

The Cleaner November 1 1984

'Washington is listening to the Caribbean now'

says Eugenia Charles

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica is known as the Iron Lady of the Caribbean. She boldly called on the United States to intervene in neighbouring Grenada after the murder of leftist leader Maurice Bishop last October, and she has personally led her tiny island nation back from the brink of economic chaos in her four years in office. In the capital of Roseau last month, Charles, 66 spoke with Newsweek's Ron Moreau one year after the Grenada invasion. Excerpts:

MOREAU: What is the significance of the trial that opened this week in Grenada of the 19 persons accused of having killed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and more than a dozen other Grenadians?

CHARLES: It is important to Grenada, where for so many years people were held without charge. Now the persons who are accused of this serious crime will only be found guilty if the evidence clearly shows that they are guilty. It is very important that people who have deprived Grenadians of their rights are now being given the opportunity to defend themselves.

● More stable?

Q. Is the east Caribbean more stable and more prosperous now one year after the Grenada invasion?

A. Yes, I think the area is more stable, and economically it is beginning to move. One of the reasons we were held back from moving to the heights we expected was that it took some time for us to feel the benefits of the economic recovery in the United States.

Q. Do you feel there was a lesson learned in the Grenada invasion?

A. Yes. We had been dormant. We lived with (Bishop's) leftist coup in 1979, hopeful that Grenada would come back to the norms we expect, such as free elections and the right for people to talk openly and criticise the government. We were horrified by what happened last October. We finally had to do something — and we did. We learned the lesson that we must never take things for granted. We like the stable, equitable way things are going in Dominica.

But we also know that there are dissidents here. We don't have any

myopia. We know that there are persons who seem remote from us and who are prepared to assist these dissidents with the purpose of bringing a totalitarian ideology into this part of the world. You may think of us in the Caribbean as small and insignificant. But there are those who see us otherwise. They are prepared to go to lengths to ensure that their beliefs are forced on us.

Q. Are you referring to Cuba and the Soviet Union?

A. No, I am thinking of Libya and North Korea, which are funding the dissidents in this part of the world. I haven't seen the cheques come in, but it's obvious to us.

● Any benefits?

Q. Has Dominica reaped any benefits in the year since the Grenada invasion?

A. We haven't reaped any benefits. In fact, it has made the left-oriented group here far more vigorous in their attempts to get this government out.

Q. What are the leftists saying?

A. That life is grim. The left can promise things. Our party has always refused to promise. But we have performed. We are building and repairing roads; we are getting electricity to the east coast and expanding telephone service; we have built schools and expanded medical services; we have ambulances and fire engines in rural areas. We brought down the rate of unemployment from 23 percent to 15 percent. We brought down inflation from 30 percent to 4.3 percent. People criticise me for travelling a lot. But I tell people you don't get \$95 million worth of roads by sitting here. You have to go out and look for it. You don't get schools and electricity just by writing letters.

● Foreign investments

Q. Is Dominica getting foreign investment?

A. Yes, we are, considering what we have to offer. We don't have a jet airport and our roads are bad. No investor wants to travel on roads that will put his back out of joint. So we are correcting these things and putting in the infrastructure we need.

Q. Which investors are coming into Dominica?

A. We have a few American investors. A Taiwanese mission has come to see us. The Governor of Florida, Robert Graham, and Florida businessmen are visiting us this month. And we have recently signed an economic-cooperation agreement with West Germany. I don't expect to get 10 factories overnight. But if during the course of the next six months we get five factories employing 500 people, then we would not have an unemployment problem.

Q. Are investors more keen in coming here now because of the Grenada operation?

A. Yes. I think investors know the area exists, and they know they don't have to go far as Hong Kong to invest. People see this is a country committed to democracy, where their investment will be safe.

Q. Are you getting the foreign aid you feel you deserve?

A. Not enough. There is so much more we desire — I won't say deserve. We need more. But people are responding to us. The United States has helped a lot. The French will help us improve our tiny airport. I don't think the United States is giving us more aid just because of Grenada. But I think Washington is listening to us. They know we are serious.

● Elections

Q. What about elections?

A. They must be held by October of next year. I don't have a date in my mind yet. There is so much I would like to get done before elections, so that if I don't get (re-elected) these things will still be there. But the opposition is not united. Its leaders are all fighting each other to be on top.

Q. What about the upcoming election in Grenada?

A. I'm looking forward to the election there. I thought they should have had elections within six months. But we didn't realise what a shambles the country was in. There was no police force, for example. They didn't have voting lists. Now I think they are doing well to have elections in December. I don't want to interfere, but I think that Grenada will never be (stabilized) without the election. One of the healthy things is that people have been criticising the interim government. They hadn't been able to speak out for years. And I'm not divulging any secrets when I say I wouldn't like to see (Sir Eric) Gairy get back in.

Nov. 1, 1984

Phyllis Coard in court on stretcher

ST. GEORGE'S, Nov. 1, (CANA)

Hunger striker Phyllis Coard, one of 19 accused in Grenada's controversial Maurice Bishop murder trial was lifted into the courtroom on a stretcher today.

It was perhaps the only drama of the 45-minute session, as Judge Archibald Nedd adjourned the case for three weeks pending his ruling on a defence motion challenging the constitutionality of the court. No evidence was heard.

Mrs. Coard, wife of one of the key accused, former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, again complained about prison regulations.

"I am absolutely isolated. I am not allowed to even speak to my husband. This is the reason why my hunger strike cannot end.

The Gleaner Nov 6, 1984, 19.

Former Grenada Chief Minister dies suddenly

ST. GEORGE'S, Nov. 5, (CANA)

Former Grenada Chief Minister George Clyne died suddenly last night, his family reported today. He was 63.

Family sources said the cause of death is still not certain but usually reliable sources said Clyne had had a heart attack.

Clyne became Chief Minister in the early 1960's when his party leader Eric Gairy was forced to resign over alleged squandering of public funds.

Clyne led the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) into elections in the 1960's which the Party won and he resigned shortly afterwards when a bi-election landed Gairy a Parliamentary seat.

Clyne was also a former Speaker of Parliament. He retired from active politics on February 7, 1974 — the day Grenada gained political independence from Britain.

He was widely regarded as one of the most formidable lawyers in the country.

Nov. 6, 1984

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MBPM sends money to aid Dominica flood victims

ST. GEORGES, Nov. 13 (CANAL)

Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, the political party of supporters of the slain leftist Prime Minister, says it has made available 500 dollars (one E.C. dollar = 37 cents U.S.) to assist flood victims in Dominica, regretting it could not send more because of a depressed economy in the wake of the October 1983 invasion in which Roseau played a key role.

In a cable to Prime Minister Eugenia Charles — the second in as many weeks — the movement said it deeply regretted the massive destruction and hardship caused to the people of Dominica by the rains.

"We would have wished to contribute a larger sum but cannot

do so because of the depressed economic situation imposed on our nation in the wake of last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada," the cable said.

Last week, the movement had cabled Miss Charles criticising her for expressing a desire to see moderates win the December 3 general elections, deeming it interference in the island's democratic affairs and accusing her of causing "untold suffering to our people..."

Prime Minister Charles as the then chairman of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) played a key role in securing United States military assistance to put down a left-wing Junta that had seized power killing Prime Minister Bishop.

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Grenada's GULP says that it is stronger than ever

ST GEORGE'S-
Nov 18 (CANA):

The right-wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), one of the leading parties contesting next month's general elections, says it is stronger than ever and anticipates a sweeping victory, according to former Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Preudhomme.

He told about 150 persons attending a GULP public meeting last night the party was confident of a repeat of the 1976 elections victory when it won nine of 15 seats at stake.

The GULP, which formed the last elected government until it was toppled in a 1979 left-wing coup, is campaigning on a platform of reconciliation for next month's general elections.

Preudhomme, who is not contesting the elections but has been the main speaker at some meetings, said the party had no bitterness against anyone and there would not be any victimisation if it won the December 3 elections.

"We all come to you in the name of the Grenada United Labour Party in a spirit of reconciliation, love and friendship for all," he said.

"The Labour Party is stronger today because all its prodigal sons and daughters are coming home," Preudhomme added.

The GULP, led by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, was widely accused of human rights violations and corruption by opposition parties prior to 1979 when it was ousted by a left-wing coup.

Forty-eight candidates representing the GULP, the centrist New National Party (NNP), a coalition of three parties, the left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) and the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) along with four independents will contest the election.

Preudhomme said a

GULP government would be committed to its manifesto pledge of having a strong American presence on the island, including a permanent U.S. military base.

He said party leader Gairy had been asking for a U.S. presence since 1964 and that if the party won the election it would ask the Americans to remain on the island. The GULP also

wanted to strengthen friendship with Britain and other traditional friends, he said.

"We would follow the Westminster-type policy of government.

We are going to follow the Western-type democracy. We are not going on the Eastern side at all. Let it stay where it is," he added.

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The Gleaner Nov 6, 1984

MBPM protests Charles' meddling in Grenada's internal affairs

ST. GEORGE'S, Nov.5, (CANA)

The leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic

Movement, the remnants of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) which formed Grenada's Government between 1979 and 1983 has protested what it termed interference in the island's domestic affairs by Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, who recently urged Grenadians to vote for moderates in the December 3 general elections.

"Your constant meddling in the affairs of Grenada has caused untold suffering to our people, and has also opened the region to new colonial domination," said a statement signed by the

Movement's chairman, former Industrialisation Minister Kenrick Radix.

It added: "We urge you to devote all your energies to solve serious problems of underdevelopment facing your nation and people after centuries of colonialism and natural disasters."

In an apparent reference to the recently formed New National Party (NNP), the only moderate group contesting the general elections here, Miss Charles had

said: "Under the moderates, Grenadians have a fair chance of having regular elections and being able to choose a Government on regular

periods."

Radix has charged that the NNP is organised and financed by the United States.

The Dominica leader's comments were made against a background of excesses in the past where right-wing dictator Sir Eric Gairy was ousted in a 1979 coup by the pro-Cuba NJM, itself ousted in October last year by hardline leftists in a military coup.

Miss Charles played a key role in securing U.S. assistance to put down the left-wing military junta that had seized power killing Prime Minister Bishop.

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GRENADA, OR A CRISIS REVIEWED

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP):

The invasion of Grenada was a political plus for U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Caribbean leaders who participated, but those who opposed the invasion remain unconvinced it was justified.

Meanwhile, in the months since the invasion, there has been skepticism about the efficiency of the U.S. mili-

tary's performance, which was highly praised by Washington in the immediate aftermath.

Those who criticized the military said nine of the 20 Americans killed died from accidents — helicopter crashes, drownings and "friendly fire" — killed by errant American bullets.

Although initial Washington briefings — conducted with the U.S. news media barred from

free access until the invasion's fifth day — called Grenada a heavily fortified Soviet-Cuban "colony", the island actually had little modern weaponry to defend the some 730 Cubans and fewer than 2,000 Grenadian soldiers from nearly 6,000 invaders.

A follow-up Pentagon report in June, rebutting a critical study by a private group called the Military Reform In-

stitute, praised the bravery and "combat initiatives" of the parachuting Army Rangers who were the invasion's first wave, but did say the army's secretive anti-terrorist "Delta Force" didn't complete its mission.

Reagan has touted the Grenada action as a foreign policy success. Democratic challenger Walter Mondale has steered away from crit-

icizing the invasion, which was accepted by most Americans, according to opinion polls.

Stability

Of several Caribbean Governments which sought the U.S. invasion and sent troops to quell what they called a threat to regional stability, four called "snap elections", as allowed under the British parliamentary systems followed by the

former colonies. Three — Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts-Nevis — won smashing re-elections, while a fourth — St. Vincent and the Grenadines — lost to an opponent who also had favored the invasion.

But the invasion was widely criticized internationally, including by U.S. friends in Western Europe and Latin America. And there are those

in the Caribbean region who believe it could yet emerge as a negative issue.

"I think it could go the other way, now that we've had a year under the light of reason," said Errol Barrow, the opposition leader of Barbados, where President Tom Adams was a key supporter.

Barrow, the island's leader in 1961-76, pointed out that Barbados'

sluggish economy has suffered because two major trading partners — Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana — have reduced trade with Barbados since the invasion, which they opposed.

President George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago, an oil-producing nation that has the region's strongest economy, promoted regional economic and diplomatic embargoes

against the radical army junta that took power on Grenada after the October 19 murder of President Maurice Bishop following a leftist power struggle on the tiny island.

Betrayed

Chambers felt betrayed because, he said, his Government wasn't informed of the invasion by its Caribbean allies.

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GRENADA

(Continued from Page 9A)

Guyana, a leftist nation at odds with the United States, and Belize and the Bahamas, the two farthest-flung English-speaking Caribbean nations, also were opposed.

Barrow said reprisals against the the junta could have come on the regional level or the United Nations.

"I don't like the idea of the United States playing big brother for the region," said Barrow, whose government was pro-West.

The Reagan administration, defending the invasion, pointed to the widespread acceptance by the Grenadian population. A television network's poll in the month after the invasion indicated 90 percent support from the some 100,000 Grenadians.

But critics say the invasion relieved the Grenadians of a problem they would have solved themselves.

"It would have been only a matter of time

before the Leninist aspirations of Coard (Bishop's more-radical deputy) and Austin (head of the army junta) were swept away by Grenadians themselves. The U.S. invasion robbed them of that opportunity," wrote Hugh O'Shaughnessy, a **London Observer** reporter who authored a book on the crisis.

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Antigua and the Caribbean

The Prime Minister of Antigua, Mr. Vere Bird, has come out strongly in support of the U.S. position in the Caribbean, which he called an effort to protect democratic systems of government in the Caribbean.

Speaking at the official opening of a new building housing the U.S. embassy in St. John's, Antigua, in September, Mr. Bird said that the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada on October 25 last year had prevented the spread of communism in the region. He said that "when those who thought they would build up their arms and come to these islands one by one and subdue us all, the United States came to our assistance, and with the men we supplied we were able to go in and save the people of Grenada from the terrible experience they were having, and also save us from what was planned."

Antigua and Barbuda along with six other Caribbean gov-

ernments provided token forces for the U.S.-led operation which followed the coup by hard-line Marxists in the ousted People's Revolutionary Government last year.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three other colleagues were killed during the takeover which climaxed a bitter leadership struggle between Bishop and his Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Coard and 18 others are now to go on trial, charged with murder and conspiracy to murder.

It seems from statements made by Mr. Bird and others that the Caribbean is still caught in an ideological rift between anti-Cuban elements and those who believe that the Cuban way of life is the route to go. Sadly there are many in Jamaica who still adhere to the second view.

Opinions on this Page, except for those in the Editorials above, do not necessarily reflect the views of the GLEANER

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Nov. 13, 1984

OPINIONS

Grenada, a year later

By JAMES HARDSTUFF

TWO CURRENT HAPPENINGS in Grenada--the October 28 opening of Point Salines Airport and the trial of 19 former Bishop comrades are reminders of the state of affairs on the small Caribbean island only a year ago. A third event, the election scheduled for December 3, signals the hope that Grenadians now have for their future.

The airport, which U.S. alleged, supported by documents was intended as a forward base for Cuban and Soviet military forces in the Caribbean has been completed by U.S. assistance and opened as a commercial airport. Cuban workers were found to have been building military fuel storage tanks, permanent barracks at the isolated end of the three-kilometer-long runway, hardened aircraft bunkers and anti-aircraft positions around the airport when U.S. troops intervened October 25, 1983, backed by Caribbean troops and Police in a policing function.

Vital stepping stone

Of the 790 Cubans who were on Grenada a year ago, 43 were professional military personnel, by Havana's own admission. The rest, although labelled as "construction workers" by Cuba, were well trained and experienced in military tactics. Some were veterans of Cuban military campaigns in Ethiopia and Angola. Cuba had provided 40 percent of the estimated \$71 million cost of the Point Salines military complex which was what the airport might have become.

Following the expulsion of the

Cubans, the interim Council set up by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon realized that Grenada's recovery from the disastrous years of Marxist New Jewel Movement rule would depend on economic recovery and an end to the island's commercial isolation. For this reason, completion of Point Salines airport became a top priority in the reconstruction of Grenada. Cuban workers were replaced by Grenadians, and the U.S. and Canada put up \$21 million to finish the airport.

Grenada lies 1,500 kilometers southeast of Cuba, and Suriname--where Cuba and the USSR were also strong--another 1,000 kilometers beyond that in the same direction. All tactical Soviet/Cuban military aircraft in the Caribbean have sufficient range to island-hop from Cuba to Grenada to Suriname--bringing all the eastern Caribbean, portions of Colombia, Venezuela and parts of Brazil within striking distance.

In this light, Grenada assumes strategic importance as a vital stepping stone in the advance of Marxist-Leninist revolution into the Caribbean and Latin America, fuelled by the Soviet Union via Cuba.

Besides the Point Salines airport, another current reminder of what might have been is the murder trial of 19 New Jewel Movement radicals.

Bernard Coard, Marxist-Leninist hard-liner and Chief Defendant in a series of trials which began mid-October, is accused of conspiring to murder his comrade and leader, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The Prime Minister was shot to death a year ago, October 19, after Coard's group ousted him in a violent power struggle.

The Prosecution contends that Coard and the other defendants could not risk letting Bishop live after the Prime Minister was freed from house arrest by a crowd of supporters. In a showdown at the military fortress in St. George's, Bishop and his leading lieutenants were seized and executed by a firing squad.

Cuban advisers, although they were in an authoritative position in



BLAIZE

...will he be the new Prime Minister?

Grenada and had sufficient force at their command, stood aside and let the executions proceed.

Although much attention is focussed on the trial, which promises to extend through the new year, the people of Grenada are more concerned about the future of their island than the past. The first democratic elections since Bishop overthrew then Prime Minister Eric Gairy in 1979 will be held in December. At this point, the new national party, led by Herbert Blaize, and the Grenada United Labour Party, headed by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, are ahead in the polls, but the crowds which went out in support of the memory of Bishop on October 19 suggest that the Maurice Bishop Party led by Kenrick Radix should not be ruled out.

In a democratic election, the people's will must be respected, and so if Gairy or the Bishop Party wins -both being extremes, there will be some regret from observers who prefer the moderate middle of the road. But it would be the people's choice.

Yet it is clear that the smaller territories in the Eastern Caribbean would be unhappy with either Gairy or Radix, and would like to see Herbert Blaize as the new Prime Minister. They may get their wish.

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Radix's left-wing party confident of victory

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Nov. 25 (CANA):

LEADER OF THE lone left-wing political party contesting the December 3 general elections, Kenrick Radix, says his Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) is confident of winning the elections which will provide the first democratically-elected government in eight years.

Radix said his party would do better than a lot of people believed it would.

"I think that we would win," Radix, a former Industrialisation Minister in the ousted New Jewel Movement (NJM) administration, told CANA.

The MBPM takes its name from former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who was killed in a left-wing military coup a year ago.

The party is contesting the 15-constituency poll along with the centrist New National Party (NNP) of ex-chief Minister Herbert Blaize, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy and the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP).

Radix repeated a charge that one of the main concerns of Grenadians was that Governor General Sir Paul Scoon had failed to accede to a request by thousands of persons who wanted to vote but had failed to register during the time stipulated by the

authorities.

He said the party was confident of getting the support of the youths, working people, as well as other democratic and patriotic elements for the elections and that support "is growing and swelling every day".

"We are fighting on a platform of national independence for Grenada, the bringing into operation of programmes and policies that would benefit the poor, dispossessed, youths, women and farmers and so on," Radix said.

"We also believe that we as a people have the right to chart our course and to mould ourselves and country in our own image and in our own likeness."

He said the MBPM has been focussing during its campaign on the "terrible economic situation" Grenada was currently in because of the interim administration decision to cut back on programmes of the previous government.

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Challenge to Court's legality dismissed

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada,
Nov. 19, CANA:

Grenada's Chief Justice Archibald Nedd today dismissed a motion challenging the legality of the local Supreme Court to hear the murder trial of 19 former military and political officials.

The motion was brought by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, one of the 19 charged for the murder of Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop and 10 others in a bloody army coup in October 1983.

In his three-and-a-quarter hour judgement, the Chief Justice said he could not accept the submission by Defence Counsel Clarence Hughes of Guyana that the law establishing the court was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court of Grenada

was set up by People's Law No. 4 of 1979 promulgated by Bishop's left-wing People's Revolutionary Government.

The law stipulated that the juris-



COARD

diction which was formerly exercised by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court was now vested in the new Supreme Court of Grenada consisting of a high court and a court of appeal.

Hughes had contended that the only courts validly recognised by the Grenada Constitution — suspended by the Bishop government, but since reinstated, at least partially — were those set up when the country was granted independence from Britain on February 7, 1974.

Nedd also ruled that although the Constitution was suspended by the PRG the Queen remained Head of State and the Governor-General continued to be her representative on the island.

The PRG, he added, was clearly bent on replacing the Constitution

with a new one and referred to the setting up of a commission shortly before its downfall to draft a new Constitution to be submitted for approval in a referendum.

He said that if the applicants had consisted only of PRG ministers the court would have dismissed the application out of hand as an abuse of process instead of taking so much time.

The Chief Justice ordered that the applicants pay cost which should be taxed.

Hughes immediately served notice that he would be appealing against the decision handed down by the court.

The trial of the 19 resumes tomorrow at the specially built high court in Richmond Hill near to the main prisons.

THE DAILY GLEANER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1984

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GRENADA'S DEC. 3 GENERAL ELECTION -

Which of the four Parties can be trusted ?

St. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Nov 28, CANA

If the low turn out at party political rallies is anything to go by, then with only days remaining before the first general election here in eight years, Grenadians are still apathetic about voting at this time.

For sure, there is a lot on people's minds: high unemployment, a decline in the key agricultural sector, an economy that's generally in not too good shape, national security and uncertainty over the trial of 19 former military and political figures charged with murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others last year.

The key question perplexing the 50 000-strong electorate may well be which of the four parties in the race can be trusted to lead this troubled Eastern Caribbean country back to lasting peace and stability after the political trauma of the last decade.

Of the four parties fielding a record total of 52 candidates, the acknowledged front runners are the 33-year-old rightwing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and the centrist New National Party (NNP), a three-group alliance formed only last August.

The GULP, led by charismatic, authoritarian former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, won the last poll in 1976, taking nine of the 15 seats, but it was this repressive regime that was ousted by the leftist opposition New Jewel Movement (NJM) in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first military coup less than three years later.

Unimpressed

Grenada's first Chief Minister, veteran politician Herbert Blaize is leading the NNP, the party being backed by most Eastern Caribbean governments to form the next administration here.

The other parties in the lineup are the leftist Maurice Bishop patriotic movement (MBPM), a new splinter group of the NJM and the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP).

In the campaign so far it's debatable whether Grenadians

have been impressed by what the parties are offering or what they have been saying.

The GULP hasn't been holding many rallies it has concentrated on a house-to-house approach and has been promising to reconcile the politically divided country, pursue a Westminster style parliamentary democracy, seek to attract a permanent US military base and to rename the new airport if possible after US president Ronald Reagan.

The NNP has among its priorities a series of constitutional reforms to make politicians more accountable to the people. Blaize speaks of setting up a system where elected representatives could be "recalled", of limiting the term in office of the Prime Minister to two consecutive terms, presumably of five years each, and of appointing an ombudsman.

The MBPM says if it formed the government it would resume many of the socialist policies and projects of the former Bishop government, and the CDLP, by fielding only six candidates has automatically relegated itself to a possible opposition role after the election.

The campaign has been complicated for the electorate by the peripheral charges and counter charges. The NNP for instance has been playing up the leftist leanings of the MBPM and its links with the NJM, which virtually self-destructed in the 1983 coup spearheaded by hardliners in the party.

Unemployment

The MBPM on the other hand accuses its opponents of being pro-Washington 'yes men' and of being financed by the Americans.

Ten years after gaining its political independence from Britain, this mainly agricultural island-nation is grappling with unemployment estimated at 30 per cent and an economy that is virtually being kept afloat by substantial US financial assistance, which in the 1984-85 fiscal year amounts to 57.2 million dollars

The largest slice of this--19 mil-

lion dollars-- went towards completion of Grenada's first international airport officially opened to commercial traffic on October 28.

The Point Salines airport, built with Cuban, American, Canadian and British assistance, is expected to give the country some of the lift it needs to restore economic buoyancy, particularly in the tourism sector, the second largest foreign currency earner after agriculture.

The interim administration, installed a year ago to lay the groundwork for a return to parliamentary government after a bloody October 1983 military coup and subsequent US-led invasion, has managed to interest a range of foreign businessmen to invest in tourism here.

Tourism officials say agreements have actually been signed, but as yet none of the promised hotels is off the ground, an indication that entrepreneurs too are awaiting the outcome of the December 3 poll.

In fact despite government's efforts to give the private sector a greater role in economic development, few local or foreign entrepreneurs have been starting new ventures.

The interim administration has also restructured the predominant state sector investment code drawn up by the NJM government, preferring one placing emphasis on private sector activity, thus aligning investment incentives with norms accepted throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

Since the invasion, one of the few new businesses set up here has been Ingles Industries Inc. a US firm specialising in the production of wooden toys and Christmas ornaments for export mainly to the American market.

The project is being supported by the US government-funded Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) which Washington regards as a key agency for encouraging American businesses to invest in developing countries.

OPIC provides insurance against losses from certain political risks, loan guarantees, direct loans to small

businesses and cooperatives and a range of pre-investment programmes including funding for feasibility studies.

Under the Gairy regime, OPIC provided investment insurance for continental grains in a flour and feed mill joint venture. However, the corporation's programmes were suspended from mid-1980 to last November under the PRG.

In anticipation of the return to parliamentary government here the Governor General Sir Paul Scoon has reinstated several sections of the Constitution, which was suspended under NJM rule.

American troops

These relate to the protection of persons detained under emergency laws, the position of the Governor General himself, parliament, the executive, the public service and citizenship, among others.

Grenada has also used the last year to restore its police force, de-emphasised by the previous government in favour of a strong army.

Just under 250 American troops and about 450 soldiers and policemen from the seven CARICOM countries which backed the US invasion last year are still on peacekeeping duty here.

Informed sources here say a further 250 Caribbean policemen are being flown in to bolster security during election time.

Western diplomats here are anxious to see the return of stable democracy in Grenada and against the background of the previous excesses of the GULP - censured by an official commission of enquiry some years ago for brutality against its political opponents - and the MBPM forerunner, the NJM, the favourites are Blaize and his NNP.

Ironically the GULP leader, Sir Eric is not among the candidates for Monday's poll. But he concedes that should his party win he will be the best man to lead Grenada.

"There is no other," he told one visiting newsman here recently.

13 years of human rights violations in Grenada

The period 1970 to 1983 in Grenada has been seen as the period of the worst manifestations of violations of human rights of citizens in the Commonwealth Caribbean. These violations took place in Grenada under the Gairy government and the Bishop regime. This conclusion was reached in a study authored by a former senior tutor in Law at the Norman Manley Law School, Mr. Donald Trotman, and a Grenadian lawyer practising in Jamaica, Mr. Keith Friday.

In a study of human rights in Grenada in the period 1970 to 1984, the authors found that "both the Gairy Government and the Bishop regime made a mockery of the 1974 Constitution of Grenada with its entrenched provisions for the guaranteed protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms; the one by disdainfully ignoring it, the other by arbitrarily abrogating it."

The study was commissioned by the newly-formed Bustamante Institute of Public and International Affairs, and was conducted in February this year when both Mr. Trotman and Mr. Friday visited Grenada and interviewed scores of people of all political stripes in the country, and studied the many documents found after the US invasion of Grenada in November last year.

The authors, in their study which is being published by the Bustamante Institute of Public and International Affairs within the next few weeks, indicated that while recognising that the period under the People's Revolutionary Government of Mr. Bishop demanded special and immediate examination, they were of the opinion that proper assessment of the events of that period could not be made by viewing them in isolation. They said that they had to be seen contextual relationship to what occurred in the preceding years of the Gairy government and to what has happened subsequently in the contemporary administration of the Interim Advisory Council set up by Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor General.

Hence, the survey attempted to straddle three periods: 1970 to March 13, 1979, the Gairy period; March 13, 1979 to October 25, 1983, the Bishop period; and October 25, 1983 to April 1984, the period under the Interim Advisory Council.

The survey of civil and political rights and freedoms was done covering a number of areas: freedom of association and assembly, freedom of religion and worship, freedom of thought and expression, the right to security of the person and to personal liberty, the right to protection

from the arbitrary deprivation of property, human rights and the administration of justice and the right of citizens to participate in government.

In their concluding statement, the authors said that Grenadians had become a people whose human and democratic rights had disintegrated and disappeared during the decade under Gairy and Bishop, either by repression and sustained violation or simply by desuetude, that is, by absence of usage. "Regrettably," says the authors, the "incumbent Advisory Council continues to maintain much of the structure and apparatus which gave strength and purported legality to the evil forces of the preceding two Grenadian governments, that is, of Gairy and of Bishop. In particular, people's laws negating the bulk of the Constitution remain untouched; the fundamental rights and provisions of the Constitution still stand suspended, the infamous terrorism (prevention) Law is intact and even being used by the Advisory Council; preventive detention continues to be practised in the absence of a State of Emergency. The People's Revolutionary Government, or many of its members, may be dead or detained, but its laws still rule Grenadians from the grave or from the prison. In all the circumstances of the past decade, it is not surprising that Grenada has not ratified a single human rights instrument of the United Nations.

"Preservation of the fundamental rights of a free nations people is not sustained by accidents or by the occasional outcry of a courageous few; but by constant vigilance of all its citizens against any infringement by anyone of any of these rights, and by constantly observing, in practice, the words that Theophilus Marrayshow so often used: "The right alone is right; the wrong is always wrong."

The authors set out the vast number of estates which were compulsorily acquired by the Gairy government in the period 1974 to 1979 without adequate compensation, and similarly a long list of property compulsorily acquired under the Bishop Government of 1979 to 1983 without compensation.

An example of the violation of human rights is given in the case of the Rastafarians by the survey. It is pointed out that during the last five years of the Gairy government the Rastafarian sect increased in numbers and became openly demonstrative of their beliefs and lifestyles. Gairy reacted toughly against them by using his Mongoose Gang to harass and brutalise them, as well as by rigidly enforcing the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs legislation to deal with the possession and

smoking of ganja among them. The authors point out that when Bishop's New Jewel Movement seized power on March 13, 1979 Rastafarians came out in great support of them and the Revolution. Many of them joined the People's Revolutionary Army and took up arms in spite of their peace and love philosophy. But as the Bishop regime developed, the Rastafarians and the Bishop people began to have disagreements.

In the early Revolution days, Prime Minister Bishop had been reported to have publicly promised to repeal all laws prohibiting the smoking of ganja and to have declared the smoking of it as a basic human right. So in the early days, Rastafarians were to be seen puffing ganja smoke in the faces of policemen and claiming freedom to do so. But later, after the Bishop top members and the Cuban officials strongly protested against manifestation of such freedom, the police were given orders to arrest all, including Rastafarians, who possessed and smoked ganja, and we quote from the report: "When one Bruno, a leading revolutionary and radio announcer on Radio Free Grenada under Bishop, complained on the air that the police were violating the democratic right to smoke ganja, he was promptly fired from his job by PRG Minister, Phyllis Coard. Shortly after he was killed in a motorcar accident under circumstances which gave rise to gravest suspicions of the occurrence."

Police arrests continued and increased, a significant number of Rastafarians were rounded up and joined the ranks of detainees without trial.

Under Section 9 of the 1974 Constitution of Grenada, freedom of religion, religious belief, religious ceremony, religious worship and religious instruction are guaranteed protection, under law, but this was denied the Rastafarians.

The authors report also the harassment of denominations, the Bishop government closed down the Roman Catholic paper, Catholic Focus, after only its first issue, the building in which its offices were located was also commandeered for government use. In 1982 a Methodist minister who had chosen not to conduct funeral service for an activist of the Bishop party on a Sunday was unceremoniously deported from Grenada. Under the Gairy government the main traditional denominations enjoyed unimpeded freedom. Gairy himself was a devout Roman Catholic and an established practising member of the Rosicrucian Order. The non-traditional denominations and revivalist sects flourished under Gairy and large numbers of their followers were among his ardent political supporters.

The survey by Messrs. Trotman and Friday will be released officially later in the year, the Gleaner understands.

The Gleaner Nov. 25, 1984

Grenada parties in ideology row

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

The political left and the moderates in Grenada are caught up in a verbal row over ideology and foreign allegiance, as campaigning heats up for the first general election here in eight years.

The leftists, who took power in a 1979 coup and lost it after bitter in-fighting that led to a 1983 U.S.-led invasion, have described the moderates as "mimic men" who take their orders from Washington

The centrists on the other hand have dubbed the left wingers traitors and people who have to await instructions from the Communist leadership in Moscow and Havana.

The active left here is essentially the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), a splinter group from slain Prime Minister Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM), and the moderates in the controversy come from a three party alliance called the New National Party (NNP)

Nov. 25, 1984

The Gleaner

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Grenada's National Party set to defeat Gairy's GULP

Latest independent polls have shown that Grenada's New National Party, led by Herbert Blaize would obtain nine seats in the upcoming Grenada elections in December against six seats for Sir Eric Gairy's United Labour Party.

This was disclosed by Grenadian journalist Alister Hughes on Wednesday, during a conference debating 'Critical Choices for the Caribbean' at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston, sponsored by Texas Southern University.

Mr. Hughes said that Mr. Blaize Party was considered middle-of-the-road, bringing together three parties.

He told the conference that a win by Gairy's United Labour Party would be a return to square one as he noted that Mr. Gairy had begun sending orders around the country, threatening those who did not bow to his biddings.

Mr. Gairy had got the kind of support he now enjoyed because he had constantly accused Bishop's New Jewel Movement and its members as communists before they seized power; and since evidence to support his position had now come to light, Sir Eric was campaigning on the basis that he

knew who were communists.

Mr. Hughes said that what occurred in Grenada October last year gave the United States an excuse for what they wanted to do before; however, the basis on which they entered Grenada arose from the request of Governor General Sir Paul Schoon.

"This has nothing to do with the U.S. invading on ideological grounds," he said.

Mr. Hughes gave an overview of Grenada's political history since the rise of Gairy to the ascendancy of the People's Revolutionary Government as he spoke of the excesses of the notorious Mongoose Gang legitimised by Gairy whose activities involved suppressing political opposition and stifling the Press in the country, which he said led to a wave of anti-Gairy sentiments headed by an alliance of perceived "liberators" in the New Jewel Movement.

However, the N.J.M. made no exposure to the public of what their aims were and their revolutionary intent, which gained for them six seats out of 16 in the Grenadian Parliament in the 1976 elections, he said. Mr. Hughes added that the Gairy method of Government provided the right climate for "that kind of revolution" to succeed.

Nov 26, 1984 The Gleaner

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Grenadians urged to avoid return of fascism, communism

ST. GEORGE'S, Nov. 29, (CANA)

A senior official of the centrist New National Party (NNP) has said that when they go to the polls on Monday Grenadians will have to choose between a group of violent men and politicians who can bring stability to the island.

During a public meeting, NNP member George Brizan urged Grenadian voters to ensure that neither fascism nor communism returns to Grenada.

Brizan launched an attack on both the leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) and the right-wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), which once held power here.

The GULP, headed by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, was overthrown by a 1979 leftist coup. Lawyer Maurice Bishop, who led that coup, was ousted and killed in a palace coup, but the military junta that replaced Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) was quickly unseated by a U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in October 1983.

Brizan, an economist, said that unlike the MBPM and the GULP the NNP is committed to restoring peace, political stability and good Government in Grenada.

Monday's poll is the first here since 1976. The last election was won by the GULP.

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The Gleaner Nov 25, 1984

Window on the world

Nov 25, 1984

The Daily
Theater

ELECTIONS IN GRENADA

by
Vincent Tulloch

Grenadians in a week or so will trek to polling stations across the rugged terrain to elect 15 Members of Parliament. The election under normal circumstances would hardly attract much attention outside of the eastern Caribbean, but since the coup of 1979 things have changed.

Developments last October which led to the United States invasion of the country and the ouster of the short-lived military government of General Hudson Austin, have ensured that whatever happens in that Spice Island is closely scrutinised by the international community.

The United States and her Caribbean colleagues, Jamaica included, have informed the world that one of their aims would be the return of the country to democratic rule.

The euphoria that followed the invasion has naturally subsided and Grenadians are now taking a harsh look at life and the realities that go with it.

Initially, the reaction was that with the trauma that people went through, they should not be subjected to elections which some say would only serve to further divide the country and prolong the healing process. The occupational powers however pushed for the election and with help from the international community, everything is in place for the December elections.

Confused state

The confused state of Grenadian politics which is very much personalised saw the squabbling among various factions as the fight for recognition grew. Eventually, a moderate coalition was hurriedly patched together under pressure from some of the invading islands, Barbados, St. Vincent and Dominica included.

The flurry was of course due to the return of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy who despite stating clearly that he had no intention of personally contesting the polls, left no doubt in anyone's mind as to his role in Grenadian politics should his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), win the election.

And that is where the rub comes in. The United States and Jamaica among other states are running scared at the prospect of a GULP triumph which seems almost foregone. Yet, here in Jamaica there is one set of political pundits who would love nothing more than a Gairy victory.

The communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has every reason to support Gairy. Naturally it will be a little awkward for the WPJ to explain its strange alliance but with its long-term interests at stake it must play its card in this game. The long and short of it is that the election of the Gairy faction means the return to conditions of pre-coup years of the late seventies. It will be only a matter of time before Gairy shows his hand in his quest for revenge.

Much concern

The WPJ here knows that that will be the best thing that could happen to Grenada since the U.S.-led invasion.

On the other hand, there is much concern in Washington at the prospect of Gairy returning to power. My information is that the United States has made it known that the election of GULP candidates to form the government could see a drastic cut in aid to that country.

The United States pumps millions of dollars into the country and a withdrawal or suspension could severely inhibit developments there.

It was natural then for the United States to react swiftly to claims by Gairy that he has the support of the White House therefore Grenadians should vote GULP.

The outcome of that election is not likely to solve much if the early trends that have been noticed continue. Yet, according to reports from the island a week or so ago, the coalition party appears to be gaining ground on GULP and the left-leaning remnants of the New Jewel Movement.

Election night reports will be followed with interest in Washington, here in Kingston at Hope Road/Montrose Road and Lady Musgrave Road with keen interest. GULP's triumph will be celebrated at Lady Musgrave Road and damned in other quarters.

New set back in trial of Grenada 19

ST GEORGE'S Grenada, Nov 20, CANA:

The high court trial of 19 former Grenada military and political officials, already affected by two successive adjournments, was today put back indefinitely by Chief Justice Archibald Nedd.

At the brief court sitting, the Chief Justice said in the face of a failure by the officials to

secure lawyers for the case that the trial would be adjourned until such time as he directs a special sitting of the court to hear the matter.

Nedd told the court that the 19 — accused of killing a Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers in a coup last year — have expressed in varying terms their reluctance to be represented by local legal practitioners. He said that only

twelve of them were in the process of negotiating with a team of Jamaican lawyers for their defense.

Because of financial problems, the 12 are still to complete negotiations with the team headed by senior Jamaican lawyer Ian Ramsey, Nedd said.

During the preliminary inquiry the group of ex-army and Government officials was represented by a seven-man Jamaican team headed by Queen's Counsel Howard Hamilton, a barrister in a legal firm headed by Ramsey.

Among those making arrangements to obtain lawyers are said to be ex-army chief general Hudson Austin, former mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, Ex-Junior Ministers Colville Mc Barnette, trade unionist John Ventour, and soldiers Lester Redhead, Andy Mitchell, Christopher Stroude, Cecil Prime, Fabian Gabriel, Raeburn Nelson, and Callistus Bernard.

The others on trial are ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, Major Leon Cornwall, the former ambassador to Cuba, and soldiers Lian James, Ewart Layne, Cosmos Richardson and Vincent Joseph.

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