

## Trinidad in UN move to replace US troops

From Zoriana Pysariwsky  
New York

The United Nations General Assembly was last night debating a resolution drafted by Trinidad and Tobago, which called for the deployment in Grenada of a Commonwealth security presence, and the immediate establishment of a broadly-based civilian interim administration charged with organizing elections.

The draft is complementary to the resolution adopted late on Wednesday deploring the armed intervention in Grenada, calling for the immediate withdrawal of the invasion forces and requesting the holding of free elections.

A total of 108 countries supported the text, nine countries rejected the censure, and 27 abstained.

The central issue continued to be the legality or otherwise of the American-led intervention. This preoccupation was further increased by the discovery that the security treaty between Eastern Caribbean states had not been registered with the United Nations, as required under the United Nations charter, and therefore had no legal basis.

In the debate the United States was portrayed by many speakers as an adventurer seizing the opportunity to show its military might. But there was also an attempt to show more understanding of the concerns and fears of the Caribbean region, whose imprudence could be more easily forgiven.

The dual message coming from the debate was amplified by the introduction of the Trinidad and Tobago draft, which, rather than dwelling on past and present circumstances in Grenada, looked to the future.

In the Assembly debate, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative, said that Mr Maurice Bishop, the overthrown Grenadian Prime Minister, was murdered when he discovered and resisted the high price of "embracing the Russian bear".

# Grenadians seize their chance to clean the slate and start again

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's Grenada

The undertaker and his men were doing their mopping up, too, digging a pit beside the shot-up radio station and throwing in the bodies of two Grenadian soldiers, one on top of the other. No honours for these dead, no salutes or bugles.

Most Grenadian soldiers, however, had seen the futility of resisting the might of the Marines and the 82nd airborne division. Many threw away their guns, wriggled out of their uniforms and fled in their underwear.

Several hundred of them have already reported to a sports stadium to surrender. They give name, rank and number to a member of the Caribbean peace keeping force and hand over any weapons they have. In return, they go free under the amnesty offered by the governor-general and drift back to their villages among the nutmeg trees.

This is the wisest course. In a small and intimate island of 110,000 people there is no animosity. People are going to American soldiers and pointing their fingers at the young men who were in the revolutionary army.

They are settling their scores, but they also want to eradicate a stain. Grenadians feel a sense of gratitude to the surgeons who have healed their abscess. They also feel relief and pleasure at

the sudden opportunity to wipe the slate and start again.

Queen Elizabeth II is still the Queen of Grenada and her Governor-General rules from Government House, an eighteenth century mansion set among palms with portraits of the Queen and Queen Victoria on the walls.

The memories of the "old days", the colonial days, are seductive for many people. There is a deep desire for order after the recent savagery.

Patrolling soldiers are gratified to see "God bless America" painted on the walls, to find people slicing off the tops of coconuts and offering them a drink.

For the American forces it was a good war, an old-fashioned, uncomplicated sort of war. It was not a difficult operation.

The enemy was small in number, but fought hard for two or three days, giving the Americans a run for their money, so that soldiers had the experience of what they had trained for and earnestly desired: a real war, what they firmly believed to be a just war.

They were embraced as liberators. What a pleasant change it has been for military men who look back over the dismal aspects of Lebanon, Vietnam and the Iranian desert fiasco. Here, at last, the issue

was simple and they were zapping the reds.

Officers expressed pleasure at such an excellent training mission which was also the real thing. The airlifting of the 82nd Airborne from Point Salines, to the airport at Pearls, on Monday, was a gratifying demonstration of power and organization.

For the business-minded Reagan Administration, the drawing of the profit and loss account must be satisfying. Some of the commentators and politicians and part of the press are complaining, but here at last was a positive and popular stroke.

There was an inevitability about the events of the past two weeks. The Reagan Administration needed to tread on communist fingers, to make a demonstration of strength. Indeed, many of those who voted for Mr Reagan were expecting him to show the Cubans where they get off.

In an island most Americans had never heard of, there was what the Administration diagnosed as a cancer of Cuban militarism. Also, as luck would have it, a deteriorating Government, rent by the struggles of ambitious men.

In the middle was the doomed Maurice Bishop, always described as a Marxist, but by no means a hard-line one.

# Quiet Castro considers what to do now

**Havana**  
Yesterday Cuba celebrated *El Domingo Rojo* - Red Sunday - with the annual undertaking of a morning's extra work by more than 2,000,000 people, one fifth of the population. Bank clerks put in shifts from 8am to 2pm; dockers in Havana spent the morning unloading Russian freighters; workers in the sugar refineries repaired machinery in time for the coming harvest.

Red Sunday is an extension of the system which finds every Cuban working two Saturdays a month and many of them volunteering for extra duties in the evenings and at weekends. This year it has gained extra impetus from the events of the past fortnight, which have confirmed the majority of Cubans in their carefully nourished belief that only an energetic devotion to patriotic duties will keep the Yankee menace at bay.

"Let us transform into productivity the sadness and indignation inspired by the imperialist aggression," they were urged by the CTC, their workers' federation.

Not all the responses to the Grenada crisis are so straightforwardly resolved. Many people have spent a great deal of time during the past two weeks attempting to decipher the message in the lines round Fidel Castro's eyes.

What does it signify that genuinely virulent anti-American rhetoric, at both government and street levels, was sustained for only 24 hours after Castro's press conference the night after the invasion.

In official communiques, of course, the references to "the heroic resistance of our internationalist workers against the imperialist aggression" were dutifully main-



Castro welcomes back Cuban wounded from Grenada

tained, but Castro's own performances, both at his press conference and later during his several journeys to greet the planeloads of returning prisoners at José Martí airport, were marked by an unaccustomed reticence. His sobriety was certainly appropriate to the arrival of the wounded, but something more extrovert might have been expected on the other occasions from the man who made the revolution and who regularly held crowds a million strong in the palm of his hand for five or six hours while he recited statistics and taught them slogans.

It has not been a good time for him. While there are certainly moral gains to be enjoyed from the US action in Grenada, an enormous investment has been wiped away. Castro has lost whatever Grenada cost in terms of material and manpower; he has lost a good friend in Maurice Bishop, and he has lost a useful second power base at the other end of the Caribbean, a place at which "friends" from other Caribbean and Latin American countries could meet and a useful channel for funds and other aid to sympathetic movements.

On top of that he has seen his

diplomatic mission reduced in Surinam, where he had hoped that his "internationalism" might find fertile ground; he has had to make a public admission that, should the US choose to walk into Nicaragua, he would be unable to lift a finger to help the Sandinista government, and his *Prensa Latina* correspondent has been kicked out of Jamaica.

None of this is good for a country now building up to the imminent twenty-fifth anniversary of its revolution with the slogan: "25 years of revolution, 25 years of victory". One effect of the Grenada debacle will assuredly be a degree of introspection, expressed - like Red Sunday - in terms of an enhanced commitment to the revolutionary ideals. Cubans will be implored to undertake more voluntary work, to be more vigilant against counter-revolutionary subversion in their homes and places of work, to join the territorial militia in greater numbers and to see themselves even more clearly as the inhabitants of an island fortress under permanent siege.

As an internal strategy, this stands every chance of succeeding. Although, after 25 years, true revolutionary ardour has abated in many

Cuban breasts, what one western diplomat here called "the patriotic nerve" is still strong enough to act as a surrogate.

Externally, Castro can choose from among several responses. If he is looking for revenge, he may increase his support for the Salvadorean guerrillas or look for other movements to assist in the area, such as Colombia's M-19 (unlikely, since that country's president was such a helpful go-between in the repatriation of prisoners from Grenada) or the Bolivian leftists who have already, it is believed, received some training in Cuba. He might seek to exploit the new splits between various Caricom countries, or he might apply to his Russian sponsors for action to make life difficult for the US in some more distant trouble spot.

The problem with such escalating responses - and here is where Castro's underplaying manner may be significant - is that Cuba wants to be seen as a responsible, mature member of the Latin American community: a difficult feat in the light of its continuing commitment to the spread of revolutionary socialism throughout the Third World. If, however, Castro is to persuade western nations to enter into the deals which would bring him hard currency and put the Cuban economy on a sounder basis, he must appear sensible and statesmanlike.

With the US indefinitely closed off from economic partnership, Cuba is looking for friends in the West and is particularly hopeful of establishing trading links with the socialist government in various parts of Europe. Spain has already responded; Mitterrand's France has yet to match up to Castro's initially high expectations. A better public image would help - and the general European outcry against President Reagan's invasion will have done no harm at all - but it is hard to see this material necessity taking precedence over Castro's overwhelming desire to free the rest of the Americas from US economic and political domination.

If it is indeed his destiny to become a second Bolivar, then the Cuban people will probably have to tighten their belts yet again.

**Richard Williams**

## US Army remains real power in Grenadian vacuum

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The United States Army remains the power in the land in Grenada and is likely to be so well into next year. Although more than 1,000 troops will be withdrawn by Christmas, nearly 2,000 will stay behind as the island works its way through a period of political limbo.

President Reagan has to withdraw what are designated as combat troops within 60 days of the October 25 invasion to avoid trouble in Congress under the War Powers Act, which limits his freedom as Commander-in-Chief.

But support forces will remain. Although many of these troops specialize in construction, engineering and other tasks, and are described as non-combat troops, they nevertheless constitute a strong armed force. They provide a backbone of military strength to the 400-man Caribbean peacekeeping force and will continue to do so.

Some American commentators feel the United States Army has done its job and should leave Grenada quickly. But, given the circumstances in the island, it is hard to see how that can be done.

There is a vacuum that can

only be filled slowly. For example, the island needs a police force and this cannot be built up quickly. Grenada radio reported at the weekend that the Police Commissioner had been dismissed and replaced by an officer from Barbados.

Elections are unlikely to be held before the end of next year, and in the meantime the island will remain under the makeshift Government it has now. The titular head is Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General and representative of the Queen. He is in many respects the front-man for the Americans who control the island through Mr Charles Gillespie, their ambassador, and Major-General Jack Farris, commander of the American forces in Grenada.

The small advisory council, made up of people chosen for being non-political as well as worthy, clearly has a difficult and uncertain role, considering the realities of the situation. It has been weakened because Mr Alistair McIntyre, an economist and Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, has refused the chairmanship of the council.

December 1 1983

# Time to look forward not back

## COMMONWEALTH

It was not time to dwell on the past about Grenada, but to try to help constructively in the future, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons, when answering questions about the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in New Delhi.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition (Islwyn, Lab): asked her: Will she be more active in fulfilling the terms of the Delhi communiqué than she was in the case of the Melbourne communiqué?

While in Melbourne she agreed to urge all governments to desist forthwith from any collaboration with South Africa which undermined implementation of the arms embargo, her Government has acted in precisely the opposite direction, permitting military collaboration with South Africa including military radar sales.

Bearing in mind how far other Commonwealth governments have gone in implementing the principles of the Gleneagles agreement, and recognizing that by far the largest number of sporting visitors to South Africa come from this country, how does she intend to give greater effect to the renewal made in Delhi of her commitment to the Gleneagles agreement?

In re-affirming her support for the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other states, what measures does she intend to take to ensure that other countries, including the United States, accept similar commitments?

Mrs Thatcher: This country has fully honoured the mandatory arms embargo on South Africa. There is certain equipment which can be used for civilian and military purposes.

Gleneagles has been upheld. The Government cannot coerce people, even if we would wish to do so.

We have indicated our views on Grenada. It does not seem a time to dwell on the past but to try to help

constructively the future. Other countries have to reach their own decisions on how they regard the matter of not intervening in the affairs of other states and not going across other borders.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, L): Will she confirm she disagreed with the New Zealand Prime Minister and with the Canadian Prime Minister on the need for a nuclear power summit, and disagreed with the majority of the conference on condemning as fraudulent the South African constitutional referendum on the grounds it did not involve the majority of the population. Was everybody else out of step except her?

Mrs Thatcher: If he reads the economic communiqué he will see that it fully expresses my view and that it was agreed to by the conference as a whole.

I think that he has got it wrong. The conference, after discussion, did accept the view I took and it is not surprising that many of them, as there are very many problems of international debt still to be solved, took the view it was far better to strengthen the authority of existing institutions, to adapt and expand their scope, than setting out to undermine them.

On the question of South Africa, it used the word "fraudulent" with regard to the differences in the franchise which have recently been put to a referendum of the white population. I do not dissent from that particular part of the communiqué but I would not myself have used the word "fraudulent".

It would help things to go the way we would like them in South Africa, namely to steadily abolish apartheid, if we were to give encouragement to those many people in South Africa who are working precisely for that same aim.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): It is, from the West's point of view, a higher priority to get the Cubans, who are not

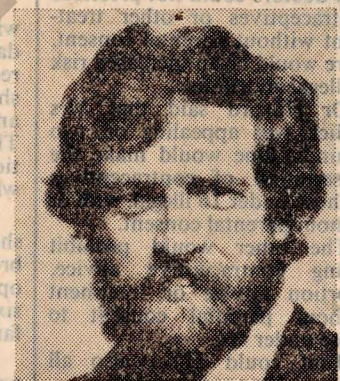
Africans and are Soviet stooges, out of Angola than South Africans, who are Africans, out of Namibia.

Did she make protests to Mr Mugabe about the detention without trial of our friend Bishop Muzorewa?

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to the position in Angola and Namibia, one would have preferred an injunction about withdrawal of all foreign troops because that would seem fair. One was not able to get that because certain people in the Commonwealth took a very different view.

I did not raise the particular question of Bishop Muzorewa as that seem to be an internal matter.

Mr Mark Robinson (Newport West, C): Were there any suggestions in the restoration of democracy in



Corbyn: Grenada should decide on elections

Grenada in which the British Government might be able to lend assistance?

Mrs Thatcher: We can lend assistance, if asked, in two ways: By either providing police or making arrangements for the training of police, and also we could give help in the arrangements of the elections.

We have to be asked. There is an advisory council advising the Government and we will be

sympathetic to any claims which are made upon us.

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab): What was the reaction to the information that British aid to Grenada fell until 1973 and has now increased since the American invasion? Is it not the business of the people of Grenada to decide their future and when they should hold the elections rather than President Reagan and herself?

Mrs Thatcher: On independence the sum of £2m was allocated for capital development in Grenada and at the time of the recent events, £88,000 was still outstanding. We have tried to help Grenada by making an injection of aid of £750,000 into the economy.

It is for the Governor, as advised by the advisory council, to determine when elections should be held. There has been a Marxist Government in Grenada since 1979, so elections are a new thing and they will have to compile all their registers and reform the political parties.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that propping up a few governments did not help the starving millions in underdeveloped countries where the children stood on matchstick legs and had pot bellies.

Mrs Thatcher said the poorest countries obviously needed aid but there were differences of opinion as to whether aid should begin with the poorest countries or with intermediate countries.

... from

The Times Nov 18, 1983

Nov 18, 1983

THE TIMES FRIDAY

# Civilians step in as sun sets on the 'sweat boxes' of Point Salines

From Christopher Thomas, St George's

The sweat boxes have gone. The tent prison-cells are down, the inmates have been handed over to civil guards at Richmond Hill jail. The United States military has closed down the place where the People's Revolutionary Army, disbanded and disgraced, was questioned one by one by the American invaders.

The sweat boxes stood in full blast of the sun with apertures in each thin wall for air and a flag for the occupant to flutter at his military guards should he need the lavatory.

They were what the Americans called isolation facilities, ten in all, constructed on the spot at Point Salines airport soon after the US and Caribbean troops landed. They were used for prisoners who were reluctant to come clean, or for those who caused trouble.

Rarely was a man kept in one for more than 24 hours but the very existence of the 10ft by 10ft plywood prisons, each with a single foam mattress, was not learnt with approval back home. On Tuesday at 4 pm Grenada ceased to have an army-run jail.

In all, 1,130 people associated with the People's Revolutionary Army or the militia were processed-through Point Salines. Most had surrendered to the Americans under an amnesty.

The last 140 or so were released on Wednesday. Only 40 have been transferred to the once infamous Richmond Hill prison, overlooking St George's from a hill close to the Cuban Embassy.

Some are awaiting further questioning, others expect to be charged eventually with looting or with offences relating to abuses of power while they had it. With all legal processes in Grenada in abeyance, they may have a long wait, although the new interim Government has promised to make decisions within a month about what to do with people imprisoned without being charged.

Richmond Hill is guarded by policemen and prison officers. Of the 24 United States military policemen on the island six are based at the prison but none is involved in guard duties.

American Army loudspeaker patrols continue to roam the country roads urging any unvetted Revolutionary Army figure and any lone Cuban still fighting a lost battle, to give themselves up.

The withdrawal of the American Army from the life of Grenada is proving to be a slow process. The soldiers are still ubiquitous on the streets and in the countryside and civilians arriving at Pearls airport in the north of the country have their passports checked first by an

immigration official, and then by the Army.

The Americans go out of their way to be courteous and to avoid controversy. Last Monday week they set up a US Army claims office in a disused shop

No claims are accepted for damages incurred during the American and Caribbean invasion - such claims, people are politely advised, should be addressed to the civilian Government. Unfortunately, the civilian Government is, as yet, barely functioning.

The claims office, with its long forms and bureaucratic requirements, is clearly intimidating to half-literate or illiterate country folk. Most come to seek compensation for cars and motor cycles that were commandeered by the 82nd Airborne Division after their landing in the Point Salines airport area.

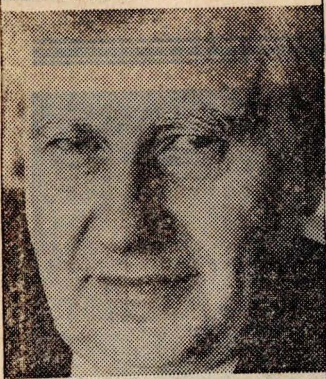
The office is empowered to settle claims of up to \$25,000 (£17,000). Higher sums are handed out by Washington. Captain Marc Warren of the 18th Airborne Corps, in between helping people fill out forms, said that claims were now being settled almost daily. Only the other day, he explained, they paid out \$5,000 each to three people. Another 21 were waiting to be paid sums amounting to £16,000.

Time Nov 18, 1983

the Times

Nov. 18, 1983

### Commentary



**Geoffrey Smith**

Washington

A single event can some times suddenly sour relations between a government and the press. So it was with the Macmillan government and the Vassall tribunal. So it was with the Wilson government and the D-notice affair. So now it seems to be with the Reagan Administration and Grenada.

It might be thought that the Grenada operation has raised more substantial issues than the exclusion of all the news media from covering the invasion. But one would hardly believe so from reading many American newspapers and magazines, and talking to a number of American journalists over the past fortnight.

There is a burning sense of indignation, the strength of which takes even me as a journalist by surprise as I travel around the United States. It is clearly causing the Administration a good deal of anxiety.

There are a number of complaints: that journalists were deliberately misled by official spokesmen right up to the moment when the invasion was launched; that they were not allowed to be present on the beaches to witness the operation as it occurred; and that the suggestion from the Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, that it was necessary to keep them away to save lives was both inaccurate and insulting.

It is the last two of these grievances that have caused the most resentment because they appear to challenge the historic role of the journalist to be where the action is. That is how war correspondents have always risked their lives and made their names.

The indignation does not seem to be felt by the press evenly across the country, nor to be shared by the general public. It is most intense among the Washington press corps, in a few leading newspapers and news magazines, and in the television networks.

It appears to be experienced less keenly by the editors of at least a number of substantial papers outside Washington and New York. The local journalist may, on principle, have a certain resentment on behalf of his profession, but nobody would have sent him near the beaches anyway.

The outraged are, however, the most politically influential members of the news media in the country. If this colours their whole attitude to the Reagan Administration, it could be a serious matter for the President and his colleagues.

Why, then, has such a clash been allowed to develop? One possible explanation is that the White House simply made a misjudgment under the pressure of the moment. Certainly it is easy to find members of the Administration who believe that they blundered. But I do not believe that this was just a momentary miscalculation. It was the product of a deeper mistrust that has built up between the American press and successive administrations in recent years.

This is the legacy of Watergate and Vietnam. The Administration did not risk telling any journalist in advance about the imminence of the invasion because it did not believe that the secret would be kept.

The real reason why the press, and more important, the cameras, were not allowed to cover the landing was that the Administration was afraid of the impact of their reporting back home. It is part of the conventional wisdom in the United States these days that the Vietnam war was lost largely because the sight of bloodshed on their screens night after night undermined the resolve of the American people.

Mrs Thatcher, it is believed in Washington, drew the right conclusion by keeping war correspondents under wraps during the Falklands war. And the Reagan Administration is determined to do likewise. But in fact, it went further.

The degree of bitterness has gone well beyond the normal, healthy adversarial spirit between government and press. It will ultimately, I suspect, be damaging to both sides. The press, while nursing a justified grievance, is liable to lose public confidence by creating the impression that it is too obsessed with its own interests. The Administration is liable to find that it has incurred the lasting wrath of the very people who must interpret its words and actions to the public.

It is this second danger which is likely to have the most immediate effect, which explains why a number of members of the Administration are groping for some means of restoring the old relationship. They know that it would not be the smartest politics to have a running feud with the press as they go into election year.

Times Nov 22, 1983

THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22 1983

## Mopping up in Grenada: Caribbean troops take over in St George

# US hands over security control

From Christopher Thomas  
St George's

The US Army has handed over full security control of St George's, capital of Grenada, to Caribbean soldiers in the first of a series of withdrawals leading to what they foresee as the final removal of combat troops by December 23.

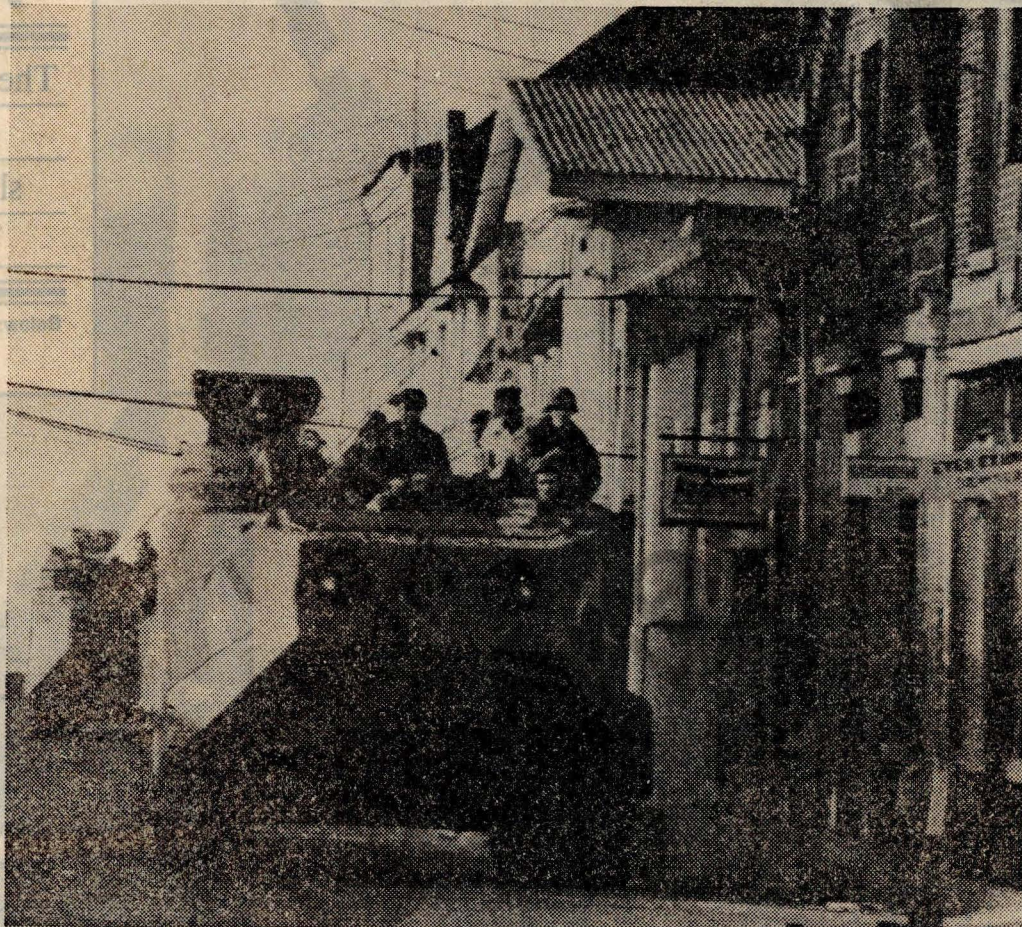
The next important area to be handed over to the Caribbean troops will be the Point Salines airport region, the heart of the American military presence in the island.

For the first time in weeks groups of policemen, usually with rifles slung over their shoulders, are to be seen walking the streets of St George's. Not an American soldier is to be found other than those off duty in the bars and restaurants around the picturesque harbour.

Each battalion of American soldiers works with a platoon of Caribbean troops, particularly in urban areas where the Americans more and more are keeping in the background as a matter of policy. Hardly any house search is carried out without at least one Caribbean soldier in attendance. More often than not it is the Caribbean infantryman who bangs on the door while the Americans stand by.

The withdrawal of American combat troops will by no means leave Grenada denuded of the US military presence. Something like 2,000 non-combat soldiers, all armed, will remain. Most are engineers but clearly could be diverted to security operations at short notice. There are 392 Caribbean soldiers in the island.

There are also 350 US military police in the island



On the beat: Armoured personnel carriers of the multinational force patrolling the streets of St George's shortly after the invasion.

who are not classified as combat troops. They, too, will be remaining beyond the December 23 deadline set by the White House.

All the installations are heavily fortified at their entrances with coils of barbed wire, machine-gun emplacements and guards peering from behind tall mounds of sandbags. It is impossible to drive straight in - the barbed wire and other obstacles force vehicles to zig-zag. It is all in direct response to what happened to American troops in Beirut.

Colonel Terry Scott of the 82nd Airborne Division, tactical commander of all combat troops in Grenada, said: "No commander in his right mind can totally write off the possibility of an attempt to

duplicate the attack in Beirut. All of us have a responsibility to our people to perhaps over protect them. We have modified the arrangements so that it would be difficult to crash through.

He said that the infantrymen now were doing nothing that could not be done by the military police. Ninety-five per cent of intelligence was gathered by people talking to the locals rather than by use of "high level, high space technology."

He added that the war was now progressing more and more into a psychological operation and a peace keeping mission that could be just as well carried out by the psychological operations (Psyops) troops and military police.

He said he knew that people were worried about what would

happen when the American combat troops left. "I can see some residual force being put together, probably under international command control. People are concerned about the US summarily withdrawing and leaving them to the mercies of the people in the hills. But I just do not think that is going to happen."

The Army believes that about 12 Cubans are still in Grenada, most of them not involved in any guerrilla operations. Some are probably married to local women and others may have decided not to return to the Cuban dictatorship.

Since the invasion American troops have come under sniper fire four times, each time apparently by remnants of the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army, not by Cubans.

Time Nov 22, 1983

## Grenada leader

Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, told his closest advisers that Mr Alistair Henry has finally accepted the job of head of Government and will arrive on the island on Monday.

Super fire, page 5

UWI Libraries

e's: Gairy casts shadow over the political rebirth

## Americans struggle with the building of a democracy

*Trevor Fishlock, in the second of three articles on Grenada, discusses the pitfalls in trying to reinvent a political system for the Caribbean island.*

On a wall in St George's there was a new slogan calculated to send a shiver through many Grenadians. It was among all the other slogans - such as "God bless America" and "Long live democracy" - which replace the graffiti of the Bishop regime. This particular one said "Vote for Eric Gairy."

Sir Eric Gairy was the Prime Minister overthrown by Maurice Bishop in 1979. He was notorious for his obsession with flying saucers and witchcraft, his sex scandals and his private terrorists, the Mongoose Gang.

He was once a popular trade union leader and champion of the poor, who rose to power and became increasingly bizarre and feared.

As it happened, one of his last acts as prime minister was to recommend the appointment of Sir Paul Scoon as Governor-General.

Sir Paul had been a leading civil servant in Grenada and knew a lot about Sir Eric. Today he has no wish to see him return from exile in America. Sir Eric has talked of returning, but Sir Paul said to me firmly: "It would be better if he did not attempt to do so."

A Grenadian politician asked: "If we are now to be a free democratic country, how can we keep him out?"

It is impossible to say what sort of support Sir Eric could command, but he has a capacity for mischief and both the Americans and the embryonic Grenadian administration which exists under their aegis would prefer that he remains in the US.

They want Grenada to have as clear a field as possible as they set about constructing a democratic system in an island which has had its fill of despots and upheaval.

As part of the slate-wiping

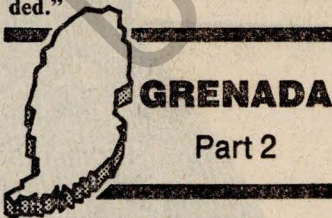


**Maurice Bishop: Ousted the eccentric Gairy.**

process, 30 foreigners, identified as potential trouble-makers, have been asked to go.

The Americans have interrogated hundreds of Grenadians and members of the Military Council which seized power from Bishop have been weeded out and jailed.

Other detainees have been released with green cards which read: "This individual has been released and directed to refrain from anti-government activities. Unless (he does so) he should not be apprehended."



Part 2

The need to prepare the ground raises pressing questions about American withdrawal. The military excision of the new rulers and the Cubans carried with it an obligation. The Americans came to clear up chaos and establish a democratic structure and there is much to do.

Grenada needs economic first aid, repair of its bad roads

and a decision on the airport, which is seen as vital to economic expansion.

A democracy needs a press. But free journalism has long been smothered and there are precious few journalists.

There is also need for a broadcasting system. The old regime's Radio Free Grenada has been replaced by Spice Island Radio, a makeshift operation in which one of the announcers plays records from her own collection.

A police force also has to be built from scratch.

But, above all, there is a need, once the shock has receded, to reinvent a political system and that cannot be applied like a coat of paint.

Will a new left-wing party arise from the ruins of Bishop's New Jewel Movement? How would the Americans regard the rise of such a party? Will the country be bedevilled by post-war vendettas? (Some Marxist politicians feel the invasion cheated them of a civil war in which, they believe, they would have defeated the coup leaders.) Is it wise to arraign those ringleaders before a Grenadian Nuremberg?

In other words, Grenada may be too fragile for the Americans to be able to leave swiftly.

The Reagan Administration says combat troops will be withdrawn by December 23 - it had to set a deadline to avoid trouble in Congress. Sir Paul and the Advisory Council are the legal authority, but the power in the land is the American Army.

There are good reasons for the Americans to get out quickly, but there are also strong ones for them to stay and they will, presumably, retain a considerable force of what they term non-combat troops, who would provide a certain backbone to Caribbean forces in the island. They may find that in their relief of Grenada the invasion was the easy part.

Tomorrow: News management

Times Nov 23, 1983

The Times  
Nov. 23, 1985

RSEAS NEWS

5

## US troops come under fire again

From Christopher Thomas  
St George's

Five United States soldiers came under fire while walking through a heavily wooded area in central Grenada, the American Army announced here yesterday. It was the first attack on US troops in four days and the fifth since the American invasion.

The soldiers, all technicians, were walking along a track in the Grand Etang area when they noticed two men walking in the same direction 50 yards ahead. One of the soldiers noticed a concealed rifle carried by one of the men and shouted a warning. With that the two men spun round and opened fire with rifles.

The US Army said the technicians fired back with pistols and the men fled. There were no injuries on either side and no indication whether the men, both of whom wore identical blue shirts, were Cubans or Grenadians.

News of the attack was announced on the day that the military also reported a substantial reduction in the number of combat troops in Grenada. In the last few days their numbers have been reduced from 2,300 to 1,900 and more will be moved out. All combat troops will have left by the December 23 deadline set by the White House.

UWI Libraries

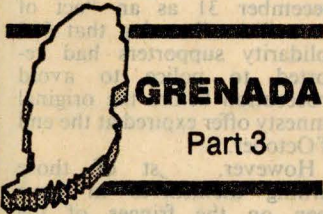
Times Nov. 23

# Reagan wins the war and writes the history

In the last of three articles on the US intervention in Grenada, Trevor Fishlock relates how President Reagan, convinced most Americans and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

The Americans have closed their detention camp in Grenada. The use of 10 stifling wooden packing cases as isolation cells for prisoners undergoing interrogation had caused bad publicity at home, and the Americans naturally do not want the generally favourable image of their Grenadian episode to be tarnished.

President Reagan has largely been successful, not only in his military and



political objectives, but in presenting his case. He has convinced most Americans, and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

Some of what the Administration has said has strained credulity and there has been a strong strain of misinformation and disingenuousness in the presentation of events. But it is goals that count.

The Administration winces at the word invasion. So too do quite a few people in the Caribbean. The Administration explains, with an air of wearied patience, that it was a rescue of



The right image: US troops preparing to release a member of the revolutionary army.

medical students and the oppressed Grenadians.

The supposed peril of the American students is still disputed. The day before the invasion, the Reagan Administration said they were not in danger. Afterwards it said they were. The head of the medical school said there was no danger. After he had been visited by Administration officials he found that there was.

Had the students felt endangered they could have left. The Administration said the airport at Pearls was closed on October 24, so that students could not have got out had they wanted to. The airport, however, was open and several aircraft flew out.

The call for help from the Organization of East Caribbean States, on October 22, three days before the invasion, was

useful as justification. But it was not vital, any more than the request for help from Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General, who said his request, dated October 24, the eve of the invasion, reached Barbados through non-diplomatic channels.

President Reagan had, in any case, ordered urgent invasion planning on October 20. And there is some evidence that

action was considered at least five days before, including a possible rescue of Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, from house arrest.

The Administration inflated the number of Cuban military people on the island. In the end it agreed with Cuban figures. It made much of the arms and documents it discovered, to bolster its assertion that, as President Reagan said, Grenada was "a Soviet-Cuban colony being readied for as a major military bastion to export terror" and "We got there just in time" to prevent Cuban occupation.

Apart from anti-aircraft weapons, the arms were not all that impressive at first glance and, to some, seemed not much more than might be trawled from a Texas suburb. Washington also invented a "mass grave" to emphasize the savagery of the regime and had to climb down when no such grave was found.

The American press was angry that the invasion took place without reporters being there.

The American military establishment, it is said, had noted British restrictions on reporters in the Falklands. There is a strong view among US military men that reporting of the Vietnam war led to public disenchantment, that the press was unpatriotic.

Of course, reporters were allowed into Grenada eventually, but this was against the wishes of the military commanders. They were overridden by the President.

Concluded