revolution on the small East Caribbean island.

Austin spoke of being hurt and saddened by the decision of the state to charge him with the murder of persons who not only were some of his closest friends over the years but close relatives.

He stated that he was at home

on 21 days sick leave when a soldier brought a message informing him about the tragic and sad events at the Fort and requesting his presence at Fort Frederick for a meeting.

He said that on his arrival there Lieutenant-Colonel Ewart Layne indicated to him that Fort Rupert was over-run by civilians and that when he despatched troops to recapture the military installation the Prime Minister and his colleagues were killed in cross fire.

Austin said that until then he was still hopeful of having a meeting later in the day with the late Prime Minister in order to resolve the political conflict which arose over the question of joint leadership in the then ruling Marxist New

Jewel Movement (NJM).

Austin felt that sociologists would find difficulty in trying to understand how he could be put on trial for killing persons whose lives he saved during political conflict here in 1973.

The ex-army chief was the seventh of the 18 defendants putting forward his defence in the three-month old trial.

He described the late Prime Minister as someone he knew as a schoolboy and said that both of them used to play lawn tennis together.

He said that his own father used to work with Bishop's father and that slain trade unionist Vincent Noel was a "comrade" in the strug-

gle while small businessman Cecil Bullen was the person who used to repair his car.

Austin indicated that one of the slain persons, Avis Ferguson, was actually a close relative, and that insurance executive Keith Hayling was someone who used to sleep at his home, and the only person who knew where to bring meals for him when he had to go underground in order to avoid persecution from the administration of Eric Gairy.

He rejected the case being put forward by the prosecution that it was the NJM Central Committee of which he was a member which took the decision to send soldiers to storm Fort Rupert where Bishop sought refuge after supporters freed

him from house arrest.

Austin said that military orders during the 1979-83 Grenada revolution were given either from the island's security and defence committee or through standing orders from himself as Commander of the armed forces.

The accused was also critical of Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon who invited the U.S. to topple the leftist junta that had seized power in the coup against Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government.

He said that during talks he had with Sir Paul a few days after the army massacre both of them reached agreement on the names of some persons who would be invited to form a new civilian government

and on the need to invite the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to set up a commission of inquiry into the October 1983 events.

He recalled that on Sir Paul's advice he agreed to meet with the vice-chancellor of the American Offshore Medical School on the island, Dr. Geoffrey Bourne in order to get him to assure Washington that there was no threat to the lives of those American students and residents on the island.

"The Governor-General never informed me that he was planning to call on the United States to invade Grenada," he added.

Austin said that those who led  
(Continued on Page 25)

## Austin denies hand in Bishop's murder

(Continued from Page 1)

the revolutionary process in Grenada are now in possession of information that Washington was planning to send troops into the island one week before the Fort Rupert massacre.

The defendant said that through a friendly member state of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) the regime in Grenada was made aware of 'Operation Silk' which involved troops from the U.S, Barbados and Jamaica.

He alleged that this secret operation had to be aborted because American seals who had to enter the country drowned during a mishap when they were being dropped from their planes.

He said that based on information made available to them the seals were supposed to penetrate deep into Grenada and carry out a number of

sabotage acts such as the killing of some American and foreign residents in order to try and create chaos for a full-scale invasion of the island.

The aim was also to burn down churches and other buildings on the island, he added.

"We have it now and we are going to expose it," said Austin who headed the junta that ousted Bishop.

He said that when 'Operation Silk' failed to work the Americans planned 'Operation Fury' which was the code name for the military operation that actually brought an end to the Grenada revolution.

Austin made mention in his address of attempts he had made to get some Cabinet Ministers to hold back on their threats to resign from the Government following the political controversy that arose over a security report implicating Bishop in a rumour that Deputy Prime Minister

Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to kill him.

He said that the late Prime Minister denied any involvement in the rumour and told him that he hoped that Lieutenant-Colonel Liam James, one of the defendants, would be able to get to the bottom of the rumour.

He stated that a four-man central committee delegation was due to hold a session with Bishop —just before supporters freed him—in which the late Prime Minister promised that the issue would be settled finally.

Austin said that he did not envisage the massacre at Fort Rupert in which 17 persons lost their lives because he knew the island had a past in which demonstrations were always peaceful.

He said he was hopeful that Bishop would have spoken to the crowd explaining the situation and then

have held the meeting with the central committee delegation to resolve the crisis.

Like the other defendants who addressed the court, Austin indicated that the Fort was out of bounds to unauthorized persons and that the civilians had no right being there.

During today's court sitting the Acting Chief Justice discharged one of the alternate jurors who is hospitalized with about six or eight stitches to the head after allegedly sustaining a fall in his hotel bathroom.

Byron made the disclosure after a doctor, Richard Murphy, told the court that the juror who is expected to remain in hospital for a few more days would need about one month convalescence since he was also a diabetic.

When the court sitting resumes tomorrow Austin will continue his address.