

The Gleaner Sept. 20, 1984

Sept. 20, 1984

THE DAILY GLEANER

Adams against early troop withdrawal from Grenada

TORONTO, Sept. 19, (CANA)

Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams has counselled against "premature withdrawal" of American and Caribbean forces from Grenada.

Adams' comments were made in a speech yesterday in Montreal to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs that sought to explain the thinking behind last October's invasion of Grenada. Canada had criticised the action.

Troops and policemen from the United States and the seven West Indian islands that took part in the military intervention have been stationed in the island on what's called a peace-keeping mission.

The foreign forces will stay in St. George's until at least a new government is elected in a vote expected in November to restore the country's Parliamentary system.

"The withdrawal of United States and eventually of Caribbean forces is of course an essential part of the process of re-establishing normalcy in Grenada. However the dangers

of a premature withdrawal must not be minimised," Adams said.

"This could open the way for those who would wish to see Grenada thrown into further confusion and turmoil and reverse the process since last October," the Barbados Prime Minister added.

He noted "concerted" efforts underway to reinforce and upgrade Grenada's police force.

Since Grenada, Mr Adams said, "it is clearer than ever before that the economic and military security of the entire Eastern Caribbean must be placed on a sounder footing, and I therefore welcome Canada's recent offer to provide training assistance in this country for the Barbados Defence Force...."

The Barbados army like the security forces from other participating

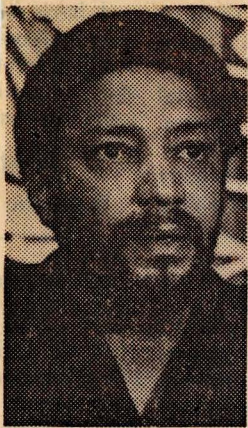


TOM ADAMS

countries on the Grenada peace-keeping mission has recently been in receipt of increased American military aid.

However Adams said he would rather focus on economic help for the Caribbean and said Canada can play a pivotal role in the recovery of regional economies from the recession. He welcomed Canadian aid to Grenada.

Adams suggested an early Canada-Caribbean summit to assess post-Grenada relations as a follow-up to one held in St. Lucia last year, sharing a view expressed in a Canadian newspaper this week by St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell.



Maurice Bishop

ST. GEORGE'S,
Sept. 19, (CANA)

Grenada authorities today described as mere "rumour" reports that they knew the whereabouts of the bodies of slain Prime Minister

Grenada Government denies knowledge of discovery of Bishop's body

Maurice Bishop and some of his colleagues killed in last October's bloody army coup.

The Interim Government said in a statement there was no truth whatsoever in reports that it had knowledge of the discovery of the bodies by military forces and that they had been positively identified by forensic experts.

The statement was put out by the Interim Government apparently in response to a charge made by members of the Maurice Bishop Memorial Foundation that the authorities knew about

the discovery of the bodies.

The Foundation in recent letters sent to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and the U.S. Ambassador here indicated that it had reliable information that the bodies of Bishop and his Cabinet colleagues were discovered in a shallow pit in Calivigny in the south of the island.

Both letters, which were published in the official organ of the Foundation, called for the bodies to be handed over to relatives for a decent and honourable burial.

The statement said the Government had received several letters from relatives requesting that the bodies be handed over but "there is no truth whatsoever in these rumours".

"The Governor-General and the (Advisory) Council wish to inform the people of Grenada that they never received any information about the discovery of the bodies of the late Prime Minister and his colleagues", the statement said.

"Propaganda specialists are giving the impression that the Advisory Council has a

responsibility to recover the bodies of those who were executed on October 19, 1983," it added.

Bishop, along with Foreign Minister, Unison Whiteman, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Housing Minister Norris Bain and several others were killed in the coup staged by a hard-line faction of Bishop's left-wing Peoples Revolutionary Government.

The coup was triggered off by a bitter leadership feud between Bishop and his deputy Bernard Coard over joint leadership of the then ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM).

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The Gleaner *Sept. 28, 1984*

Document tells why Grenada not made Marxist-Leninist state

Sept 28, 1984

BRIDGETOWN, Sept. 27, (CANA)

The Grenada Government's financial problems as well as the smallness and political immaturity of the working class saved the small Caribbean island from an early conversion to a full-fledged Marxist-Leninist state, according to a document released here by the United States.

The document, running to 12 pages, is listed by the U.S. State Department as a reprinted secret speech ex-Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop gave to key members of his New Jewel Movement (NJM) two years ago.

Bishop admitted then that three years after the pre-dawn coup that brought the NJM to power

Grenada was still at "e Department as a reprinted secret speech ex-Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop gave to key members of his New Jewel Movement (NJM) two years ago.

Documents previously released by the State Department after the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada showed hardliners in Bishop's Party were concerned about the slow transition. The radicals later unseated and executed Bishop before being themselves toppled in the invasion.

In the speech, being circulated while leftist and other parties are gearing for a December 3 general election, Bishop revealed that the aim of the NJM leadership had always been the establishment of a

"dictatorship of the proletariat."

But he said the NJM found it impossible to carry out a quick change to a full-fledged Marxist-Leninist state because of a series of problems, some of them financial.

He complained about "the low level of development of the productive forces" and of the working class being "too small and too politically underdeveloped" for such a quick transition.

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Election date may be announced soon

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 19, (CANA)

Head of Grenada's Interim Government Nicholas Brathwaite today said a date for the upcoming general elections to return the island to elected government could be announced shortly.

Brathwaite told CANA that he expected Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to announce the date for the elections in not more than two to three weeks but certainly long before this timeframe.

Under the Grenada constitution, the date for the elections is determined by the Governor-General after consultation with the head of the Government, in this case the Chairman of the Interim Government.

Brathwaite said there were no special plans being discussed by the Government to hand over to the elected Government after the elections are held.

Once the results of the polls were clear

cut, he said, the person identified as the new Prime Minister commanding the majority support in Parliament would be called upon by Sir Paul to form the new Government.

Brathwaite added that he would like to be remembered in history as a person who tried to help the people of Grenada return to a democratic way of life after a failed marxist experiment.

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The Gleaner

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Interim Govt. working on media policy

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 19, (CANA)

Grenada's Interim Government is working on a media policy to allow state-owned "Radio Grenada" to publicise political messages of the parties contesting the forthcoming general elections, a Government official said.

The official said a media advisor on loan to the administration from Canada for three months was drafting the policy.

The expert is currently working on upgrading the skills of employees at the radio station and the Government Information Service (GIS).

The Government source said the media policy was expected to be presented to the interim administration shortly for its approval in order to allow the political parties access to the sole radio station on the island.

"I would anticipate that in the next

three weeks that policy should become operational and the radio should be available to the political parties contesting the elections so that the people can be kept apprised of their policies, programmes, philosophies, and their plans for this country," he said.

Since last October's U.S.-led military intervention of Grenada, the local radio station has virtually remained silent on the activities of the various political parties preparing for the elections.

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Airport still considered key in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP)

Grenada's new airport, the controversial centerpiece of the deposed socialist Government's economic strategy, now is a key to building the island's post-invasion economy.

An international airport has been a dream for decades on Grenada, currently serviced by Pears Airport. Its unlighted 5,500-foot runway is nearly an hour's ride over rough mountain roads from this capital, and there has been no direct air service from North America or Europe.

The result has been one of the Caribbean's least-developed tourist industries. The island in the past four years drew an annual average of 24,000 stayover visitors, less than a single month's total for established Caribbean destinations such as Barbados.

But with the new airport and the sudden notoriety of Grenada, tourism officials expect a major change.

"Everyone knows about Grenada now. A lot of people will come out of curiosity. Things are looking up. This is the beginning of our future," said Richard Cherman, Director of Tourism.

The anticipated tourism growth from the new airport, expected to open ceremonially on October 28 and to regular service in November, is viewed as the best way for Grenada to escape its dependence on generous foreign aid that will almost certainly decline in the future. The United States, which will have sent 45 million here by year's end, would like to cut down to 15 million or less next year.

Even what has been a tiny tourist industry by Caribbean standards has accounted for an estimated 40 percent of Grenada's annual foreign exchange earnings. And tourism growth is also seen as a way to relieve unemployment that is at about one-third the workforce.

Many unemployed are the young people who were the strongest supporters of the late Maurice Bishop, whose leftist Government took over in 1979 but fell a year ago after a bloody power struggle followed by U.S. invasion. Bishop's loyalists now are re-organizing politically and have pledged to return to power.

The lack of jobs for the young people is a problem. But with tourism brought by the airport, and the spin-offs of tourism, they can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, said Geoffrey Thompson, a prominent businessman. "That would put a damper on any efforts to destabilize the situation. Although the majority of Grenadians appear enthusiastic about the benefits of the new airport, some people, including U.S. officials, caution that the airport won't be a panacea.

During Bishop's time, U.S. officials from President Ronald Reagan on down voiced suspicion that the Cubans doing most on the 9,500-foot runway airport had future military plans for it. The size of the airport, they said, far outstripped Grenada's needs.

Four months after the invasion, Washington reluctantly committed nearly 20 million to help complete the 71 million (U.S.) airport. U.S. officials said it would have been wasteful to scale back the airport from the stage inherited from the Cubans, but they worry that its operating cost — estimated at as much as 10 million dollars (U.S.) a year — will outweigh its revenues for the financially pressed island.

Heading into the winter tourist season, the island had only 460 first-class hotel rooms, and about half of those were still occupied by U.S. military and diplomatic personnel. The Interim Government has been encouraging foreign investors and would like to see 2,000 newly constructed rooms by next year.

The island's hotel association has voiced

resistance to such rapid growth, instead calling for a phased development which would bring no more than 900 new rooms over three years. The established hoteliers envision a limited, "up-market" clientele, rather than the mass market sought by the interim authorities, who will be replaced in December 3 elections.

To build either market, the island will probably have to improve its infrastructure. Power outages, water shortages and telephone failures have been reduced in recent months, but the level of services remains below established resort islands.

Confident business people and officials use an analogy often used by Bishop when challenged about the need for the airport. "It's the chicken-and-the-egg," they say — the airport will bring in the money needed to improve the infrastructure and will lure the foreign investors needed to build the needed new hotels.

An increase in cruise ship calls has begun. A total 120 are scheduled for this season, double last year's total.

The tourism department is trying to make sure the visitors who do come go away pleased. Seminars for vendors and taxi drivers have been conducted, and added to a sightseeing itinerary dominated by the island's natural beauty is a "war tour."

"The majority of the people, especially the Americans, want to see where the war was," said "Cornbread" Hayling, a taxi driver.

The stops include Caligny Point, where a shelled Grenada army camp is in ruins — Butlerhouse, the burned-out former offices of Bishop — the Fort where Bishop was executed, the mental hospital accidentally bombed by U.S. planes, and Fort Frederick, where a U.S. grant will be used to install a telescope and information center.

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Editorials

GRENADA MERGER

The merger of the Centrist Parties in Grenada is a good sign for that country. The National Party, led by Mr. Herbert Blaize, a former Chief Minister, has merged with the Grenada Democratic Movement, GDM, headed by Dr. Francis Alexis and the National Democratic Party, NDP, led by Mr. George Brizan.

The Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP), led by Mr. Winston Whyte was at first a part of this merger but has since been asked to leave the merger.

According to Mr. Blaize, the differences between them had been irreconcilable. The Grenadian elections are due to be held in November or December of this year. We have been among those who would have wished a postponement to next year to enable the people to get used to electioneering again after the gap from 1979 to this year when electoral politics disappeared with the coup by the Leftists and Marxists. For, in our view, it would be only GULP, the Grenada United Labour Party of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy and the offshoot of the New Jewel Movement, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, which

would have had experience of organisation, for they were well established parties before the coup; and they had a structure which could be easily revived. It would be retrogressive for the cause of democracy in the region if the people of Grenada selected either Sir Eric Gairy's party or the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. It would show to the Caribbean that they had not learnt the lesson of the last two decades, that a right wing corrupt and arrogant government is a horrible example to follow, as is that of the dictatorial totalitarian quality of the left wing marxist movement.

If those who lead the centre parties are unable to agree or unable to organise together and to inspire the electorate, then the Caribbean will have to face the sad fact that it is going to be either Sir Eric Gairy's triumphant return to a seat from which he can again show monogoose corruption, or the return of the Communists through the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, either of which scenario is, as our colleagues in the **Trinidad Guardian** have said, would be monstrous for Grenada and for the Caribbean.

Sept. 15, 1984. The Gleaner.

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Grenada's voters list expected anytime now

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

Grenada's final voters list for general elections expected by year-end is due here today from neighbouring Barbados, which has been providing technical assistance in preparation for the poll, it has been officially announced.

Supervisor of Elections Roy Chasteau told CANA yesterday: "After claims and objections had been filed on the preliminary list we had a

few matters for correction, there were people to be added, some odds and ends to be straightened out.

"The final list is now being printed in Barbados and I expect it will be posted throughout the State by early next year."

The Supervisor said some minor changes in the final list will still be possible until the end of September and his office will accommodate requests for changes from persons who, since their

enumeration, have had changes of address.

Chasteau said that, before the elections can be held, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon will have to issue election writs for each of the 15 constituencies which constitute the State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

Nomination day will follow in 10 days and the elections must be held in not less than 15 and not more than 21 days after nomination day.

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Sept. 21, 1984 The Gleaner

THE DAILY GLEANER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1984

NJM won't contest Grenada elections

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 20, (CANA)

Grenada's left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) will not be taking part in the general elections expected before the end of this year, according to Ian St. Bernard, an executive member of the Party.

One of the reasons given for this decision was what St. Bernard called "the massive propaganda campaign" started by Washington after the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October 25.

According to St. Bernard, one of the main objectives of the campaign has been to destroy the image of the NJM in the eyes of the people of Grenada, and this to a great extent has been achieved.

He said there could be no free and fair elections in the country as long as the foreign troops — American and Caribbean — remain.

The U.S. has scaled down its military presence here, but there is no indication how soon all U.S. security personnel will be off the island. Caribbean governments have not set a deadline for withdrawing their soldiers and police personnel, which are maintaining the peace here.

The New Jewel Movement (NJM) took power in Grenada in 1979 in a bloodless coup that ousted the Eric Gairy Government while its leader was on business in the U.S.

Problems between the moderate and hardline marxist factions of the NJM led in October 1983 to yet another coup in which the hardliners took

control.

Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister, and other Cabinet Ministers were killed.

The moderates recently launched their Party, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, with a former Minister, Hendrick Radix as its chairman.

Many of the key figures of the hardline faction of the NJM are now in jail awaiting trial on charges of murdering Bishop and the others.

St. Bernard, the only one of the 20 charged that has been freed, recently set out in an interview some of the objectives of the NJM.

He said that the Party still remained committed to seeing a free and liberated Grenada — an independent and sovereign nation in which the poor and working people would play a meaningful role in overall development.

St. Bernard declined to comment on any specific activities in which the Party and its members were now engaged.

Sept. 26, 1984 The Gleaner

THE DAILY GLEANER, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

MBPM names first candidate for Grenada elections

ST. GEORGE'S,
Sept. 25; (CANA)

The leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) today named its first candidate for the December 3 general elections — ex-army Major Einstein Louison.

Candidates for the other 14 seats at stake will be announced sometime next week, according to Party chairman Kendrick Radix.

Louison, down to run in the St. John's constituency, was a key figure in the Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA), set up by former

Prime Minister Bishop. He received most of his military training in the Soviet bloc.

Louison was widely believed to have played a major role in the March 1979 coup that brought Bishop to power. He is a brother of George Louison, Bishop's former Agriculture Minister.

Announcement of his candidacy came on the heels of disclosure by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon of the long-awaited election date and presentation of candidates for a three-party centrist coalition.

The election is the first here since the 1976

poll won by the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy. The poll was postponed indefinitely by Bishop, who was ousted by a hardline faction of his Party last October, triggering a U.S.-led invasion that led to establishment of a caretaker Government here.

The objective of the Party, said Radix, is to restore the national independence of Grenada, to continue the economic and social programmes of Bishop's

Government, and to bring an end to the presence of foreign troops on Grenadian soil.

Radix charged that the poll would not be free and fair because the enumeration of voters was conducted at a time when Grenadians were divorced from the political process.

The ex-Minister, who is expected to contest the St. David's constituency in the forthcoming elections, said that from "our own research we have been able to discover several thousand

people are not registered."

"This is due to the fact that this picture-taking exercise which (meant) all voters had to have identity cards was resisted by particularly the young people of Grenada who felt that this information could have been used for security information," he added.

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Sept. 19, 1984 The Gleaner

Grenada Nutmeg Association records huge loss

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

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Sept 19 1984
The Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association, feeling the effects of unfavourable world market conditions, recorded a near half million dollar (1 E.C dollar; 37 cents U.S) operating deficit during the six-month period ending December 31, last year.

A statement from the statutory body, through which all nutmegs and mace must be exported, showed an operating loss of 404,363 dollars, but other miscellaneous income reduced the overall trading deficit to 334,966 dollars.

In its last good year, 1978, the Association had a trading surplus of four million dollars. But since then, there has been a steady decline in the Association's fortunes.

However, the 1983 performance was an improvement on 1982 when the operating loss was 653 113 dollars. It reflects greater sales last year when compared with 1982 but the improvement was not as great as it might have been because of unfavourable world market conditions.

The average price of nutmegs on the world market fell last year to 1.51 dollars per pound compared with the 1982 figure of 1.55 per pound. In 1978, the average price was 2.35 dollars per pound.

Sales of mace in the latter half of 1983 were less than in the same period in 1982, but contrary to the experience with nutmegs, world market prices for first quality mace have increased steadily since 1978 and increased prices last year compensated for the fall off in export weights.

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Sept. 17, 1984. The Gleaner

Sept 17 1984

NJM still alive

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 16, (CANA)

The New Jewel Movement (NJM), presumed dead after last October's bloody political unrest here, today declared it was very much alive and functioning despite the fact that most of its leaders were in jail pending trial on murder charges.

It was the first comment by the marxist group since bitter infighting broke out within its ranks late last year, culminating in a radical faction seizing control of the Government after the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other moderate NJM leaders.

A press statement, signed by Central Committee member Ian St. Bernard made a plea for national unity and reconciliation. It also condemned the U.S.-led intervention that followed the October 19 coup and called for the immediate withdrawal of American and Caribbean forces stationed here.

St. Bernard, a major in the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), was freed recently on a charge of participating in murdering Bishop, three Cabinet Ministers, and four other NJM activists.

Among the 19 NJM leaders awaiting trial are former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, army chief Hudson Austin, and Information Minister Selwyn Strachan.

"The New Jewel Movement wishes to inform all people locally, regionally and internationally that our Party continues functioning legally as other political parties here are allowed to," the three-page statement said.

It said members were finding it "extremely difficult" to engage in political activities and to find employment both within the public and private sector.

"To put it bluntly, the New Jewel Movement exists under conditions of total repression, discrimination and victimization. All this is happening while all other political parties in Grenada are being allowed to operate and function," it said.

The NJM, Grenada's only legal party during the four and a half year rule of Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government, said it had mishandled the leadership crisis and indicated it faced an uphill task in regaining the confidence of the Grenadian people.

"We are prepared to face any criticism levelled against us while preparing ourselves and the people of Grenada to regain our national independence which has been totally destroyed since the criminal invasion and occupation of our dear country," the statement said.

"Despite all the problems which we know we must encounter in once again winning the confidence of the people, the New Jewel Movement remains firmly committed to the struggle of the poor and working people in Grenada and the world over," it added.

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Gleaner Sept. 25

New National Party launches election campaign

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

Saying that Grenada had experienced dictatorial oppression and Communist degradation in the last 12 years, Herbert Blaize launched the election campaign of the New National Party (NNP) by telling voters they have to decide whether they wished to return to the bad old days.

The NNP, a merger of three parties, was presenting its 15 candidates for the December 3 election to an audience of some 1,000 people in the rural town of Grenville last night.

Blaize, a former Chief Minister, said that since 1972 Grenada has declined from a country of respectability to one of disgrace and horror.

He said that during this time Grenada moved from dictatorial oppression under Sir Eric Gairy's right-wing Grenada United Labour Party to communist degradation and disaster under Maurice Bishop, leader of the New Jewel Movement which culmi-

nated in the bloody army coup last October.

"I know that Grenadians know their history because it has been embedded in them and they have lived that history," Blaize said. "They know what they've been through and they don't want it again, so I know when the time comes on December 3, Grenadians would do the right thing."

Ex-PRG official wants troops out of Grenada

NEW YORK, Sept. 24, (CANA)

A former senior official of the deposed Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) in Grenada has called for the removal of all foreign troops from the island.

Dessima Williams, former Ambassador to the Organisation of American States made her remarks in an address to the annual conference here of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists.

Forces from the United States and seven Caribbean islands have been stationed on Grenada since the invasion of the island last October that toppled a military regime which had ousted the PRG.

Williams appealed to "the conscience" of the United States to "give us back the bodies of our leaders"

killed in the military coup. These included PRG Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

She said Washington had tried to destabilise the Bishop administration by presenting Grenada as a threat to American national security, an obstacle to democracy, a deviant in Caribbean political life, and a nest of anti-American actions.

Claiming the policy had backfired, Williams said "history has proven that it is the United States Government in alliance with the most backward and reactionary regimes in the Caribbean that is deviant in the Caribbean."

Grenada, the former diplomat charged, was now being prepared as an American client state and she appealed for Grenadians to be given the right "to run our own country."

OPINIONS

THE DAILY GLEANER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

What's at stake in Grenada trial

By George Geyer

ST. GEORGE'S, August 28:

I had wondered what they looked like, the group accused of conspiracy to kill late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Bernard Coard was a "traitorous friend" of Bishop's and a Caribbean trotsky. Leslie Redhead was a small black Grenadian whom the locals say pulled the trigger that killed Bishop. Hudson Austin was head of the new marxist army during Bishop's turbulent days.

In December, when last on this glorious island, I had voraciously read all of the secret documents the local marxists left behind when Bishop and many others died atop Fort Rupert at the hands of at least some of these men. There were all these names, mixed up bizarrely with those of Soviet generals, Cuban mentors and even Bulgarian spies, all on this "simple" island.

Now, they were all there before our eyes. Wearing simple prisoners shirts, they were crowded together in the dock on the middle of the handsome, round courtroom atop Richmond's Hill. Occasionally, during the impeccable British court procedure that will eventually find them innocent or guilty. They whispered, or laughed or nudged one another.

They were just ordinary black Caribbean folk. And yet there was something different about them. A certain mod "in" style. Almost all had beards that were trimmed just right (like Bishop's, I realized, with an eerie feeling). All were young,

muscular, street-smart. Young men tired of the island apathy. Young men on their way up. At any cost?

Here atop the gorgeous green mountain overlooking St. George's harbour, since early July this fascinating preliminary hearing has been held next door to the prison where Bishop held his political prisoners. The Grenadian Governor-General oversees it, and very fancy Jamaican lawyers, dressed to the British hilt in striped pants and even cravats despite the imploding summer heat, argue both sides. It is splendid spectacle, and most of the world does not even know it is occurring.

Two worlds

At heart, what you really have here are the two worlds of the Caribbean today, and they come together in rare historic confrontation and high drama.

World one is the old world of the Governor-General of the Jamaican lawyer and of the structured parliamentary Caribbean exemplified in this courtroom. It is mannered and polite, and it is hammering away at justice in time-honored ways.

World two is the world of these young men. They are the bright, ambitious and often unscrupulous street kids of the Caribbean, arisen out of the black power movement of Jamaica and the United States in the '60s and '70s and then transformed into Caribbean-style marxism for the very simple reason that — with initially Cuban and finally Russian support — was the fastest way to power.

With the American invasion last October, the American military performed an extremely delicate political operation that has been little noted or appreciated. In the first days after the massacre at

Fort Rupert and after the American landings, hundreds of Bishop followers were arrested; but then they were carefully weeded out and only those believed involved in the massacre were held.

Later, they were officially charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Many have criticized the American invasion without bothering to look at its aftermath. In a typical and incredible naive report on "Grenada and the eastern Caribbean" last winter, the American friends service committee (The Quakers) completely ignored the repression of the Bishop years and the massacre and instead editorialized:

"Throughout the eastern Caribbean, people who oppose governments that supported the invasion of Grenada are under both legal and extra legal pressure...A MacCarthyite witch-hunt for communists..."

Nonsense

This is arrant nonsense. Instead, former Bishop followers who were not accused of involvement in the massacre are totally free to do what they want on the island. Among the Grenadian people, there is an immense sense of well-being on the island — indeed. The main problem is a kind of omnipresent, anti-political attitude that wishes the Americans would take care of things forever.

The predominant wisdom of the last 10 or even 20 years in the Caribbean has been that forms of "revolutionary" marxism like Bishop's were somehow inevitable. Events in Grenada showed this was not true.

Indeed, the hearing and the trial here, with their impeccable historic procedures, show that the invasion of Grenada actually marked the return of the islands of the eastern Caribbean to a reinforced democratic and parliamentary tradition.

At least for the moment, the age of central committees and conspiracy is over.

— The Daily Journal

Sept. 22, 1984

Grenada elections Dec. 3

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP):

GRENADA'S FIRST ELECTIONS since the U.S.-led invasion, and the first since 1976, have been set for December 3.

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon announced the date in a National radio address late Thursday.

"Fellow Grenadians. I beg all registered voters to do your duty on election day...that is go out and vote," Scoon said.

Elections officials, still drawing up the voters' list, estimate that about 50,000 people will be eligible to vote on the tiny island of more than 100,000.

Scoon said he would invite elections observers from the British Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

He didn't mention the United States. There are some 200 U.S. military personnel and about 300 members of a Caribbean Peacekeeping Force still on Grenada. No date has been set for their withdrawal.

Scoon, Queen Elizabeth II's representative on the former British colony, appointed a nonpartisan interim Government after the October 25, 1983, U.S.-led invasion overthrew a radical military Junta. The Junta seized power after the October 19 army slayings of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three of his Cabinet Ministers.

The Reagan Administration and the seven Caribbean nations that participated in the invasion said restoring democracy in Grenada was one of the goals of their action.

Bishop had taken power in a March 13, 1979 coup d'etat and his

leftist New Jewel Movement suspended Grenada's Constitution and ruled without elections.

The last elections here were December 7, 1976 and were won by Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party, which captured nine of 15 seats. A multi-party alliance won the other six and Bishop was the Parliamentary Opposition Leader.

Gairy, whose party has won seven of the eight elections ever held in Grenada, returned from exile in January.

Gairy has said he won't run in the elections, but remains leader of his party. There has been speculation that the 61-year-old leader, who gained a reputation for eccentric and repressive rule, would seek appointment as Governor General or run for Parliament in a later by-election if his party wins control of the Parliament.

Scoon didn't set the date for nomination day, when candidates will be officially announced.

The chief opposition to Gairy's party is the New National Party, a recently formed merger of three moderate parties headed by Herbert Blaize. Blaize, a 65-year-old attorney who headed the Grenada National Party, was Grenada's premier in 1962-'67.

Another new party, the Christian Democratic Labour Party, is headed by Winston Whyte, elected to Parliament in 1976 as head of the Disbanded United People's Party.

Supporters of Bishop have formed the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, but haven't said whether they will compete in the elections.

Scoon called for a campaign free

Sept. 19, 1984 The Gleaner

Former Bishop aide finally gets US visa

NEW YORK, Sept. 18, said.
(CANA)

The United States, in a reversal of an earlier decision, granted an entry visa to Don Rojas, former Press Secretary to slain Grenadian leader, Maurice Bishop.

But it came too late for Rojas to attend a national alliance of Third World journalists conference and meetings at the United Nations, sources close to Rojas

Rojas is now an officer of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) at its headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and was scheduled to be keynote speaker at the national alliances conference, held September 14-16.

Two former Ministers in the Bishop Government, George Louison and Lyden Ramdhanny currently

head of the Maurice Bishop and October 19 Martyrs Memorial Foundation, had also been denied visas to enter the U.S. for medical treatment.

Sept. 19, 1984
PLAY
DAY

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Grenadians studying in Communist states to be watched

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

Chairman of Grenada's Interim Government, Nicholas Brathwaite, says Grenadian nationals studying in Communist bloc countries should be carefully monitored on their return home because they may be security risks.

"I think we would just have to be careful because one doesn't know what training they might be receiving or what kinds of plots might be hatched and I would say we would have to be vigilant," he told CANA.

The students are mainly in the Soviet Union, and East Germany on scholarships obtained by the left wing Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) which was ousted in a bloody coup last October.

The Interim Government, installed after a U.S.-led invasion that was prompted by the slaying of top PRG

leaders, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in the coup tried unsuccessfully to get all the students to come home.

Brathwaite said they would get jobs in the Government service on their return as long as places are available and their qualifications are acceptable. But care will have to be taken that they are not placed in "sensitive" positions, he added.

The Interim Government does not know exactly how many Grenadians are studying in Communist bloc countries. Over 100 were sent by the Ministry of Education, but the Ministry of National Security also sent some for training. The files belonging to this Ministry were destroyed during last October's political disturbances.

Brathwaite said over 50 returned from Cuba since February and several had left East Germany recently for London to seek places at British universities to complete their studies.

He said the Interim Government was looking for places at American institutions for the 50 who came back from Cuba.

The scholarships covered a wide range of technical and academic subjects, including medicine, agronomy, and engineering.

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'..Not dealing with revolutionaries, but a bunch of criminals..'

Grenada update

by

Margaret Morris

says



George Louison

George Louison, a former school teacher, was Minister of Education in the People's Revolutionary Government from 1979 to 1981 and then Minister of Agriculture until imprisoned by the Coard faction. His crime: outspoken support of Maurice Bishop and voting against the "Joint Leadership" that gave Coard dominance.

Louison says that he was scheduled for execution on October 19 but reprieved when his gaolers realized that his death would not fit in with their story about Bishop dying in acrossfire. He broke out of prison on the second day of the "war" and more than most Grenadians has reason to be grateful for the American intervention. Nonetheless he condemns it.

Louison is a founding member of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. When the *Gleaner* interviewed him the party was just one-month-old and had not decided if they will contest the elections. The M.B.P.M., Louison says, stands for "the restoration of national sovereignty and independence and the programmes of the People's Revolutionary Government."

As a visit to the office of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Foundation will confirm the group has considerable organizational and public relations skills. They are receiving generous funding from Grenada Solidarity Committees in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and West Europe. It is logical to assume that Socialist countries will also support them.

'Worse than myth'

Louison dismisses as "worse than a myth" the suggestion that the revolution had gone off track prior to the Coard coup. However there has already been a split in the infant political group. The PRG's High Commissioner Augustine was invited home to "help strengthened our (M.B.P.F's) forces on the ground." He came but opted out because he objected to using Bishop's name in the new political party (M.B.P.M.).

According to Louison, Augustine also "felt that we should not give evidence at the trial because it would be ganging up with the enemy against former comrades." Louison argues that in respect of Coard and Co "we are not dealing with revolu-

tionaries but with a bunch of common criminals who latched onto a party and were able to destroy it from within. Therefore we are violating no revolutionary principles, what we have here is not revolutionaries who are being persecuted but a bunch of common criminals who must be brought to justice."

Friendly relations

The M.B.P.M. will follow the foreign policy of its predecessor the PRG, which, Louison claims, wanted friendly relations with all countries. "Our view was that it made no sense at all to have strained relations with the U.S. Maurice Bishop's visit was another attempt to establish good relations. We had already written to Reagan on two occasions, and to Carter. We think we did everything we could have. All our attempts were spurned. The U.S. was looking for the first opportunity to invade."

The M.B.P.M. will "establish relations with all countries; it's a question of being sufficiently broad-minded...(however the idea) that the world begins and ends with the United States of America is a definition...that can only hold back the Caribbean. It is totally unacceptable and against the interest of Grenada. All those that fought for independence of the Caribbean must be turning in their graves to see that after 100 years of struggle to get rid of the British we are back under the thumb of a bigger imperial power—the U.S.A."

Americans' popularity

He discounts the apparent popularity of the Americans in Grenada thus:

"You have to recognize that because of the crimes of the Coard clique people would have accepted if the devil had got rid of them, they wanted them out. In the months that have gone by people are recognizing that the U.S. came for their own interest ... people are recognizing that nothing has come for the masses of this country as a result of the invasion, and the tremendous benefits of the Revolution are disappearing."

Brimming with confidence Louison assesses the election prospects of the M.B.P.M. to be "as good as any and better than many."

With such unrepentant sounds coming from the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement it is not surprising that Louison and his colleague Kenrick Radix (Chairman of the M.B.P.M.) are kept under careful scrutiny and their movements monitored and even restricted. Radix's Guyanese bride, a former PRG official and ideologue, has been denied entry to Grenada and classified as a security risk. Louison was denied a passport for months. He finally got one the day before he was due to testify in the preliminary inquiry into murder charges against Coard and company. It is reported that he refused to give evidence unless his passport was restored.



HALF-HIDDEN People's Revolutionary Government slogan in rural setting. Is the revolution only asleep? The Maurice Bishop patriotic believe so.

Grenada government to return seized lands

ST. GEORGES, September 1, (CANA):

Grenada's interim administration is moving to return to farmers lands seized by the left-wing Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) during its four-and-a-half-year rule, a government spokesman said.

Arnold Cruickshank, who is responsible for Agriculture in the interim administration said a decision had been made to return the lands to their original owners rather than go to court.

Several farmers have threatened to take legal action to regain their lands.

More than 300 acres were taken over by the PRG under its Idle Land Law.

Cruickshank said that in any case the government felt the PRG confiscation of the lands to let the state-owned Grenada Farms Corporation administer them was not a good move.

He told farmers at a meeting in the rural area of St.

Johns that the corporation did not have the financial resources and in some cases the technical capability to develop these farms.

Some farmers have already made requests to have their farms returned to them, he said and the government had taken the decision to help them develop their lands in areas wherever possible.

Cruickshank also said the interim government was holding discussions with unnamed agencies to obtain

funding to assist farmers who have a programme to develop farms returned to them.

Cruickshank added that the administration had decided to return to the control of producers their cocoa, nutmeg and banana boards.

He said that agricultural sector belonged to farmers and not any political group. Cruickshank added that he would like to see such boards, which in the past were dominated by government personnel, remain in the hands of the producers.

Concern over Grenada's pest control programme

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Sept 3, CANA

Grenada's interim government has expressed concern over the operations of its Pest and Disease Control Programme for the cocoa industry following a recent evaluation of the project.

According to the interim government member responsible for agriculture, Arnold Cruickshank, the programme has not been operating as the government would have liked and steps will be taken to rectify the problems.

Addressing farmers at a meeting in the rural area of St Johns, Cruickshank said the nine-month old Administration is looking at ways of improving the operations of the scheme so that farmers will be able to get better services.

He also said that based on the results of the evaluation it was felt Grenada had lost a "golden opportunity" to bring about an inter-relationship between the rehabilitation of cocoa and bananas through a Canadian-funded programme.

The programme will spend up to \$20 million (one ec dollar ; 37 cents U.S.) to help the island rehabilitate over 20,000 cocoa trees and provide essential inputs, such as fertilisers, to the industry.

Cruickshank said Grenada had an opportunity because of the cocoa rehabilitation to push for an integrated scheme involving the two commodities at the same time but "we missed the boat."

"If you dont have banana shades you cant grow cocoa," he added.

In this connection, the interim government member stated that the Administration was presently holding

discussions with canada to see how "we can amend the scheme to introduce banana rehabilitation because of the agronomy of growing the two crops."

He also disclosed that the government had resumed work on its farm road programme in the rural areas of the country which was halted a few months ago because of lack of funds.

Since the project was reactivated some 60 miles of farm roads have been repaired throughout the island providing employment for over 800 persons and access to 1330 acres of farm lands in the country.

Cruickshank also spoke of the government appointing a livestock officer to encourage farmers to get back into the industry, as well as creating a new post of project co-ordinator in agriculture.

This project co-ordinator, he said, would be responsible for implementing and monitoring some new projects expected to come on stream shortly.

He also said that the government had been able to attract funding from Barclays Bank international for the hiring of a consultant to provide "on the ground training for its extension staff in the agricultural sector."

"Those persons who have not had formal training in extension technology and methods and so on can get this training so that the quality of service which they bring to you as farmers would be a better service than existed in the past," he added.

Sleaves

Sept. 4 1984

Negotiations for EEC states new treaty

By Alister Hughes

ST. GEORGES,
Grenada, August 29

Negotiations for a new treaty between the 10 member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the 64 African Pacific and Caribbean countries (APC) are nearing completion and should be finalised within a matter of months.

This was disclosed in an interview today by Keith Shaw, recently, appointed EEC delegate who arrived here on Monday for a three-day visit.

"We're hoping this will be finalised and signed before the end of the year", Shaw said, "and that treaty will be known as 'Lome 3'.

The EEC delegate said the treaty will settle the amounts of money which the APC countries will receive in aid and, while it is not possible to say now what these amounts will be, the hope is that they will not be less than those made available under Lome 2.

During his stay in Grenada, Shaw will visit Grenada's sister island of Carriacou where the EEC is co-financing, with the government of Grenada, construction of a jetty at the capital town of Hillsborough. This jetty, which should be completed by the end of October, will cost 1.2 million East Caribbean (EC) dollars.

Shaw paid courtesy calls on Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon and on Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the interim government. He is also having discussions with senior government officials relative to projects on which the EEC is providing assistance.

These projects include the rebuilding and resurfacing of the main road which connects St. Georges with the island's second town, Grenville. This road, approximately 20 miles long, runs along the eastern coast and the first phase of the project has already been completed at a cost of 6.6 million EC dollars.

The cost of this project is being shared with

the government of Grenada on a 50/50 basis. The second (and final) phase of the project, recently started, will cost 5.6 million EC dollars and is estimated to be completed in 18 months.

Shaw said discussions are now taking place with the government of Grenada relative to EEC assistance with further road projects in the island.

Other projects receiving EEC assistance in Grenada are construction of a series of community centres and of an agricultural training school. And, soon to be started are the reconditioning of the republic library building in St. Georges and construction of a building to house the institute of further education.

Bob Visser, EEC representative resident in Grenada, said the island has received considerable aid from EEC under the Stabex plan. Under the plan, developing countries are given grants when export earnings have fallen short of expectations.

"Last December", he said, "we paid 3.5 million EC dollars to Grenadian farmers under the Stabex plan, and the amount that will be paid out in about 2 months, because of shortfalls in 1983, will be 2.5 million EC dollars".

In addition to assistance with national programmes and projects, Visser said, Grenada benefits from regional programmes under which more than one Caribbean country is involved.

These include funding for the campaign to eradicate the "Moco" disease in the banana industry, the financing of the purchase of four new Avro aircraft for Liat and the repair and construction of buildings for the University of the West Indies.

Shaw, whose responsibilities as EEC delegate extend 'effectively' to Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guyana, returns to his base in Trinidad tomorrow.

Gairy spurns alliance

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 4, (CANA)

Former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy has belittled a proposed merger of four centrist parties to oppose his right-wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) in forthcoming general elections.

In his first public comment on the tentative agreement to form the New National Party, Gairy said it would not last.

Nine days ago the leaders of the Grenada National Party (GNP), the National Democratic Party (NDP), the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) and the newly formed Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) met on Union Island in the Grenadines and

agreed to form the new party. The meeting was attended by the Prime Ministers of Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. "If by their own (the four party leaders) could not form a coalition, how could they govern a people....Gairy told CANA. He saw the merger as aimed at preventing the GULP from winning the elections planned for later this year.

Gairy said his party which formed the last elected Government here until it was toppled by a leftwing coup in 1979 was confident of emerging victorious at the polls.

"The fact that other Prime Ministers from other countries had to come to put them together does indicate beyond a shadow of a doubt that these people are very weak. I know by this act we are going to get some more votes.

"My perception is that if they should stick together, we are going to get some more votes than we would have gotten if they had operated singularly and individually," he added.

Gairy also charged that not only the people of the three Caribbean states were wondering whether their leaders were more interested in the internal affairs of Grenada but also Grenadians themselves.

"Grenadians are also thinking that if we have to get help from other Prime Ministers to tell us for whom to vote something is wrong," he said.

According to Gairy if the moderates were to win the elections the CARICOM leaders would have to come down to Grenada to keep them together and doubted whether they would have the time to do so.

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Cleaner Sept. 7, 1984

Grenada expects record cruise ship season

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 6, (CANA)

Grenada's cruise ship season has officially opened with industry officials forecasting a major turnaround after the business came to a standstill last October.

The arrival of the cruising yacht **Mandalay** yesterday was the first for the period. Cruise administrator Gert Protain said 120 cruise ships would call at St. George's before the end of the season next May, she said.

Protain said the tragic events of last October (when the military seized power in a bloody coup) disrupted most areas of Grenadian life, and the cruise liner trade did not escape the

consequences.

"The 1983/84 cruise season came to an abrupt standstill" she said, "as, with the overseas media highlighting our unfortunate situation, all cruise ships cancelled their calls, naturally, out of a sense of caution."

The cruise administrator said there had been good response by cruise liner operators to intensive promotion and publicity initiated by the interim Government and the current season would be a success.

"Grenada has become, once more, a favourite port of call," she said, "and this season will be a record one with new cruise liners joining our old friends."

Grenada's agricultural sector in trouble

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 6, (CANA)

A Grenada-born agricultural expert attached to the Organisation of American States (OAS) office here, Joseph Campbell, says the island's agricultural sector is in trouble, with problems including lower prices, higher overheads and disease.

"What is happening", he said, "is that there is a distinct negative trend in the three main pillars (of the economy) — cocoa, nutmegs and bananas."

Campbell said that between 1976 and 1983 production of nutmegs had increased while production of mace — which come from the same tree — declined.

The reason for this, Campbell said, is that the nutmeg trees planted after the hurricane of 1955 are now at their production peak.

Harvesting of nutmegs is done by picking up the

nuts (covered with mace) when they fall from the tree. Campbell said that, because of the peak condition of the trees, there are many nuts to be picked up, but farmers are not doing this regularly and, while this has no adverse effect on the nut, lying on the ground for a length of time gives the mace time to rot and so the production of mace has gone down.

"The variable to look at in terms of farmers' attitude to this crop is mace", he said, "because, while prices of nutmegs are decreasing, prices of mace are increasing, yet farmers are producing less mace."

Campbell said the drop in interest in the nutmeg industry is due to the fact that prices now being received for the crop do not stimulate farmers to harvest the nuts regularly.

THE DAILY GLEANER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1984

Whyte's Party kicked out of alliance

ST. GEORGE'S, Sept. 6, (CANA)

The Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) has been kicked out of a proposed merger of four centrist Grenadian parties, Herbert Blaize, the man chosen to head the new party said today.

Blaize said the CDLP leader, Winston Whyte had failed to honour an undertaking to disassociate himself and the Party from a report in the *New Grenadian*, a newspaper supportive of the CDLP, that Blaize and former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy had held discussions on a possible alliance between their Parties — the Grenada National Party and the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) — for forthcoming elections.

Blaize said this was "an essential precondition" for CDLP being a part of the proposed New National Party (NNP) which will now involve

Blaize's GNP, George Brizan's National Democratic Party (NDP), and Dr. Francis Alexis' Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM). The four leaders of the parties had approved the NNP in principle at a meeting on Union Island on August 26.

Blaize said the GNP, NDP, and GDM took a decision at a meeting yesterday to go ahead with the setting up of a 12-member steering committee to draft a constitution and programme for the new party without Whyte.

"We passed a resolution stating that since Whyte has not fulfilled the essential precondition he voluntarily agreed to, we will proceed without him and his CDLP," Blaize said.

Whyte could not be reached for comment. Last week, he accused Blaize of attempting to violate the Union Island agreement by proposing changes to the composition of the steering committee.

The NNP is being put together to enhance the chances of Grenadian moderates at winning the elections which will return Grenada to constitutional democracy after a failed marxist experiment.

Blaize said the precondition for the CDLP's



CDLP leader Winston Whyte

participation in the merger had not been made public after the meeting.

Both Gairy and Blaize denied they ever met for discussions on possible co-operation between their parties to contest the poll.

The *New Grenadian* had charged that the idea amounted to a plot to maintain power in the hands of the two traditional parties here.

Whyte denies reason given for expulsion

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

Winston Whyte, whose Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) was booted out of a proposed merger of centrist parties in Grenada yesterday, has denied the reason given for its expulsion.

Herbert Blaize, leader of the Grenada National Party (GNP), one of the three remaining parties to form the New National Party, said Whyte had failed to honour an undertaking to dissociate himself and the CDLP from "untrue" reports in the *New Grenadian*, a newspaper that supports the CDLP.

The paper reported that Blaize, who will lead the New Party, and former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party met to form an alliance and maintain power in the hands of the two traditional parties.

Whyte denied that he made any such pledge.

"I voluntarily agreed to discuss the matter," Whyte told a press conference, "I did not see this as an impediment at all and I don't understand the creation of this monster."

Whyte admitted that the *New Grenadian* was supportive of his Party but was not the Party organ and stressed that he had no control over what went into the paper except for a column which he writes.

"There is no moral authority in the world which can call on me to dissociate myself from what I am not involved in," Whyte said.

Yesterday, Blaize met with the leaders of the other two parties, George Brizan of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and Francis Alexis of the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) and the meeting passed a resolution which specified that the "condition" Whyte had to meet to join the merger was to dissociate himself from the allegations in the *New Grenadian* newspaper.

"An essential precondition of the participation by Winston Whyte and his Christian Democratic Labour Party in the New National Party, as voluntarily agreed by Winston Whyte, was that Winston Whyte should dissociate himself and his Party from statements appearing on the front page of the August issues of the *New Grenadian*," the resolution said.

The resolution added: "Winston Whyte has still not met that precondition despite repeated opportunities given him to do so and, indeed, his Party has now indicated that he has no intention of doing so. And therefore, GNP, NDP and GDM have formally constituted the steering committee of NNP."

It means that Whyte's group has been left out of the 12-member steering committee set up at an August 26 meeting on Union Island in an effort to enhance the chances of Grenadian moderates at winning general elections due here later this year which will return to the island to constitutional democracy after a failed marxist experiment that began in March 1979.

Meantime, proprietor of the *New Grenadian*, lawyer, Reynold Benjamin, when asked at the news conference if he could produce proof that Sir Eric and Blaize had met secretly, said that it was not the duty of his newspaper to prove anything.

"Our newspaper said reports reaching us indicated that they had met," he said, "We are a newspaper. We receive information, we look at it and we consider whether we should publish it. We can prove that we received reports from sources which we considered reliable."

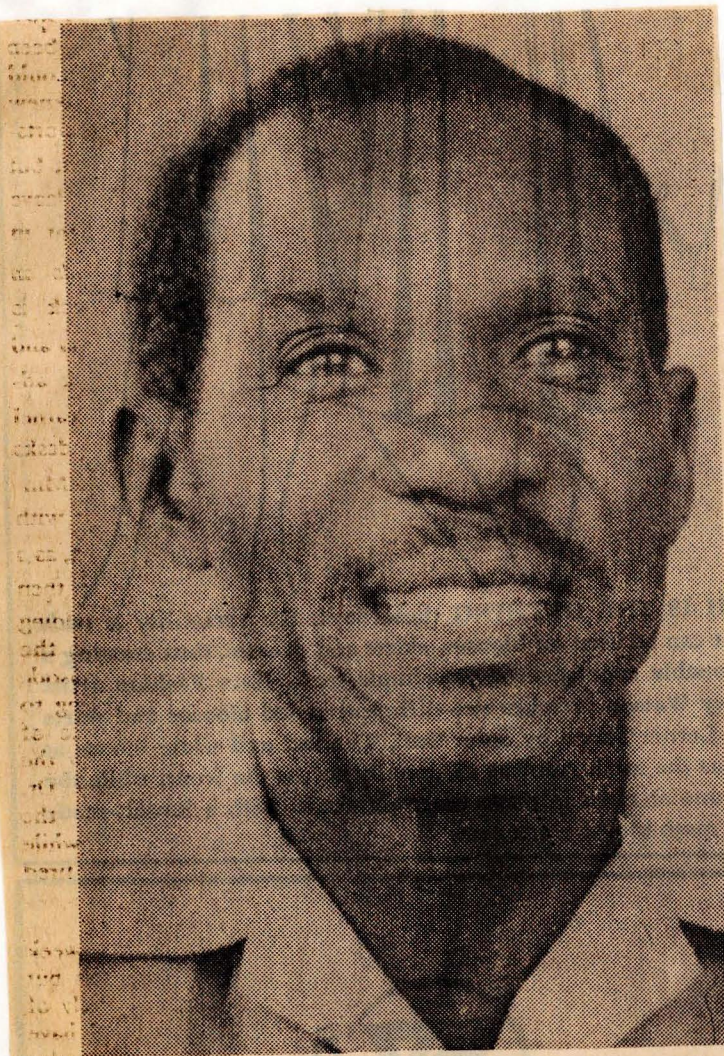
The Sunday Gleaner, September 9, 1984

GRENADA UPDATE... GRENADA UPDATE...GRENADA

A politician
with a
heavy
responsibility

- *We are infamous for making the wrong choices...I only hope we'll not repeat that process...*

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BEN JONES, deputy leader, Grenada National Party

BEN JONES is quiet, dignified, precise: the antithesis of the Caribbean poli-

by
**Margaret
Morris**

tician. Nevertheless he is a politician with a heavy responsibility: Deputy Leader and tireless negotiator of the Grenada National Party, the core around which the other 'moderate' parties may or may not coalesce to create the T.N.U. (Team for National Unity) and face Gairy's challenge in the upcoming Grenada elections.

A former Civil Servant and G.N.P. Senator, Jones divides his time between his law practice and his farm. His recreation is tennis; a former international player he is now President of the Grenada Lawn Tennis Association.

Jones sees an urgent priority "To restore people's confi-

dence in the country, in Government, and in themselves," but admits "I haven't yet decided how to go about it."

Convinced that "strange influences" have come into this country that make for instability, he is unequivocal in his gratitude to the Americans. "We are going to need them around for a tremendously long time.... they are interfering with nobody at all, just carrying out their normal patrol acts as a deterrent."

Bribery

Gleaner: How come you were never put into detention?

Jones: There's no good reason, no way of explaining it... I choose to believe that the Lord protected me. (P.R.G. security men tried to bribe his helper to frame him). She was a poor girl, she really had a need to accept what was offered her but she didn't... The thing I like to remember most of that time is that she stood fast and said no.

Gleaner: Do you see elections before the end of the year?

Jones: They are still having trouble putting their lists together...there are errors, we are monitoring the lists.. they are all-important.

Gleaner: Do you feel ready for elections?

Significant dates

Jones: I sometimes feel the sooner the better. Other times I realize the electorate seems not yet ready. So I keep an open mind. In my view it is no good forcing them. These elections are the most important we have ever had or will ever have...(meanwhile) we are canvassing and campaigning house to house.

Gleaner: If the N.D.P. doesn't come in with you what is your plan?

Jones: We are still negotiating...because it is so vital we keep talking.

Gleaner: Where were you on October 19th?

Jones: We have a few very significant dates in the history of our country, and I have always been near to the scene of action but not in it. On October 19th I was at the High Court. I stood in the yard and watched the demonstrations.... a lot of people were in it who had not come to town for demonstrating at all. They were here and they joined in.

Gleaner: So Bishop was really beloved?

Jones: It is said so.

People fed up

Gleaner: What is your own feeling?

Jones: My own feeling is that people were so fed up with what was going on...the increasing pressure on us, power being concentrated in fewer and fewer people...that people were willing and ready to take part in anything that allowed them to show their disgust.... I'm sure there were a lot of people in those demonstrations who didn't care two hoots about Bishop... I had a good view (of it) I saw the armoured cars going up to the Fort... I feared the worst but I couldn't believe they would fire on the people... because from where I was looking on those people, they were quiet, just like people on a picnic. When I heard the guns go off I saw people running and jumping over walls and I thought 'My God they are going to kill them all...(The coup, the curfew) that is something I hope never, never to experience again. A lot of people will not understand

what it was like...The question of whether the Americans and the Caribbean forces should have come in here is .. debated by many people...we do not regard it as an invasion, it was the most timely rescue mission ever undertaken...Most Grenadians felt Thank God. That is how I felt.

Noting that "There is reason to believe that a lot of these disbanded soldiers are unhappy and would like an opportunity to get back their arms and restore their revolution," Jones assesses the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement thus:

Real danger of Gairy?

"They do not lack money, they lack acceptance. I don't think they could get off the ground now. The feeling, the hurt, is still too fresh, (people) are still terrified of them... You would have to have been here, and been a Grenadian, you would have to have endured it, to understand.

Gleaner: Do you think there is a real danger that Gairy could sweep the board?

Jones: I don't believe Gairy is strong enough to sweep the board but a lot of people are afraid of that, that is why there is pressure (from all sorts of people, ordinary people, you have to listen to them) pressure on us to get together.... Gairy is very cunning. He interfered with people, he appropriated their properties without compensating them but... there are other systems that could be much worse.

I think we have two situations we must avoid now, as much as we must avoid going back to the Gairy type of government we must make equal efforts (to avoid) the type of Jewel government... because, if anything, it was much worse...They are both menaces that must be avoided. My own view is that the last stage was much worse than the first. In Grenada we are infamous for making wrong choices. I only hope we would not repeat that process."

Grenada and the Socialist International

From 'ABC', Madrid

Economic aid

One of the most important consequences of the 1983 invasion of Grenada was the seizure of several tons of secret documents showing how a Soviet franchise is set up and operated in a small Third World country.

There it all is, in a mountain of papers, memos, receipts, bills, agreements, protocols, and simple notes scrawled on the back of an envelope: The theoretical framework on which the revolutionaries based their actions; the creation of a totalitarian state; the gradual asphyxia of class enemies and of the church; the gradual increase in repression; the organization of a sort of international red assistance network designed to keep in line this satellite which was new to the orbit; and instructions for action in international forums.

All this included, of course, the Socialist International: How this organization was viewed by Bishop and his closest collaborators, what it would be used for, and how it would be used.

Temporary instrument

For Bishop's party — the New Jewel Movement — the Socialist International was not an assembly of closely-related political organizations, but a temporary instrument designed to avert reprisals by the United States; it was an organization particularly apt for conferring political legitimacy on a regime which arose from a military uprising, which had its jails full of political opponents who at times were tortured, as the party's own documents reveal.

According to an analysis by New Jewel theoreticians, the German Social Democratic Party, acting through the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, sought nothing more with its aid but to maintain and increase Latin America dependence on Germany, "since a large percentage — 53 per cent — of German investment in the Third World and of German International trade is with this part of the world." In addition to this subtle form of imperial egotism, contained in the document classified VV in batch 0001y, the German SPD (Social Democratic Party) used its influence to spread anti-Soviet and anticommunist ideas.

Anti-U.S. attitude

Despite this, Willy Brandt was viewed with favour, because they attributed to him an anti-U.S. attitude that was particularly useful, and he also served to block acts by enemies of the left within the Socialist International. Inside the Socialist International, there were essentially two enemies of the left and of the New Jewel Movement: Felipe Gonzalez and Carlos Andres Perez, both described as "conservatives," and as the "right wing" of the Socialist International. Gonzalez was accused of "trying to monopolize the actions of the Socialist International in relation to Central America, while fomenting anti-Sandinista feelings with confusing rumours about the direction being taken by the Nicaraguan process."

Carlos Andres was said to be torn between U.S. pressures and adopted anti-Sandinista positions due "to the inconsistency of his own demagogic position."

For Bishop, the Socialist International was divided into three perfectly distinct groups: First, the European Social Democratic Parties, which are rich and Bourgeois Parties, obviously opponents, but allied by circumstance, and very useful for countering the United States and for obtaining some economic aid. Second, the Democratic Socialist Parties of Latin America, such as the Venezuelan AD (Democratic action), the Peruvian APRA (American Revolutionary Popular Alliance), or Liberation of Costa Rica.

These groups are timidly reformist, and always suspicious of any collaboration with the U.S. enemy. Third, the Revolutionary Socialist Parties such as the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front), the National Revolutionary Movement of El Salvador, and New Jewel of Grenada itself. These are Marxist-Leninist parties trying to consolidate power to gain control of the state.

Bishop had no doubts about it: His ideological home was the third group, but circumstances — as with the Nicaraguans and Salvadorans — forced him to adopt the clothing of the democratic socialists. That was no problem; the ideological flexibility of the Socialist International is so great that there are almost no limits to membership in the organization. It is enough to say that a group is democratic and socialist.

Pays more attention to words

The Socialist International is a rare organization that pays more attention to words than to actions. New Jewel had only to make a slight concession. It would simply support areas of agreement and ignore others. Within the Organization it is possible to stimulate anti-Yankeeism: to oppose the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala; to express solidarity with the guerrillas in those countries; to support the cause of Puerto Rican independence; to call for an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba; or to the "zionism" of the state of Israel. And at the same time, without being accused of contradictions, it is also possible to refrain from condemning the invasion of Afghanistan, the Polish military coup, or Vietnam's military intervention in Cambodia.

Nor is it necessary to have democratically elected governments in order to belong to the Socialist International, for Willy Brandt had said that "democracy does not always have to be a copy of European models." So this means that almost no one in the Socialist International seems to be bothered by the fact that in Grenada or in Nicaragua hegemonic parties with a Marxist-Leninist ideology are in power, parties which adhere strictly to Moscow's line on international issues.

Pressure

Even when the conservative parties of the Socialist International put pressure on Grenada or Nicaragua to hold elections, they didn't do so because of principles, but in order to eliminate pretexts that could be used by U.S. imperialism and by the enemies of the revolution. And not only do leftist socialists agree with that reasoning: when Felipe Gonzalez and Carlos Andres Perez

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Grenada and Socialist International

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met with Bayardo Arce — Document PP — they urged him to have the Sandinista revolution return to its original plans for pluralistic democracy, "because," they warned, "the United States is looking for a pretext to put an end to the Sandinista revolution."

In the meantime, at the fringes of the Socialist International — which is nothing more than a sounding board — New Jewel Movement was building its framework of relations that were truly important for the consolidation of a totalitarian state: the Soviets instructed its embryonic army; the Czechs trained the political police; the Vietnamese taught them how to reeducate prisoners; the Cubans provided spies, teachers, more spies, engineers, more spies, doctors, propaganda experts, and experts on whatever Lenin believed.

Tool of imperialism

The conclusion is obvious: The New Jewel strategists — who were, of course, fairly intelligent and much more astute than their colleagues in the conservative wing of the Socialist International — thought that their direct inclusion in the Soviet orbit would come about; A) when the state was perfectly controlled in accordance with the Soviet political model; and B) when the growing relations with the USSR had reached a point at which the Kremlin would have committed itself to deterring the United States from any possible reprisals.

At that point, the New Jewel Movement probably would have left the Socialist International, after denouncing it as a tool of imperialism. Then Willy Brandt and his friends would have been of no further use. They would have been ridiculously used by a group of revolutionaries as unscrupulous as they were clever.

Party leader wants Grenada election plans shelved

KINGSTOWN, Sept. 10, (CANA)

Saying that Grenadians were still confused as a result of last October's bloody political upheaval, a Grenadian political party leader is urging the island's Interim Government to shelve plans for holding elections later this year.

Roy Robertson, leader of the Patriotic Builders Organisation (PBO), said his group had suggested to the Interim Government that it first hold a referendum to find out when Grenadians want the poll held.

"There is a great air of uncertainty in

Grenada," he said in an interview with the *Vincentian* newspaper here. The PBO plans to contest the poll.

The disturbances, which prompted a U.S.-led invasion, arose out of a factional rift within the leftist Peoples Revolutionary Government that culminated in the slaying of moderate Cabinet members, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Robertson said he personally did not think the poll should be held before next June.

The election will re-establish Grenada's parliamentary democratic system, which gave way to a marxist revolution launched through a 1979 leftist coup.

Robertson, a former teacher turned businessman, called on the Interim Government to effect necessary amendments to the Grenada constitution to provide for "the restoration and survival of democracy."

The Interim Government, set up in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion, was evading this, he said.

The amendments the PBO has in mind would put constraints on the Prime Minister and the elected government. No details were given.

Robertson also called for a new government structure in Grenada that would eradicate what he called the weaknesses of the Westminster system.

He believes proportional representation might be a more democratic method of choosing a Parliament than the first past the post procedure presently used.

The centre-right PBO, which plans to field candidates in all 15 constituencies in the poll, stands for economic stability and domestic tranquility for Grenada, Robertson said.

"Reformation not revolution was needed in the country," he added.