

Gleaner Dec. 1 1984

December 1, 1984

Report linking ex-PRG diplomat to fraud being studied

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

Grenada's interim administration is studying a confidential report alleging misappropriation by a diplomat who served under the now deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Well-placed sources said the report was prepared by the Accountant-General who was asked six months ago to visit several overseas missions to investigate their financial and administrative operations.

The PRG, which came to power in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first military coup on March 13, 1979, was deposed by a left-wing military junta in October 1983 after which the U.S. led an invasion force including troops from several Caribbean islands to restore order.

Sources said that a case might be brought against a diplomat who is believed to have embezzled some 200,000 U.S. dollars.

Grenada visited

By C.S. Reid

Grenada is beautiful. Though smaller in size than our smallest parish (Hanover 177 sq. miles. Grenada 118) it boasts a variety of terrain and scenery so as to convey an impression of being a much larger country. Their mountains go up to 2,756 feet, and the hills are lush and green. They produce many of the things that we do — yams, breadfruits, avocados etc. They have ackee but do not eat it for fear of the poison. My Jamaican friend there is enjoying undisputed access to a very fine and fertile ackee tree! Nor is the island over-crowded (population 111,184).

To a stranger, the island did not give an impression of a place in distress. Truly, the roads are terrible — their potholes are far superior to ours, and the roads being narrower, require even more expert driving skills. On the other hand their drivers show much greater consideration for other road users, than we do here.

But the people on the streets and in the shops were cheerful and courteous and ready to share a joke. Indeed, they reminded one very much of the best of rural Jamaica. Yet these people, so friendly and composed on the surface, are still living with traumatic memories, and underneath agonizing over the uncertainties of the future.

Sad equation

There are families still awaiting re-assurance that their family home, arbitrarily taken over by the Bishop regime are now securely theirs.

There are still families whose young men have never returned home after the upheavals of September to October, 1983. They have arrived at a sad equation: "Missing" means "Dead."

On the other hand, my friend's young son still trembles at the sound of the odd bomb going off in the distance as he remembers the fateful days of the intervention, when aircraft flew low over their home and headed up the valley to let loose massive bombs which shattered the windows and shook the house to its foundations, as they exploded on the encampment of Coard's and Austin's men. The excitement of seeing real helicopter gunships and bombers going into action was not enough to balance the terror of the reality of war and its destruction! After a year, apart from the occasional left-over live bomb being exploded, the sounds of war have ceased.

But people are wary about the future. They speak of caches of arms still salted away in the hills, and of young men still not fully weaned of radical ways.

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Drastic change

The Interim Government, made up of a distinguished group of International Civil Administrators (most of them Grenadians) has done a conscientious and laudable job of restoring to Grenada a functioning administration in the aftermath of conflict. I heard criticism to the effect that they did not move sufficiently decisively to bring about drastic change in certain things and so to show in clear terms that someone was in charge. But, as I say, they are conscientious civil servants and are very conscious of their job description.

They are not asked to go there and create drastic change. They were asked to go and restore governmental order after the chaos which had been brought about by those who were hell-bent on creating drastic change.

And most specifically they were asked to make the necessary preparation for the holding of General Elections — a privilege Grenadians have not had for many years. In this latter respect they have done their work well. There were some rumbles in October when it became necessary to dismiss the Director of Elections because of non-performance (whatever may have been the reasons officially given), but the necessary work was done in time for Nomination Day, and the crucial elections called for tomorrow.

Campaigns

Peaceful election campaigns have been conducted by the three major contesting parties:

(1) Sir Eric Gairy's G.U.L.P., an attempt by the unreformed Gairy to return Grenada to his old weird ways:

(2) The middle of the road New National Party "a union" Alister Hughes reminded me, "not a coalition" of three former entities The National Democratic Party, the Grenada Democratic Movement and Grenada National Party.

(3) The rump of the exploded New Jewel Movement now renamed the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

Gairy hopes that his old combination of brashness, threats and superstition can mesmerise

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Grenada visited

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enough of the old-timers to vote his candidates back into prominence. Raddix hopes that the political indoctrination and the heady wine of the years of Bishop's revolution will still attract the youth to his banner.

Blaize hopes the majority will see his party as the road to sanity. The polls (and the Americans!) favour Blaize. We shall know the truth on Tuesday (December 4).

Re-construction

But whoever wins the elections will not necessarily be starting from scratch the task of social and economic re-construction. I was told by one of the Administrators, that several important economic projects have been fully processed, with funding assured, and will be coming on stream in the New Year. Thus items whose necessary gestation period brought impatience during the time of the Interim Government will come to fruition (and no doubt bring credit!) in the first months of the new Government!

Whoever in fact gets elected, will need every bit of encouragement. For the future of Grenada is far from settled. And everything will depend upon the quality of administration which takes over for Christmas.

Grenada can never be the same after the Bishop years. Therefore nostalgia for Gairy and the Mon-goose Gang is futile. Bishop told Grenadians that Grenada was theirs at last, never mind that Coard et al were organizing to give it to the Russians. Any ruler who cannot put flesh upon that promise of Bishop's is due for early disaster. The social and economic aspirations of the youth will have to be answered with specific goals achievable in the not too long term, and with a style of management which nourishes their pride in being Grenadian.

In this last vital matter, the role of the Americans on Grenada is going to be crucial. Americans are people who, when so moved, are capable of acts of breath-taking generosity. As a rule, they genuinely desire to be loved by all men. But they have never learnt the art of keeping a low profile, and they too easily give in to the temptation to think that the Almighty Dollar brings Divine the right to call the tune, no matter whose song.

No matter how welcome the troops of the "Rescue Mission" have been, the sooner they completely depart the scene, the better, in my view.

There will continue to be the need for capital and for advisers. The latter were there in abundance under Bishop — from Russia, East Europe, North Korea and, especially, Cuba. Now they are gone, whoever fills the vacuum will have to learn one cardinal rule: they are there to facilitate, not to dominate.

The Gleaner Dec. 2, 1984

Hearne: NNP will sweep the polls

John Hearne, who is in Grenada observing the election on behalf of the Bustamante Institute of Public Affairs, told the *Gleaner* yesterday that, in his opinion, the New National Party is going to sweep the polls.

"As I see it, and from what other observers have confirmed, the NNP is going to take about 11 seats. The GULP is likely to get at best four seats. I don't see much chance of the MBPM getting any seat at all".

Hearne said popular support was clearly for the NNP which has been having successful meetings throughout the island. "They are well-organised

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NNP will win

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and have a strong appeal," he said.

After a poor showing, in which its presence was hardly noticeable on the hustings, the MBPM was showing signs of organisation, apparently with "outside" support; but this late spurt does not appear to be sufficient to ensure them any real success.

As for the GULP, it has not been making a strong showing but was likely to pick up seats in a few pro-Gairy constituencies. Gairy himself appears to be having little effect on the election.

"I have been trying to see him without success," Hearne said. "I have made at least three attempts to interview him, but have drawn a blank on each occasion."

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Grenada: more relief than jubilation

ST. GEORGE'S, Dec. 3 (AP)

GRENADA'S FIRST ELECTION DAY IN EIGHT YEARS was quiet and orderly, with more expressions of relief than jubilation.

"I feel good just to be voting again. That the good thing today," said Michael Chackley, a 44-year-old auto mechanic.

Campaigning was banned for the day, as was the sale of liquor. Regulations stated that no one could be asked their preference within 100 yards of a polling station.

The stations ranged from government buildings to night spots such as the Flamingo Disco and the Hot Spot Hideaway.

Small motorcades with loudspeakers blaring party slogans and calypso music marked the final weekend of campaigning. At rallies, supporters sang campaign songs, accompanied by the music of guitars and makeshift instruments such as sticks beat against beer bottles.

On election day, the chief politicians remained at home. At the large pink house where he has spent virtually all his time since ending his five-year exile last January, former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy was said to be "resting," and unwilling to receive visitors.

Gairy dominated Grenada politics for three decades until his ouster in a 1979 leftist coup.

Herbert Blaize, the 66-year-old attorney who leads the New National Party, remained on his home stronghold of Carriacou. Although his old party had beaten Gairy only once since 1952, Blaize had carried his home constituency by landslide margins in every election.

He said he would come to this capital Tuesday "win, lose or draw." Blaize lives on an out-island of 7,000 people just north of Grenada.

On Sunday, a U.S. army helicopter brought to the pasture across from his home a handful of British and U.S. diplomats. He was also visited by David McCourt, a Boston entrepreneur interested in a range of investment projects in Grenada who claims he contributed some \$10,000 (U.S.) to Blaize's party.

Other American businessmen and conservatives have reportedly sent thousands of dollars to the New National Party, but Grenada doesn't require disclosure of campaign contributions.

Kendrick Radix, a former Cabinet Minister and close friend of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, claimed that the Central Intelligence Agency had helped Blaize and was making sure of an NNP victory.

Radix said his leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement was supported by 90 percent of the nation's youth and would remain active.

Bishop was executed in 1983 by his own army after a power struggle in the Government. The United States invaded six days later.

"Bishop would have swept everything in these elections if he were alive," said Radix. But Bishop had ruled without elections.

Taxi driver Rudolph Augustine said he favored the New National Party, but added: "The important thing is we are getting a democratic thing. If we don't like them, we can vote them out."

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The Gleaner

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Grenada votes tomorrow

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP):

Campaigning wound down quietly yesterday for what will be Grenada's first elections since 1976, an interval which included two coups and a U.S. invasion.

Voting will take place throughout the tiny island on December 3 with candidates running in 15 constituencies under the British parliamentary system.

The New National Party (NNP), formed just four months ago from a merger of three moderate parties, is considered by most foreign observers here as having the best chance to form Grenada's new government. It is led by Herbert Blaize, a 66-year-old attorney who formerly headed the Grena-

da National Party and was the island's Chief Minister in 1962-67 when it was a British colony.

Although the U.S. government, which has spent
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Grenada votes tomorrow

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nearly \$50 million in aid since the October 25, 1983 invasion, officially is neutral in the elections, its obvious preference would be Blaize's party. Leaders of several of the Caribbean nations who supported the U.S. action last year have flatly stated that they want the Blaize party to win, and the Prime Ministers of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, and St. Lucia engineered the August meeting that produced the new party.

Strong pockets

But the Grenada United Labour Party of Sir Eric Gairy has strong pockets of support. Gairy, 62, formed Grenada's first political party and first trade union and won seven of the eight elections ever held here.

However, the latter years of his rule were characterized by corruption, brutal repression against leftist foes and his calls before the United Nations for international study of unidentified flying objects.

Gairy, ousted in a 1979 coup led by Maurice Bishop, ended his exile in the United States last January.

He personally isn't running Monday, but

remains the leader of his party and his party's campaign has centered around him.

The U.S. and Caribbean leaders who said restoring democracy was one of the goals of the Grenada invasion, fear that Gairy's return to power would re-ignite leftist influence on the island, hurt efforts to attract investment and tourism, and threaten Grenada's stability again.

Gairy's newspaper, *The Grenadian Guardian*, carried a front page message from him Saturday in which he recited his achievements, from bringing Grenada to independence in 1974 to establishing a Miss World Pageant here. He said he was ready to "lead our nation once again along the road of peace, love and prosperity which all Grenadians knew and enjoyed before 1979."

Backs NNP

Meanwhile, *The Grenadian Voice*, the only one of four weekly newspapers here which claims to be independent, on Saturday endorsed the New National Party.

"We would have liked to see a better team with greater potential to do the job in hand. But there is no point in wishful thinking. What is clear to us is that the NNP offers the best chance of providing the stability and credibility that we need," the editorial said.

Both these parties are running candidates in all 15 constituencies. The party formed by Bishop loyalists who survived the bloody power struggle that led to Bishop's execution and an army takeover last year, is fielding 13 candidates. Called the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, its leaders include former Cabinet Ministers Kendrick Radix and George Louison.

A fourth party, the Christian Democratic Labour Party, is running in five constituencies. Its leader is Winston Whyte, who was elected to parliament from a now defunct Conservative Party, then served nearly four years in prison as one of the first of hundreds of Grenadians jailed during the Bishop years for political opposition.

A total of 52 candidates, including some independents, are running. The party with the majority of seats in the parliament will form the government to replace an appointed Interim Council that has been running the country for more than a year. Coalitions would have to be formed if no party wins eight seats.

The parties held rallies and motorcades late into the night Friday, but there was little activity planned for the week-end.

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The Sunday Gleaner, December 2, 1984

Public Affairs



A
Gairy
win
would
be a
disaster

says Alister Hughes in an interview at the Gleaner

NOTE: Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were recipients of the Maria Cabot Award from Columbia University for their "Grenadian Newsletter". They were on their way back from New York when they stopped in Jamaica on November 22.

Caught in the middle of a power struggle that turned sour in Grenada, Alister Hughes' greatest assets of honesty, highest professional integrity, and fearlessness ironically became his greatest liability.

For somehow, factions in the Bishop regime felt threatened by the respect and the credibility which the journalist commanded through his ability to bring the truth to the public's eyes without fear or favour.

Hence, on October 19, 1983, Mr. Hughes was marched off to the notorious Richmond Hill prison where for the next week he suffered the agony of an uncertain future mixed with a miserable surrounding he never dreamt he could have survived.

Yet, having survived imprisonment for his relentless pursuit of honesty, the 65-year-old Grenadian has bounced back with even more zest and determination to play his part in ensuring that the October 1983 massacre will remain in the annals of Grenadian history.

On a recent visit to Jamaica as guest speaker at a function organized by the Caribbean Applied Technology Centre Ltd., Mr. Hughes, regarded as one of the Caribbean's eminent journalists, took time off his tight schedule to talk with the **Gleaner**. He was accompanied by his supportive and charming wife, Cynthia.

Born in St. George's, the capital of Grenada, on January 21, 1919, Alister Hughes seemed destined to be a businessman, the occupation of his father. This he did until 1969 when he could no longer resist the seductive world of journalism.

Greener pastures

His High School education came from the Grenada Boys School (1931-1937). He then worked as a clerk for a private company, before moving in 1940 to greener pastures in Trinidad where he worked on the docks until 1945.

It was in 1945 that he got the call to follow his father's footsteps in the world of business. The 26-year-old Alister returned to Grenada to join his father in business. Here, he managed his father's bakery, did a joint auctioneer business with his father, and got involved in a whole **melange** of business activities from retail trade to sewing-machine sales, travel agency, and tissue and mattress-making factories.

His involvement in journalism evolved from a stint as an economic and political correspondent with the **Trinidad Express** in 1969. By 1979 his relatively modest beginning had expanded into a syndicate of 12 newspapers for which he wrote articles. This included the U.K., Canada, U.S.A. and Caribbean territories.

Topical issues

"The Grenada News Letter", the series of rigorous and searching economic and political articles on Grenada for which Mr. Hughes was probably best known throughout the Caribbean, began in 1973 at the request of the then managing editor of the **Gleaner** Co., Mr. Theodore Sealy.

From a 550-word **Gleaner** exclusive series, the **Grenada Newsletter** expanded into a 4,000

words regular hard-research newsletter on topical and important Caribbean issues, that bore Alister Hughes' characteristic mark of thorough investigative reporting, searching questions, and profound analytical content. Subscribers included embassies, universities, and, in the words of Mr. Hughes, "people who take serious interest in the political and economic interest in Grenada".

Following the death of his father in 1973, Alister Hughes and his wife went full-time into journalism. They started to 'string' for U.P.I., C.A.N.A., A.B.C. News, B.B.C., Radio Antilles, 610 Radio in Trinidad, and A.P.

His work in the field of journalism did not go unnoticed and in 1979 he climbed to the zenith of his career when he was appointed Secretary of the Caribbean Press Council, a position he still holds today. Dr. Aubrey Fraser, the former director of the School of Legal Education, U.W.I. is the chairman of that Council.

Political situation

Mr. Hughes did a bit of reflection in the interview on the political situation in Grenada. He made no pretence that he accepted Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement "100 percent" when it seized power in 1979.

"They (the N.J.M) were very popular because they came in on a note of deception. They made promises of free election and a free press — promises which were never kept. Documents found later indicated that from the very beginning there was a conscious effort to hide the true intentions of their Marxist/Leninist government," he said.

"Initially he (Bishop) created a national feeling in Grenada because he appeared to have recovered the country for Grenadians, and Grenadians were once again willing to work for the country. That was Bishop's first big gain.

"There was also an effort to set up adult education — and to use local products in the manufacture of juices. Conceptually, this was good although the organizations did not function properly".

Intimidation

Speaking on the state of press freedom during Bishop's regime, Mr. Hughes said that it was worse than during the (Sir Eric) Gairy regime. "There was intimidation during Gairy's time, but Bishop not only intimidated, he also closed down publications," he said.

Why was there such a pressing demand for election during the Bishop regime? Mr. Hughes was asked.

"Elections are indicative of a democratic way of life," he responded, "and when you are deprived of the opportunity of electing those who should lead you that situation must become an issue".

One aspect of his life that Mr. Hughes said he does not plan to repeat is his political career. Between 1957 and 1967 he was a member of the Grenada National Party, and served as General Secretary for some time. He also served as Deputy Mayor of St. George's.

In terms of his hopes and predictions for the December 3 elections in Grenada, Mr. Hughes saw "an immediate disaster" befalling his homeland if Gairy returned to power.

"Gairy has not changed his spots and he is very repressive," he said.

Of the 16 seats being contested, Mr. Hughes saw only 5 or 6 seats going to Gairy's party.

While expressing the view that his party, the Grenada National Party, was the best thing for Grenada now, Mr. Hughes promised to stick to journalism. "I have not the slightest hope of returning to politics," he declared.

5 parties contest Grenada polls today

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Dec. 2, CANA:

The people of Grenada go to the polls tomorrow to elect a government in the aftermath of political upheavals that included the rise and fall of the left.

Fifty-two candidates, most of them backed by five parties, are facing the electorate of 48,000, which last cast a ballot in 1976.

It is widely felt that the centrist New National Party (NNP), a four-month-old, three-party coalition led by 66-year-old lawyer Herbert Blaize, will win the election.

The NNP, which is contesting all seats, has been staging the most elaborate campaign. Yesterday it had a light aircraft flown over this picturesque, mountainous island of 10,000 urging the electorate: "Vote NNP".

The Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), also fielding 15 candidates, is the NNP's main opponent. It won the last poll, in 1976, and three years later was ousted by a leftwing coup.

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) which replaced the GULP administration, was split by feuding that triggered a palace coup in October 1983. But the junta of marxist hardliners who took over from the moderate Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was quickly unseated by a U.S.-led invasion.

The other parties contesting the election are the left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), formed by Bisop's colleagues after his execution by the hardliners, the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) and the virtually unknown Grenada Federated Labour Party (GFLP).

The interim administration, set up under the chairmanship of Nicholas Brathwaite after the US-led invasion, has stepped up security and on the eve of the poll announced tough penalties for persons breaking the law on election day.

An additional 190 policemen from Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean countries recently arrived to boost the small local police force of about 400 and help carry out election-day duties.

Supervisor of elections Alphonsus Redhead announced penalties on a number of offences covered by the House of Representative (elections) ordinance of Grenada's revised laws, ranging from the sale of alcohol on election day to failure by employers to give workers time to cast their ballots.

"Any employer who directly or indirectly refuses, or by intimidation, or in other way interferes with the granting to any elector in his employ, of the prescribed period for voting, shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding 5,000 dollars (one ECS — 37 cents US) and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and imprisonment," Redhead said in a radio interview.

Both Blaize's NNP and Gairy's
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5 parties contest Grenada polls

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GULP have pledged major public works programmes and to put the country back on a stable footing, thereby creating an ideal environment for foreign investment.

Gairy told CANA a GULP government would give priority to the development of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, electricity and telephone services, and a diversification of agriculture.

The GULP is anti-communist and supports strong relations with the United States.

The NNP, the three-party coalition, has said it would hold steadfastly to a westminster-style democracy with firm respect for the rule of law. The Prime Minister would have a maximum two consecutive terms in office.

The MBPM calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops and a return to the social programmes and economic policies of the Bishop government.

The MBPM is fielding 12 candidates while the Christian Democratic Labour Party is presenting six. Both parties

have held low-keyed campaigns compared with those of the NNP and the GULP.

Today the GULP scheduled only a few meetings in isolated rural areas. The NNP held several small motorcades in several constituencies.

Parties have used their newspapers to urge the electorate to vote for them. All political broadcasts were taken off the state-run "Radio Grenada" from last night.

The "Grenadian Voice" newspaper, an independent publication, said in its weekend edition that it considered the NNP to offer the best chance of providing the stability and credibility that the country needed after years of turmoil.

"We do not like to believe in electoral promises but among the important things that attract us to the NNP are their proposals for constitutional reform and the reintroduction and expansion of local government for people participation," it said.

When the polls open tomorrow at 6 a.m. (Eastern Caribbean Time) security will be

tight with at least two policemen located at each of the polling stations. Police commissioner Barbadian Mervyn Holder said in a radio broadcast last

night it would be safe for voters to turn out in large numbers and "it is my hope that everything goes well and there would be no conflict".

The winner is ex-

pected to be known around mid-night and outgoing caretaker government head Brathwaite says he hopes for a voter turnout of about 80 per cent.

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Prime Minister Seaga addressing the JLP's South-Central annual constituency meeting at the Thompson Park Community Centre, Spanish Town, St. Catherine, yesterday.

Seaga backs Grenada's NNP

PRIME MINISTER THE RT. HON. EDWARD SEAGA said last night that the success of the New National Party (NNP) in today's General Elections in Grenada would also be a success for his Administration.

Speaking to hundreds of JLP supporters at the annual general conference of the South-Central St. Catherine constituency which is represented by the Hon. Bruce Golding, Minister of Construction and chairman of the party, at the Thompson Park Community Centre in Spanish Town, Mr. Seaga said that the Jamaica Labour Party had been giving assistance on a party-to-party basis to the moderate political parties in Grenada.

"We have a team working there with the moderate political parties (the team being led by Mr. Clifton Stone M.P.) that have now joined forces under the banner of the New National Party, one of whom has been there for as long as a year on a political party-to-party basis, not as Government of Jamaica," he told the meeting.

"We are assisting them so that they can, to the best extent possible, when the people of Grenada exercise their franchise tomorrow, have the opportunity of forming a new Government.

"Their success will be our success. Their success will be the success of all well-thinking democratic forces in the region, and we look forward to the results tomorrow so that we can say, mission accomplished.

"I urge you to think of these things too, because everything is not counted only in dollar and cents," Mr. Seaga said. "Everything is not counted just in the price of the things you buy in the shops, or even in terms of the work that we provide, or the foreign exchange we earn.

some who preserve freedom and we must be able to distinguish between them.

"We as a party champion the democratic system. We as a party champion moderate democratic policies. We as a party champion the parliamentary system of Government. We don't champion revolution and we don't walk hand in hand with revolutionary Governments.

"And it was for that reason that one year ago when we were called upon by the Governor-General of Grenada to give assistance in liberating that country from tyranny and from oppression: called upon by the other countries in that area to give assistance because Grenada held a threat to their security, that we responded.

"And, everyone in Jamaica that bears democracy any good mind must be proud of the fact that we participated in that military operation that freed Grenada.

Mr. Seaga said that his Government did not participate in the action only to free Grenada from the tyrant.

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"Man must place value also on freedom, and there are some who are a threat to freedom and there are

Seaga backs *Des.*

(Cont'd from Page 1)

ny that was taking place then: but from the socialist control that was not operating on the freely- elected will of the people, as well as in the hope that the people of Grenada would eventually decide to elect their own Government:

"And tomorrow they go to the polls to elect a Government which is

the first time in many years that they are going to exercise that choice."

Other speakers at the conference included Mr. Golding, his brother, Mr. Tony Golding, M.P. for South-West St. Catherine; Councillors Everrod Williams, Mayor of Spanish Town, Joseph McKessy, Orville Brown, Lloyd Francis and Magnus Williams; and the Hon. Enid Bennett, Minister of State for Social Security.

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No majority likely

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Dec. 2,

CANA:

Head of the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP), Gordon Robertson, says he feels none of the political parties contesting tomorrow's general election here will get a clear majority and the island will most likely have a coalition government.

Robertson told CANA he disagreed with those who predict a clean sweep by the centrist New National Party (NNP) of the poll to return Grenada to constitutional government after four-and-a-half years of leftwing revolution.

Robertson forecast that the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Eric Gary would win four to six of the 15 seats at stake.

The GULP and the MNP are the leading parties facing the poll, the first in eight years. The GULP won the last election, in 1976, but three years later was ousted by a leftwing coup.

The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), a group made up of some of the politicians who played a major role in the ill-fated revolution, is also contesting the election.

Robertson said that if his party, which is fielding only five candidates, won any seats it would not be prepared to form a coalition with the GULP or the NNP.

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...Cuban journalist refused entry

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Dec. 2, (Reuter)

A Cuban journalist who arrived here to cover tomorrow's elections was refused entry and expelled on the same

plane in which he flew in, police said today.

Reporters on the same flight said Godefroid Tchamlesso, a Zaire-born correspon-

dent of the Cuban News Agency **Prensa Latina**, was expelled from this Caribbean island after arriving yesterday from Barbados on a Cuban diplomatic passport.

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THE DAILY GLEANER, MONDAY, DEC

Grenada goes to the polls

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Dec. 2 (REUTER):

GRENADA GOES TO the polls tomorrow to restore democracy in this Caribbean island of 100,000 people 13 months after a bloody coup followed by a U.S. invasion.

Foreign diplomats here expect the New National Party (NNP), a union of centrist groups set up with U.S. encouragement and led by veteran politician Herbert Blaize, to win the elections.

Its two main contenders are the right-wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Eric Gary and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), named after the Prime Minister killed in the coup by a radical faction of his leftwing New Jewel Movement in October last year.

Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the Interim Government set up after the U.S. invasion, has said he expects 80 per cent of registered voters to turn out.

The winner will have to tackle a stagnant economy with unemployment running at 30 to 35 per cent and declining revenue from the main export crops of cocoa, bananas and nutmeg.

Washington has injected massive economic aid into the island since its troops ousted the radical faction six days after it

toppled Bishop on October 19, 1983.

The Interim Government gave official approval to more than 70 foreign investment schemes, but only two small projects — a toy factory and a nutmeg plant — have actually started up.

Most foreign investment projects are related to tourism, helped by the opening last October of an International Airport begun with Cuban assistance under the Bishop government and finished with U.S. help.

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The Gleaner Dec 5, 1984 Vol. CL No. 289

Grenada election aftermath

NNP alone as Gairyite resigns

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP):

SWORN TODAY AS THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA, NNP Leader Herbert Blaize will preside over a one-party government as the single Gairyite winner in Monday's elections resigned his seat.

The new Prime Minister claimed a "clear mandate" to rebuild Grenada after his moderate party's landslide victory in elections that returned parliamentary democracy to the Caribbean nation nearly six years after a leftist coup.

Blaize made the statement immediately after he was sworn into office by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon at 1 p.m. (EST) at Government House in St. George's.

The New National Party won 14 of 15 seats in unofficial results and Marcel Peters, the sole winner for the Grenada United Labour Party, said Tuesday he would resign because "of discrepancies" in the election process.

Peters defeated McLean Pope of the New National Party by a vote of 1,275 to 1,139. A new election would have to be called to fill his seat.

The New National Party was formed from three moderate parties last August at the urging of the United States and the Caribbean nations who supported the Oct. 25, 1983 U.S. invasion after the leftist government collapsed in a bloody power struggle.

Former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy whose Labour Party dominated politics for three decades and had never suffered such a one-sided defeat offered a bizarre theory on how the results were fixed.

In an interview with a handful of reporters, Gairy said that New National Party candidate names had been marked beforehand with invisible ink that appeared afterward while

chemicals also caused marks for his candidates to disappear.

He offered no proof but said the results from many polling stations that had traditionally been his strongholds reported low totals for his party and therefore election results were suspect.

"The ballots were marked in advance and when the ballots came in marked by the various parties with the chemical pen, the marks dissipated once placed into the ballot box, later on the other marks surfaced and showed themselves," Gairy said.

"Science and technology today is so high that I have no reason to doubt this," he said.

Gairy said he understood that his old leftist foes also considered the elections rigged and were hinting at violence.

"We're not saying anything yet. We are not a violent people," he said, "up until now."

Blaize said of the Gairy charges and the resignation, that "if he resigns, he resigns because he feels too damn lonely."

The New Prime Minister also said he had immediately sent a letter to U.S. President Ronald Reagan requesting that American "security forces" remain "until such time as we have a fully equipped and training Grenada people force."

Blaize said he wasn't setting any particular date for withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Gairy also criticized Americans for supporting the New National Party.

"Grenadian people used to love the Americans," he said.

Gairy said his party will reassess its strategy but that he expects it to continue in politics.

Asked if he would run in the next due elections five years from now, Gairy drew applause and cheers from supporters gathered at the large pink house where he had stayed since he ended he ended his exile last January.

"We expect them a lot sooner than that," Gairy said.

The latter years of Gairy's rule were marked by corruption and repression and he drew international notoriety for calling on the United

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The Gleaner's
John Hearne
reports from Grenada
—Page 3

NNP alone as Gairyite resigns

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Nations to study unidentified flying objects and for his self-styled mysticism.

On his victory Blaize said: "They have done exactly what we hoped they would do — give the New National Party a clear mandate to put Grenada back together." The 66-year-old attorney

said this as he arrived at the new point Saline International Airport — largely built by Cuba and completed with U.S. aid — at 11 a.m. (EST). He flew from his home base, the out-island of Carriacou, in a small plane chartered by ABC News and Times, Inc.

As he got out of the plane, he raised his

walking cane in triumph as about 500 supporters cheered.

"Well, it's not too bad," said Blaize of his victory, smiling from below a gray fedora and moving slowly on his arthritic legs through a pack of journalists.

Dominated politically for three decades by the Grenada United Labour

Party of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, Blaize led the government only once before, in 1962-67, when the island was a British colony.

Gairy, ousted March 13, 1979 in a coup, remained in seclusion after the worst electoral defeat his party has suffered.

Meanwhile, Blaize was designated the country's leader by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, who had appointed an interim council to run the island after the invasion.

U.S. officials and many prominent Grenadians feared a return to power by Gairy, a one-time labour leader whose governments were accused of corruption and repression, who hurt efforts to lure tourists and investors to the undeveloped island and fuel a leftist comeback.

Supporters of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, whose execution by his army triggered the U.S. invasion, fared poorly Monday running as the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Their candidates all ran third, some with less than 1 percent of the vote.

Bishop party leader Kenrik Radix had called the elections "a CIA effort" and said the New National Party was funded heavily by American money. He also said the elections weren't "free and fair" because of the presence of nearly 600 U.S. and Caribbean troops.

Western diplomats who observed the elections praised the process, and nearly 81 percent of the 48,000 people registered voted.

"Radix and the rest should know better than to participate in elections. They should have done community work instead," said George Brizan, a 42-year-old educator who once supported Bishop but dropped out of the leftist movement because of its heavy marxist influence.

Radix said his movement would remain active and "continue to check the people." Asked whether there could ever be another revolt, he replied: "Our people have a history of courage."

"They have no following," said Brizan. But

has said the foreign troops should remain until Grenada has a well trained police force that could put down subversive efforts.

Brizan and Dr. Francis Alexis, who had formed an anti-Bishop exile group in 1983, met Blaize at the airport and agreed there would be no conflict in running the new government, even though all three had headed separate parties before the merger.

"There is no coalition, there is one party, the New National Party," said Brizan.

"You'd have to be a madman to get involved in in-fighting now," Alexis said.

The leaders dismissed suggestions they would be dominated by Americans. They said they received no campaign help from the U.S. government, but offered no details on the reported campaign contributions to the party by U.S. business people and conservative groups.

Boston entrepreneur David McCourt, considering several investment projects here, said Blaize's victory was the best thing that could have happened for attracting investment to Grenada because it will mean stability.

McCourt, who raised at least \$10,000 for the New National Party, said he saw nothing wrong with Americans contributing to the party.

"A safe, stable Caribbean is in our best interests. And anybody who can afford to support democracy anywhere in the world should do it," McCourt said.

HERBERT BLAIZE'S TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO POWER IN GRENADA

FROM JOHN HEARNE

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Dec. 4:

A newly elected Prime Minister Herbert Blaize returned to St. Georges today from Carriacou, his island constituency. He was late in arrival, having promised to land at Port Saline at 10 o'clock in the morning. A large crowd awaited him, but the newly elected Prime Minister did not fly into the main island until mid-day. It would appear that no flight had been arranged, and that he had to come in on the chartered plane of an overseas newspaper.

However, it was a triumphal return. Not only had Mr. Blaize led his party to a landslide victory, but he had scored an overwhelming personal victory in his own constituency of Carriacou. The MBPM candidate who was second trailed him by well over 1,400 votes. The GULP candidate was hardly in the race.

Mr. Blaize was sworn in by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon at about 2 o'clock this afternoon. Two hours later, he held a press conference at York House, in the Parliamentary Chamber, and made a brief statement. He emphasized that the new Government would seek to restore decency, order and democracy to the political process in Grenada. He underlined the fact that nearly 85% of the electorate had gone to the polls and that his party, the NNP, had received an overwhelming mandate.

Indeed, Mr. Blaize's victory may now be said to be complete. The single GULP winner Mr. Peters, has resigned his seat. The seat is therefore vacant and will have to be contested in a by-election.

The Prime Minister of Grenada assured the press and the people of Grenada that the withdrawal of friendly foreign troops now on Grenadian soil would be a

phased operation. He did not see the withdrawal of Caribbean soldiers and police much before the end of March. The withdrawal of United States troops would be a subject of negotiation between the American President and himself. Within two hours of taking office, Mr. Blaize had written a letter to President Reagan to this effect. This letter was read to the assembled press at the conference.

Mr. Blaize, when asked if he had chosen a Cabinet, said that no portfolios had been allocated among the 14 elected members of his party. He stressed that he had not inherited a Westminster form of democracy or a civil service geared for a normal transmission from a dictatorship, but a necessary interim Government to a Government elected by due process. He said that he and his colleagues needed a period of a few days in which to examine an unprecedented situation.

Meanwhile, both Mr. Gairy of the GULP and Mr.

Raddix of the MBPM are claiming that the election was fraudulent. Mr. Gairy, at a press conference, today, alleged that the ballot papers were marked in advance by a special magnetic pencil. Another type of magnetic pencil, Mr. Gairy alleged, was placed in the polling booths for the use of voters. The X made by voters disappeared when the ballot paper was folded and dropped into the box. Mr. Gairy gave no hint as to his future plans.

Mr. Raddix of the MBPM alleged that the United States gave extensive moral and financial support to the NNP, and that his voters were improperly registered, or not registered at all.

Mr. Blaize addressed a large and enthusiastic crowd in Market Square, St. Georges after his press conference; and tonight there is a widespread exhilaration and mood of festivity throughout the capital and the island.

Tomorrow has been declared a public holiday.

Dec. 5. 1984

The Gleaner

NNP sweeps Grenada polls

BLAIZE TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

GRENADA'S NEW NATIONAL PARTY led by former Premier Herbert Blaize scored a landslide victory yesterday in the Spice Island's first general election in eight years.

According to a late Cana report out of St. Georges's, the capital, last night, the Electoral Office announced that the NNP had won all ten seats declared so far and was leading in four of the remaining five.

On the basis of those returns Blaize has been asked to form a government and he has scheduled a press conference for this afternoon.

At Press time indications were that the NNP would win 14 seats.

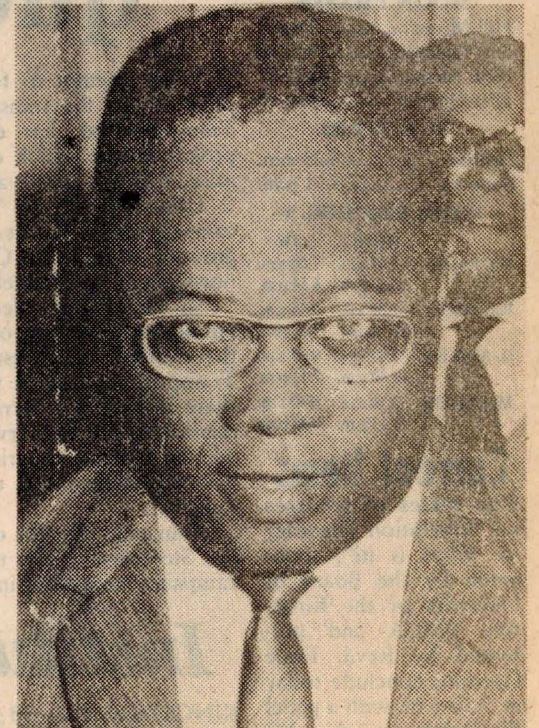
The poll was exceedingly high, according to veteran newsman Alister Hughes, and could be from 80 to 90 per cent.

In early returns, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement was faring badly. The *Gleaner's* John Hearne, calling from St. George's, said they were "totally obliterated." Eric Gairy's Grenada United Party appeared to have secured only one seat, Hearne reported.

Faring badly too was the Christian Democratic Labour Party led by Winston Whyte. Mr. Whyte was a detainee for 4 years under Bishop, and after the invasion in October last year visited Jamaica.

The New National Party is a coalition of three parties — the Grenada National Party of Herbert Blaize, the Grenada Democratic Movement of Dr. Francis Alexes and the National Democratic Party of George Brizan.

Mr. Blaize, a lawyer headed the Grenadian Government from 1962 to 1967 as leader of the victorious Grenada National Party, but has been dogged by ill-health. His second in command in the G.N.P. was Ben Jones.



HERBERT BLAIZE ...leading in 10 seats

Dr. Francis Alexes taught law at Cave Hill, Barbados and returned to Grenada last year. George Brizan was a teacher at the Grenada Boy's School and at Bishop's Institute for Further Education.

The three parties came together at the urging of Eastern Caribbean leaders — notably Adams of Barbados, Mitchell of St. Vincent, Charles of Dominica and Compton of St. Lucia.

Prime Minister Seaga said on Sunday that the JLP had been helping the NNP.

Earlier reports through the Associated Press stated as follows:

Returns from Blaize's Carriacou stronghold, reported by police radio because of telephone failures common to the out-island, gave Blaize 1,662 votes and his nearest competitor, Lyle Bullen of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement,

147 votes.

Retired pharmacist Felix Alexander of the NNP won the St. Mark's constituency, the first to report final results. He had 908 votes to 744 for Mitchell James, a long-time Grenada United Labour Party executive committee member and 139 votes for George Louison, Agriculture Minister in the leftist Government that collapsed in a bloody power struggle on October 19, 1983, that triggered the U.S.-led invasion six days later.

NNP candidate Tillman Thomas won the St. Patrick's West seat, with 933 votes to 790 votes for United Labour Party candidate Winston Frederick, 67 for Bishop Party candidate John Cato and just 18, votes for Winston Whyte, a conservative two-time Parliamentarian who headed the Christian Democratic Labour Party. Thaoms was a law partner of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and was jailed in 1982 by his former mentor after he helped start a newspaper in defiance of the leftist regime. Thomas and Whyte were among some 100 political detainees freed by the U.S. invasion.

(More relief than jubilation — Page 3)

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The Gleaner
Brathwaite mum on future

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

The question of whether the head of Grenada's outgoing caretaker administration, Nicholas Brathwaite, will return to a Commonwealth youth project following yesterday's election win by the centrist New National Party (NNP) remained hanging today.

The 59-year-old Grenadian said he will give an indication about his plans in January, after he has had a few weeks' rest.

But he rejected reports that the NNP had offered to appoint him Governor-General, to replace Sir Paul Scoon.

"I have had no discussion with any political party about any position," he said.

Brathwaite, a former chief education officer here, was appointed chairman of an 'Advisory Council' which was set up to run the island shortly after a U.S.-led October 1983 invasion had unseated a coup-in-

stalled military regime.

Brathwaite had been running the Commonwealth's youth programme's Caribbean Centre in Guyana which he had started in 1974.

The Centre develops programmes and provides training for all 13 member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It has done pioneer work in such areas as youth self-employment, and methods of mobilising youths in times of natural disaster.

According to the Commonwealth Secretariat, he "developed a unique system for youth work training by correspondence which has since been adopted by Commonwealth Youth Centres in Africa, Asia

and the Pacific."

One of his major tasks as head of the interim administration here was to lay the

ground-work for the return to elected Government after nearly five years of leftist revolutionary Government.

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Jamaica ready to work with Blaize

KINGSTON, Dec. 4 (Jampress):

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon Edward Seaga said today that Jamaica stood ready to co-operate with the newly elected leadership in Grenada.

He was commenting on yesterday's landslide victory by the New National Party (NNP) led by former Premier Herbert Blaize, in the first Parliamentary elections held in that island in eight years. The NNP won 14 of the 15 seats.

Recalling the part played by the Jamaican Government "in putting an end to internal bloodshed in Grenada" last year, Mr. Seaga said his Administration welcomed the restoration of the democratic, constitutional process in that island and stood ready to co-operate with the new leadership freely elected by the people.

Following is the statement by the

Prime Minister.

"I have today sent my congratulations to the New National Party (NNP) in Grenada for its victory in yesterday's Parliamentary Elections.

"Jamaicans can take pride in the restoration of democratic Government in a neighbouring Caribbean island, after a failed Socialist experiment was brutally ended last October by anarchy and a regime of assassins.

"The United States of America and democracies of the Caribbean Basin, including Jamaica, took joint action at the invitation of the Governor-General of Grenada and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (O.E.C.S.) to put an end to the internal bloodshed in Grenada and the threat to neighbouring Caribbean States. Those who criticised our action then have to answer these questions now: Would

democracy have returned to Grenada without our timely and limited intervention? Would peace and the will of the people have prevailed?

"My Government welcomes this new democratic start in Grenada, and we proudly proclaim the part we played in bringing it about.

"We strongly favour the restoration of the democratic, constitutional process in Grenada and we stand ready to co-operate with the new leadership freely elected by its people.

"We wish the newly elected leaders of Grenada peace and prosperity".

'COALITION OF MODERATES'

The Jamaica Labour Party in a statement signed by party chairman Bruce Golding said the "overwhelming victory of the New National Party representing a coalition of the moder-

ate forces within the country was an unequivocal rejection by the Grenadian people of dictatorial and oppressive regimes whether of the reactionary right as symbolised by Eric Gairy or the Marxist left as symbolised by the remnants of the Bishop's New Jewel Movement."

The result of the elections was a clear vindication of the military intervention in 1983 "in which Jamaica participated and which became necessary in order to liberate the Grenadian people and to ensure the security of the region."

'A TRIUMPH FOR REACTION'

The Workers Party of Jamaica said it viewed the "massive victory of the

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Jamaica ready

(Cont'd from Page 1)

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NNP as a triumph for reaction in Grenada itself and throughout the region. However this victory could not have been assured were it not for the armed occupation of Grenada by the United States and the skillfully stage-managed interference by outside reactionary forces which placed the other parties at considerable disadvantage," the WPJ said.

The massive endorsement of the NNP was going to turn sour, however, as long as the new Government pursued right wing social and economic policies which its sponsors would no doubt demand.

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Dec. 5, 1984

House hails Grenada vote

The House of Representatives yesterday acknowledged the holding of General Elections in Grenada on Monday and wished the incoming administration "every success".

The Leader of the House and Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, on a motion for the adjournment, said that it was most appropriate for the House to remember that Grenada had just completed its first democratic elections in eight years.

"I think that it would be right and proper for us as Government to wish the incoming Parliament in the sovereign state of Grenada every success in their endeavours."

The Speaker, the Hon. Alva Ross, added that the House welcomed the news from Grenada.

The Members supported both Mr. Smith and the Speaker with loud applause.

Dec. 5, 1984

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Dec 6, 1984

The Gleaner

The lessons of Grenada

by C.S. Reid

Recently I have been travelling down the Caribbean. One good thing about travel, is that it helps you to have a more balanced view of your own problems by giving you an opportunity to see how other people are managing. And I must tell you that, despite our present economic difficulties, Jamaica is not the worst place to live — not by a very long shot.

Our road system is good by Caribbean standards — despite the potholes and the slip-shod repair system by which we waste so much money and time. The other communication infrastructure necessary for a modern state, is very much in place here. And we may grumble about Government, but in fact we have a very virile democracy at work here, and it is our duty, and in our interests, to strive to preserve it.

For I have seen what it is like to have an authoritarian police state: and I assure you, it is not pretty. Your freedom is something you take for granted — until you lose it. Then, invariably it cannot be recovered without bloodshed. For those who rob a people of their freedoms, usually play for keeps. They will not give up power freely.

Surely, this is one of the lessons of Grenada's recent history. Last Monday for the first time since 1976, the people of Grenada had a chance to vote in a General Election and elect leaders of their own choice. They have come to it by a tortuous route. First there was Eric Gairy who held elections but abused the powers con-

ferred by elections and was not above rigging them. It is no surprise that he is now grumbling because he lost. He expects elections to be rigged!

Peaceful society

Gairy was ousted in a coup by Maurice Bishop, who had promised early elections only as a means of keeping the outside world pacified while he cemented his party's hold upon the reins of power and militarised a peaceful society. Bishop and half his Cabinet were slaughtered by their colleagues, nineteen of whom are currently on trial for murder. Nobody knows the number of ordinary people who died on the day of the Bishop massacre, when the Army turned its guns on the people who tried to protect Bishop.

Coard's and Austin's brief reign of terror was brought to an end by an unprecedented and controversial intervention of American and Caribbean military forces. After one year of putting the pieces together again, the electoral processes have been put in place again, and Grenadians have elected a government.

It has been a harsh and painful pilgrimage, and the whole world was looking on with the greatest interest to see what Grenada had learnt. Everyone agrees that if they had returned Gairy and his "mongoose gang" to power, the irony would have been too hard to bear. But that is the price, and the risk of democracy. Even rascals are given a chance to offer themselves for election. The people must use their good sense to know that not every sweet-talking politician is a fit person to exercise power. Some do so much harm that it takes a whole generation to recover — if ever at all!

We Jamaicans must surely wish Grenada and their new Government well. But we should learn a lesson from them — and watch carefully our own backyard!

Dec. 6, 1984

The

Gleaner

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Blaize relaxes before tackling Grenada's woes

ST. GEORGE'S
Dec. 6 (AP):

New Prime Minister Herbert A. Blaize huddled with supporters and potential members of his newly elected Government today as most Grenadians relaxed during a special national holiday.

Unlike his predecessors — slain leftist Maurice Bishop and deposed Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy — Blaize had no bodyguards or police protection as he held court at the modest downtown guesthouse where he stays while on the island. He will probably stay later at the official Prime Minister's residence, but will commute by plane every weekend to his home on Carriacou, and out-island of 13 square miles just north of Grenada.

The low-key, 66-year-old attorney made few enemies in three decades of politics, but also never won such a mandate as his moderate New National Party captured Monday in the nation's first elections since 1976.

The party took 59 per cent of the vote and 14 of 15 parliamentary seats in trouncing Gairy's United Labour Party and a leftist party. Gairy's sole winner re-

signed his seat because of electoral "discrepancies." Gairy, a self-styled mystic and unidentified flying objects buff and ruled with the help of thugs called "The Montgoose gang," claimed that ballots were chemically marked and voters pencils chemically treated to change the voters' choices.

Blaize is required to convene parliament within 30 days. But he said that before assigning ministerial portfolios, he and party leaders want to study Grenada's Government Apparatus, controlled for nearly five years by Bishop's leftists and one year by an appointed interim council.

Blaize attended a special service at the Anglican Church here yesterday. He explained that he wanted to begin his term of office "On my knees. Greeting supporters, He said: "This victory is yours.

"This government is for all the people. He will include everyone," he pledged.

"This is just like a story that has been played out to the proper ending. Good triumphed," said Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, vice-chancellor of the American-run off-shore medical school here whose presence was a chief reason — along with returning democracy — for the October 25, 1983, U.S.-led invasion that followed bishop's execu-

tion and a radical army Junta takeover.

"We're very happy. This is definitely a government we can work with," Bourne said.

Bourne said the school will now go ahead with plans to build additional dormitories and lecture halls here. He said the school also wants to work with the government on studies of nutrition and sickle-cell anemia here.

One of the first Americans to answer Reagan administration calls for investment in the backward island, toy manufacturer Bill Ingle, said he would have closed operations if the new National Party hadn't won the elections.

Boston businessman David McCourt, one of several potential investors who helped raised thousands of dollars for the U.S.-favored New National Party, said he would have lost interest in investing here if Blaize's party had lost.

But the election winners denied that the United States influenced the polls, and several complained to British officials when the **British Broadcasting Corporation** — widely listened to in the English-speaking Caribbean — called the party "American-backed." U.S. agency for international development officials here had said that dozens of American businessmen

have filed investment and development proposals with Grenada authorities. But that even those with approval from the interim government were mostly holding off on actually starting the projects until after seeing the outcome of elections.

One of blaize's first acts was writing to President Reagan to request that the 250 U.S. Troops on the island remain indefinitely, until Grenada has a fully trained police force.

Dec. 7, 1984

Barbados will withdraw police from Grenada but...

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Dec 4, CANA:

Barbados is prepared to withdraw its police from Grenada, where they are helping to keep the peace, once St. George's has completed the training of its force, but how long Barbadian soldiers stay there will depend on whether Grenada joins a six-nation regional defence pact, Prime Minister Tom Adams has said.

In an interview on the state-owned radio Barbados last night, Adams, however, said he saw no need for the permanent stationing of U.S. soldiers in Grenada.

Barbados and a number of other Caribbean islands sent soldiers and policemen to Grenada late last year to back up U.S. troops which had invaded to unseat a military junta. There are now about 700 American and Caribbean soldiers and policemen on peace keeping duty in the spice isle.

"I think that the Grenada Government should and will train its own police with the assistance of the other countries which are helping them..." Adams remarked. When this is done there should be no need for foreign policemen in Grenada."

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7/12/84

Blaize back in the limelight after 20 years in the wilderness

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

After nearly 20 years in the political wilderness, Herbert Blaize, at age 66, has been catapulted back into the limelight in Grenada and the Eastern Caribbean.

Seventeen years ago, the British-trained lawyer, then leading his Grenada National Party (GNP), lost to Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and since then was relegated to an opposition role.

Today, he was being sworn in as Prime Minister of this 133 square mile Eastern Caribbean island nation, after crushing all opposition, including GULP, in yesterday's general elections, the first here since 1976.

Blaize, partially crippled by arthritis, heads the New National Party (NNP), a union of three centrist groups formed last August to prevent the right-wing populist Gairy from regaining power.

United States officials and Caribbean leaders actively encouraged the party's formation after months of bickering between centrist leaders failed to produce an electoral alliance.

A moderate conservative and long-standing opponent of Gairy, Blaize served as Chief Minister under British colonial rule from 1960 to 1961 and again from 1962 to 1967.

Widely regarded as an elder statesman here, he is trying to steer a middle course between Gairy's rough populism and the ideological intolerance of the Marxists who overthrew Gairy in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first coup in March 1979.

Blaize stands more for a style of government — free and fair elections, an independent judiciary and honest rule — than for a given set of policies.

He was born on Carriacou, one of two so-called "out islands", along with Pitit Martinique, that make up the state of Grenada. His education began in local schools after which he joined the civil service as a treasury official in 1937.

A year later, he was seriously injured in a cycle accident and since then has been plagued by poor health.

In 1944 Blaize emigrated to the Dutch island of Aruba to work as a clerical officer and English teacher at the huge oil refinery there.

Gairy, Blaize's future political ri-

val, was also working there at the time and they both became involved in the trade union movement. Blaize returned to Grenada in 1952 and founded the Grenada National Party in 1955 in an effort to counter Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party.

In 1957 he entered Parliament and served as Trade and Production Minister until he became the island's first Chief Minister in 1960 when a constitutional change removed the island from the jurisdiction of the Governor of the Windward Islands which included St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominica.

Blaize studied law through a correspondence course and passed the examination set by the law society in London.

He was defeated by Gairy in the 1961 general elections but bounced back into power the following year after the British had removed Gairy from office in the midst of a corruption scandal.

During his subsequent five-year term, Grenada achieved self-rule as an associated state, but Gairy swept back into power after elections in 1967 and Blaize became leader of the opposition.

In 1976, two years after full independence, Blaize's party joined an alliance with Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) to try to defeat Gairy's increasingly repressive Government.

However, Gairy won the elections, ignoring allegations of fraud, only to be overthrown by the NJM in the March 13, 1979 coup.

A quiet-spoken, mild-mannered father of six, Blaize retired to Carriacou after the coup, but returned to the political arena after the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion which put down the left-wing junta that had seized power killing Bishop and several Cabinet colleagues.

The Gleaner Dec. 7, 1984

Grenada's election figures

ST. GEORGES, Dec. 5, CANA:

Final results of Grenada's general election Monday show the winning New National Party (NNP), which carried off 14 of the 15 seats, captured 58.6 per cent of the 40,953 votes cast. That amounted to 23,984 votes.

Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), which took the remaining seat secured 14,677 votes or 35.8 per cent.

The three other groups in the race, the leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), the Christian Democratic Labour Party (CDLP) and the tiny Grenada Federated Labour Party (GFLP) failed to make any serious impression on the electorate.

The MBPM, led by former government Minister Kendrick Radix polled 2,022 votes or 4.9 per cent

of the popular vote. The CDLP of ex-parliamentarian Winston Whyte managed a mere 106 votes and the GFLP, which contested a single seat, a paltry nine votes.

There were some 48,000 people on the electoral roll.

The landslide 14-1 victory for the NNP, headed by Grenada first chief minister, veteran attorney Herbert Blaize, 66, represented the biggest sweep by any political party in elections here, electoral officials said.

The GULP won nine of the 15 seats in the last such poll in December 1976, the other five going to an alliance of opposition parties which was formed to fight Gairy's dominance of the local political scene.

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The Grenader 2 Dec. 1984

Charles welcomes Grenada vote

ROSEAU, DEC. 4 (CANA)

Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has welcomed the landslide win by the centrist New National Party (NNP) in yesterday's general election to return the neighbouring island of Grenada to Parliamentary Government for the first time in five years.

"I am glad the middle-of-the-road party won," declared the Caribbean's lone woman leader and a staunch advocate of democratic government.

She was responding to the preliminary results in the poll, which gave the NNP, headed by veteran attorney Herbert Blaize 14 of the 15 seats — the other going to the rightist Grenada

United Labour Party (GULP) of ex-Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

"I have always felt that until the people elected their own leaders, the country would not settle down," Miss Charles added in an obvious reference to Grenada's 1979 coup which deposed the island's last elected Government.

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The Gleaner Dec. 7. 1984

Blaize dismisses bogus poll charges

ST GEORGE'S, Dec. 6 (CANA)

Grenada's new Prime Minister Herbert Blaize says the conduct of Monday's general election was beyond reproach and has dismissed allegations by two parties of fraudulent practices.

Leader of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) ex-Prime Minister Eric Gairy and Kendrick Radix, who heads the left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) both alleged that a specially-treated paper was used for the ballots which were secretly marked pro-New National Party (NNP) and there were omissions from the voters list.

The NNP captured 14 of the 15 seats and 58.6 percent of the 40,953 votes cast. The GULP won the lone non-NNP seat and says it will not accept it because the election was rigged.

Blaize, the 66 year-old former Chief Minister, told a news conference: "We invited through the Governor General, outside observation. We invited the United Nations, Organisation of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth Secretariat...other international organisations.

"The United Nations did not care to send a representative body because they are still hostile to

the situation that caused America and our friendly Caribbean countries to come to our rescue. I understand the British Government, notwithstanding the Commonwealth Secretariat did send a diplomatic delegation and Canada did send a delegation..."

"...and they have seen for themselves that the conduct of the elections over the last day was such that there was no grounds for reproach," Blaize said.

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Religion

GRENADA: challenge for Church in Jamaica

CHURCH COMMENTARY

●
BY
BILLY
HALL
●



Grenada continues to attract international attention. The recent general election is not about to diminish that attention for events in Grenada derive their significance from a certain trend in history which is going to make Grenada a sort of case-study of English-speaking Caribbean territories. That trend, in terms of geo-politics relates to ideology. It seems that Grenada may be taken as a 'test-case' for judging the future of so many other Caribbean territories which were once sugar colonies of Britain. That, no doubt, explains the high interest in Grenada by the other Caribbean territories, and even by the super-powers, of events in Grenada.

But how does all this high-powered political interest relate to the Church? The relation is inevitable for the Church is very much part of the fabric of any society. The Church cannot and did not remain untouched by events there and is not likely to remain unmoved and uninvolved. What then has been the role of the Church? What ought to be the role of the Church?

This discussion on the role of the Church ought to involve Jamaica in relation to Grenada for at least two major reasons. The first may be assessed as purely theological. The Church as the body of Christ is one, and so the experience of any section of the Church ought to be the concern of every other section of the Church. Secondly, for cultural reasons there ought to be an affinity which generates concern. Grenada is a sister Caribbean territory. Much of the history of Grenada is similar. The pattern of European exploitation, African degradation, and so on is the same in fundamentals. Also, the ancestry seems shared. As one Caribbean leader has expressed it, "The ships merely went in different directions; that's why we are in different territories."

I am concerned, therefore, that to all appearances the Church in Jamaica has not chosen to play a more meaningful and positive role in the social reconstruction that must now be taking place in Grenada. Surely, initial moves ought to have been visits for data gathering, followed by public sharing of the information to engender widespread support for plans which might develop. I have no knowledge of such public efforts and so must assume failure to proclaim and programme.

A few weeks ago I spoke with two foreign journalists of Christian orientation who were in Grenada to gather information for the Church in North America and England. They reported little positive work by the Church in terms of the real needs of Grenada. More mass evangelistic crusades and tract distribution or airing of foreign produced programmes in foreign voices and promotion of more Christian literature with no reference to the Caribbean cannot be the answer.

Surely, what is first required is intelligent data gathering, mainly too, what the leaders of the Church in Grenada perceive to be the problem and the analysis of needs they have. Here is a country where evangelicals have no impressive history of working together, much more Pentecostals, Anglicans and Roman Catholics. A working relationship among the major Church groups is one of the pressing needs of the Church in Jamaica. Secondly, there is need for more appre-

ciation of political systems. The Church in Grenada needs to be better equipped to understand, appreciate and respond to the political process. Evangelicals have been notoriously ignorant because of theological education in a vacuum.

Unity problem

Another area of pressing need is for infra-structural systems to handle unity problems. In Grenada, there is no Youth for Christ movement, a weak and embryonic Inter-school Christian Fellowship, no Child Evangelism Fellowship, etc. The radio broadcasts by church groups are nearly all sermonic and foreign, lacking delivery in the more authentic Grenadian voice.

My comments on the situation in Grenada is based on a personal visit, talks with some of the Church leaders while they were visiting Jamaica, discussions with an associate who visited too, on my behalf, and with Christian journalists who did fact-finding there, as well as certain reading and talks with non-Church individuals.

The purpose of today's column is really to openly challenge the Church in Jamaica to undertake greater responsibility for the work of the Lord in Grenada through a programme of systematic assistance. It is not enough for the Baptist to visit or report that the Jamaican missionary there of the Jamaica Baptist Union is safe.

It is not enough for one denomination to say others of the same denomination were helped. The Jamaica Council of Churches, and the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals ought to be taking more steps of public significance in rendering aid to the Church in Grenada, consistent with the independence and dignity and needs of the Church there, and with the moral requirement of the New Testament mandate of missions.

WORD of GOD

Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me.

Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.

But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter of mine head.

Psalm 3

GULP man sends resignation to Scoon

ST. GEORGE'S, Dec. 9, (CANA)

The Grenada United Labour Party's (GULP) lone successful candidate in last Monday's general election, Marcel Peters, has written the Governor-General and the Clerk of Parliament declining the post of opposition leader because of alleged election fraud.

Peters, who won the St. Andrew's north-east seat, said in a letter to Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon: "...I wish to inform you that due to my

total dissatisfaction with the conduct of the elections and the manifest interference by certain outside forces, I hereby formally decline the appointment."

"I also formally state that I shall not be taking up my seat in the House of Representatives," he added in the letter dated December 7.

In a letter to the Clerk of Parliament, Peters said his decision was "irrevocable and final."

Parliament is scheduled to open on December 28, the first time since the elections.

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Grenadians abroad urged to return home

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 9, (CANA)

The powerful Barbados Workers Union (BWU) today urged Grenadians living abroad to return home and contribute to the country's development following last Monday's sweeping general elections victory by the centrist coalition New National Party (NNP).

Writing in his weekly newspaper column, BWU General-Secretary Frank Walcott said that in true democratic form a large percentage of the Grenadian electorate turned out and gave the country an opportunity to return to normalcy.

Since the left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) seized power the last four years have seen the island under a state of seige, the veteran trade unionist said. He added that Grenadians previously suffered under a regime which was a mixture of feudalism and fascism.

"We rejoice at the outcome of the elections in Grenada, and we extend our congratulations to the new Government," Walcott said.

"We hope that many of them (Grenadians living abroad) will...feel free to return to Grenada and make a contribution to the rebuilding of their homeland.

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Grenada's choice

In Grenada on December 4, the coalition of moderate parties led by Mr. Herbert Blaize swept the polls claiming 59 percent of the votes cast and 14 of the 15 seats. The elections turned out to be a straight fight between Mr. Blaize's New National Party and Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party.

But the real triumph was for democracy. For the people voted in great numbers: over 85 percent of the 48,000 registered voters cast their ballots. This compares more than favourably with the USA where not more than 53 percent voted in the November 6 elections.

Independent observers have commented favourably on the flawless arrangements for the

elections. And so the allegations by Sir Eric Gairy and the Left in the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of bogus voting and external rigging of the elections, respectively, would appear to be hollow.

These allegations, with those made in Jamaica that the 1980 elections were lost by the Government because of CIA activity, reflect a lack of confidence in their own people by those making the allegations.

In our view, the people of Grenada have shown mature wisdom in avoiding the extremes of a Gairy or of the remnants of the Bishop communist movement. They have chosen the moderate path in their yearning for development with stability. We wish them well.

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

UWI Libraries

The Daily Gleaner

Dec. 9, 1984

Gairy talks with the Left

ST. GEORGE'S, Dec. 9, (CANA)

Leader of the right-wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), Eric Gairy, said today that his group had held discussions with the leftist forces that toppled him in a 1979 coup on the outcome of last Monday's general election, which they both lost.

Gairy told reporters that the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) of former Government Minister Kenrick Radix had sent one of its unsuccessful candidates to find out what the GULP was planning to do in terms of protesting the outcome of the elections.

The poll, the first on the island in eight years, was won by the centrist New National Party (NNP) of Herbert Blaize, which took 14 of the 15 parliamentary seats at stake. The other seat went to the GULP.

Both the GULP and the MBPM had claimed that the elections were rigged. Gairy noted the parties' ideological differences, and said: "What we have in common is that we are both victims of rigged elections, and we believe that the Americans overdid it."

Radix was a member of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), which toppled Gairy's Government in a 1979 coup. After feuding between NJM moderates and hardliners, the leftists were unseated in a U.S.-led invasion in October 1983.

Asked whether the two groups would stage some form of joint protest, the deposed Prime Minister said that during the talks with the MBPM envoy he was not able to indicate in detail what the GULP would be doing, but added: "Our people expect we would protest."

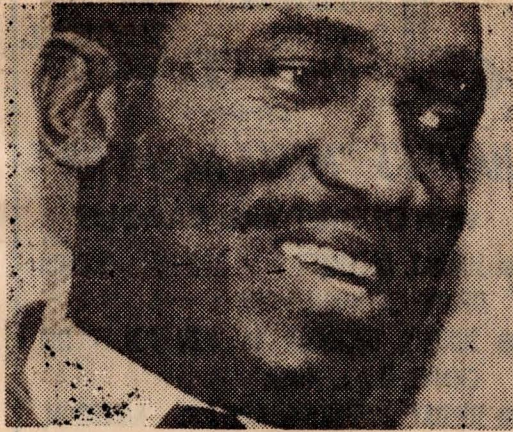
"Our party executive is considering the most effective means right now. We are going to protest," he said.

Gairy also said his supporters no longer trusted Americans, apart from President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

"I have confidence in Mr. Reagan's integrity. I have confidence in Mr. George Shultz, the Secretary of State. I want to feel sure that they know nothing about what has happened. It was done at the lower level," Gairy remarked.

"We would not accuse Mr. Reagan or Shultz at all of anything like that (rigging elections). I think their hands are clean."

Gairy also reported that since his return home from four and a half years of exile in the United States most of his discussions with American diplomats here were "stormy."



ERIC GAIRY...a ghost that still haunts the Grenadian consciousness...

There was as much relief as there was celebration in the singing, conch shell blowing, happy shouting and road marching on Tuesday night last in Grenada.

Few people seemed able to really believe that Eric Gairy — that sleek carnivore — was not out of the way. Even at ten o'clock on Monday night, when the counting of votes stopped until the following morning, there was a quiet irrational unease among many to whom I spoke. I say irrational because it was clear to any outsider with the smallest knowledge of a free electoral process that Herbert Blaize and his New National Party were home and dry with a majority that any politician elsewhere would have envied.

Indeed, in most countries accustomed to democratic elections, Mr. Herbert Blaize's opponents would have conceded long before ten o'clock on the Monday night. His party already had, by my simple calculation worked out in the head, an irreversible majority in ten out of fifteen constituencies and in at least three other seats there could be little question that fresh counting on the Tues-

day morning would be only a formal exercise.

At shortly before ten on the Monday night, I put a telephone call through to this newspaper and told the Editor that he could confidently run a 12-3 or 13-2 story that Blaize and the NNP were clear. Even then I was hedging my bets. A few hours later, before the counting restarted, the BBC was quite accurately calling the shots at 14 NNP, 1 for the rest.

Collection of misfits

And yet it took a lot of persuasion — even when I showed them the figures — to convince most of my Grenadian friends on the Monday night that they already had a new government. Only a few could bring themselves to accept that Gairy was aground in the shallows; and that a pathetic collection of misfits and the politically ignorant, known as the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, had sunk without trace.

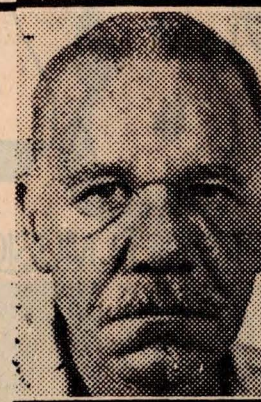
Eric Gairy is a ghost that still haunts the Grenadian political consciousness. He is a rather squalid ghost, to be sure, but it would be idle to deny that he is — or was up to last Monday night — a still formidable presence ... Stuck up there in his pink house on the hill — with an unlisted telephone number, refusing to see any foreign Press who didn't have a TV camera, uttering confident prophecies manifested to him by God — he was still being seriously considered as a possible winner long after all the indications were that his time, and his sort of rule, were clearly past.

But he is a phenomenon which the Grenadian people have not properly explained to themselves. And any unexplained manifestation of force must be disturbing, must arouse a superstitious awe.

Almost attractive

He has been, on any count, a Tammany Hall style politician during the thirty or so years during

By
John
Hearne



which he has been a trade unionist and the leading political figure in his country. A cool and contemptuous insolence about public opinion — even when he was caught with his fingers in the public till — has been his style. He is so vulgar, and so open in his admission of cunning, or whimsical, misdeeds that he is almost attractive.

Swapping Gairy stories is a sure way of making a late drink before bed agreeable and hilarious wherever a group of us who have interviewed him over the years happen to meet covering quite another story. Whether he is talking on flying saucers, the mysterious destructive forces in the Bermuda Triangle, his most favoured, personal alliance with God or simply about ripping-off hurricane relief, he is good copy for a burst of astonished laughter.

Yet he is also shrewd. It is significant that he took the measure of the late Reverend James Jones — the leader of the mass suicide cult at

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The Gleaner

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Grenada Notebook

Cont'd from Page 8

Jonestown in Guyana — and refused to allow Jones to establish a base in Grenada before Jones picked on Guyana as the proper setting for his monstrous, and successful, experiment with a thousand voluntary deaths.

Survivor's instincts

Gairy claims that he had a foreknowledge that entertaining Jones would have involved his country in an enormous tragedy; and that he refused Jones squatting rights because of this divinely inspired prescience — despite pressure by American politicians, and despite the very comfortable cash benefits which would have been his had he allowed Jones a place in the Grenadian sun.

I am inclined to believe Gairy. He is a survivor with all a survivor's instincts. In a James Jones he smelt trouble at a level he could not handle.

This quality, I think partially explains Gairy's thirty years domination of Grenadian politics. He is a snake oil seller who knows when to leave town. Moreover, he is a snake oil seller, a confidence trickster, who probably genuinely believes his own most outrageous claims to occult powers and special knowledge of the universe.

He certainly had — and probably still has to a large extent — a lot of his fellow citizens believing in his powers and special knowledge. Although he was overthrown with ridiculous ease by the New Jewel Movement in 1979, he was back in his country — unrepentant, and almost reproachful about the ingratitude of those who had abandoned him — within a few months of the rescue mission in Grenada last October by America, the Eastern Caribbean countries, and Jamaica.

Clown

And up to Tuesday morning last week, he had a lot of people deeply worried that he could do it again: that he could return to power under the sort of free system of voting he had never permitted. He believed it, sincerely; and a lot of his countrymen were prepared to accept that whatever he believed was pretty well ordained.

He is a clown and a rogue; he is also a sinister and significant example of what a small society, unpractised in politics, will allow to emerge as the commanding figure. His career goes a long way to explaining the sad and ultimately tragic farce of the Maurice Bishop years between 1979 and 1983.

In a subsequent article, I will consider what I think occurred between those dates when Maurice Bishop toppled Gairy with no more than a few rifles and the harsh but necessary moment last year when the Grenadian society had to be saved as one would rescue a man going down for the third time.

It is impossible to understand Bishop without first having some appreciation of Gairy.

Defeat of Gairyism

by Vincent Tulloch

It is all over in Grenada. At least that is how it would appear from this far. The American-backed coalition party, the New National Party (NNP), swept the polls, taking 14 out of 15 seats at stake.

The fight in the first-past-the-post contest was between the moderates and the so-called extremists on the right, with a little spluttering from the left thrown in for good measure.

Everybody was so elated that even Prime Minister Seaga, a day before the polls had no compunction in crowing about the party-to-party support that his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), had given to the NNP. In fact, Seaga let it be known that a sitting Member of Parliament was there to boost the four-man JLP campaign team.

Talk about internal meddling! Just imagine in the days of Bishop, a New Jewel team here to assist the WPJ in a run-up to our election!

Leaders in Washington, Kingston and other eastern Caribbean capitals can now breathe a little freer with the defeat of Gairyism.

Serious problems

Yet, while there is much to rejoice in the defeat of Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party, the serious problems facing the country on the economic scene may present an even more difficult challenge for the new administration than the security issue which everybody seems to be hooked on.

This is not to suggest that security is not a major issue in the area, but if the new administration does not come up with something in a reasonably short time, the events of 1979 may very well be repeated.

However, before the economic issues are addressed, the life of the government must be looked at. Coalition governments are

not particularly attractive in the Caribbean. In fact, it is only in St. Christopher-Nevis that a coalition exists and appears to be working. And that is so because of special conditions relating to that twin-island federation.

The Grenada coalition is a horse of a different colour. It was more or less a shotgun marriage forced by the United States and implemented by Barbados, Dominica and St. Vincent. It was argued then that the initiative taken with the invasion last year October in ousting the communist build-up, would be lost with the return of Gairy, hence the need for a united front from the splinter groups to challenge Gairy.

Power squabbles

The New Prime Minister, Herbert Blaize, apart from health reasons, may very well have to step down soon as the other aspirants to power come forward. It is well known that George Brizan is the darling of the small commercial sector and was the pick of the interim government that ruled up to now. He is unlikely to sit back quietly.

The question is how long will the government survive before it is toppled by internal power squabbles which are common to coalitions and even more so those hastily patched together.

On the economic scene the country is near bankrupt. Contrary to the claims of Bernard Coard and others of the Peoples Revolutionary Government, the country had no surplus and was no shining star to other small economies in the region. It was kept afloat by loans from the communist bloc and other radical states such as Libya.

But communists are the masters of the art of distortion and dis-information. Hence, longing for a socialist success, they sought to tell a gullible world how well the country tackled its economic problems.

The nutmeg industry has collapsed, thanks to a trade agreement with the Soviet Union and the flooding of the market by Indonesia. Two thirds of this financial year's budget will be funded by foreign aid, mainly from the United States.

So while the United States, Jamaica and Barbados worry about security, the economic problems and the shaky nature of coalitions are likely to keep Grenada boiling even more than Gairy and his UFOs.

The Grenada

Dec. 9, 1984

GRENADA ELECTION

Mr. Herbert Blaize is Grenada's new Prime Minister. His political party, the New National Party (NNP), won a landslide victory in last week's General Election. The NNP won 14 out of the 15 seats in the Grenada Parliament.

Prime Minister Blaize was sworn in by the Governor-General of Grenada, Sir Paul Scoon. This was the first General Election to be held in Grenada in eight years.

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The Grenader Dec. 9, 1984

Grenada's Parliament opens Dec. 28

St. George, Grenada, (AP)

Grenada's Parliament will open December 28 for the first time since the March 1979 revolution of Maurice Bishop's the New Jewel Movement overthrew parliamentary democracy.

The starting date for the newly-elected Parliament, and a religious service late next week, were announced on Friday night by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize in a broadcast over Radio Grenada.

Blaize told of special plans to ensure that a maximum number of Grenadians will be able to see and hear the initial parliamentary proceedings. "We are arranging with a team of experts to have video, television, and radio set-up throughout Grenada," he said, "so that wherever you are in Grenada or Carriacou, you will be able to see and hear what is going on in Parliament when it re-opens."

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The Grenadian elections

THE resounding victory of the centrist NNP coalition in the recent elections in Grenada represents an important milestone in the return of that country to parliamentary democracy.

Most press reports have been emphasising the huge seat majority won by the victorious party, thus focussing on the devastating defeat suffered by Gairy's G.U.L.P. and the minor parties.

But the results show that the victorious NNP earned some 58.6 per cent of the popular vote which is about equivalent to the popular vote margin won by the JLP here in 1980. The G.U.L.P. polled 35.8 per cent coming second and the MBPM 4.9 per cent. A substantial number of Grenadians did not vote for the winning party and the popular vote majority is of a level that could be wiped out in a few years if the new government fails to measure up to the expectations of the Grenadian people.

The socialist regime in Grenada under the late Maurice Bishop had earned a lucrative marketing contract to export 500 tons of nutmeg to Moscow annually (see *South*, December 1984, p. 94). That contract has been aborted following the invasion and the counter-revolution. A depressed world market for nutmeg and an already over-supplied U.S. market have meant gloomy prospects for the Grenadian economy and the country's 7,500 nutmeg growers.

Whether the U.S. growers will buy up the nutmeg in much the same way that country bought up Jamaican bauxite (which it did not need) to help out Mr. Seaga, remains to be seen. In any event, if the U.S. fails to pump large sums of economic aid to Grenada and if some trend towards economic buoyancy do not replace the present economic slump there, the NNP governing coalition is not going to have an easy passage in their effort to govern that country.

Political support to help a party get elected is one thing. But will the economic supports be forthcoming when the economic problems begin to multiply?

Costs involved

To be sure, I am very ambivalent about recent developments in Grenada. I supported the invasion as the lesser of two evils. Faced with the choice between an unpopular posse of ideological butchers intent on holding power at gunpoint and the prospect of the people being liberated by an invading force, I will always support the latter,

By
Carl
Stone



provided the objective is to restore the people's choice over who should govern. I supported Tanzania going into Uganda for much the same reason that I supported the invasion of Grenada.

But there were costs involved. Those costs are now sharply posed by the events leading up to the recent elections there.

The winning party coalition has been sponsored by Washington and external interests involved in the invasion played a key role in pressuring the Grenadian political leaders into forming this coalition party. Now their intentions may be good (e.g. securing a stable reformist governing party) but the implications of that sponsorship are quite far reaching.

Once we begin to establish a precedent in which U.S. and big country interests in the region sponsor parties and leaders in the smaller Caribbean territories, we have begun on the road to creating client states, manipulated governments, external meddling and foreign control of policy makers that could dangerously remove any vestiges of real sovereignty that exist in these territories.

Remote control

Once that kind of external interference in influencing who governs becomes the norm in the region, our own political system here could well become a casualty of this type of remote control politics.

Sooner or later policy makers in Washington and technocrats at the State Department's Caribbean desk may be telling political parties which leaders should be leading them and bribing voters to support favoured parties and leaders.

Inequality in political power invariably creates problems for those who lack power. Many fears the imbalance of military capability caused by Cuban sponsorship of militarism in Grenada. Equally serious fears ought to now exist about how

much weight of influence the Americans can now exercise in the region after Grenada, and how much we can all be manipulated by U.S. hegemony to serve purposes and causes from which we have nothing to gain.

If the U.S. track record of clumsy interference and sheer arrogance in South and Central America is any guide as to what to expect, we would all do well to be on our guard after the cheers and the jubilation over the return to parliamentary democracy in Grenada have subsided.

Dangerous trend

Too much dependence on the U.S. is a dangerous trend. U.S. foreign policy and foreign economic policies are extremely unstable as they meander in diverse directions following the predilections and impulses of different presidents. Nor is the U.S. a reliable ally. Where U.S. interests are no longer served by a close supportive connection with any Third World country, the U.S. will disengage and withdraw that support whenever it is opportune to do so.

Caribbean states would be well advised to maintain diverse political and economic ties with industrialised countries rather than allow themselves to become captive pawns of Washington.

By all means secure any economic and trade benefits the U.S. has to offer. And bargain hard for international aid and critical support on matters of regional concern. But we should be constantly on guard against paying too high a price for what we get and must insist on preserving our independence of action no matter how big, attractive and generous the inflow of benefits seem to be.

Our sovereignty must never be bartered.

Grenada worries me as it could well become the prototype Caribbean country where sovereignty is bartered and Washington governs by remote control.

A U.S. sponsored elected party government is probably less undesirable than government by marxist "butchers" propped up by Cuban arms and military support.

But the cost of U.S. sponsorship could well increase in the future and the U.S. policy design might well be a game plan to have us surrender our sovereignty.

The butchery that took place in Grenada before the invasion and provided the moral basis for the invasion has most likely discredited marxism in this region for the next 20 years. But it would be mistake for any one to believe that because of this, Caribbean people are now ripe and ready to barter their sovereignty.

The Gleaner 11th Dec. 1984

Telecommunications policy and planning workshop

What is to be done to improve the quality of telecommunications policy and planning in the Caribbean, given that we operate in a dependent, weak, small economy with a skewed distribution of income and a dominant private sector in the policy sphere? That was the question asked by Dr. Edwin Jones, Head of U.W.I.'s Department of Government, of himself and of participants to a

two-week workshop on Telecommunications Policy and Planning being conducted at Pine Grove from December 3.

Under the directorship of Professor Cees Hamelink of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Hague, the workshop has the collaboration of CARIMAC, the Caribbean In-

stitute of Mass Communication, U.W.I., and financial sponsorship from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (FES) of West Germany, the ISS and UNESCO.

The question came at the end of Dr. Jones' presentation on the regional realities determining telecommunications policy and planning in the Caribbean in which he discussed the environment/telecommunications nexus, the character of the processes of public policy and public planning and the implications of these factors.

In answer to his question, Dr. Jones proposed to participants that a solution might lie in an examination of the methods of highly successful corporations in countries such as Japan

which, he said, recognise a need to be productive; a need to draw on the environment for ideas; to clearly define goals and objectives; to constantly upgrade skills, technology and attitudes; and to arrive at a satisfactory mix of decentralization, participation and accountability.

Participants at the workshop are top decision and policy makers in the Telecommunications sector in the Commonwealth Caribbean. A major objective will be the coordination of national policies and planning for development. A concrete focus will be the proposal now before the CARICOM Heads of Government for a Caribbean communications satellite (CARISAT), a CARIMAC release said.

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Commonwealth offers aid to Grenada

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 11 (CANA)

Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal says the 49-nation organisation stands ready to assist the new Grenada Government in whatever way it can but it would want the Government to say how.

Ramphal, who is in Barbados to attend the seventh meeting of senior Commonwealth officials, which lays the groundwork for the Heads of Government Summit, said he had been in touch with the new Prime Minister Herbert Blaize today and had informed him of the organisation's position.

tion's position.

"I spoke with Mr. Blaize today to let him know we are ready to help," Ramphal told a news conference here, "but we don't want to crowd him, we want to give him space."

Blaize's centrist three-party coalition New National Party (NNP) swept the polls 14-1 in last Monday's general elections in Grenada, the first in nearly eight years.

"It is to be greatly welcomed that Grenada has had an election after nearly eight years," Ramphal said, "this is tremen-

dous, and from any point of view, as I have already assured Mr. Blaize, it's business as usual."

He would not commit himself, but said it was possible that he would visit St. George's before year end.

Ramphal said the Commonwealth may be able to give economic and technical assistance, pointing out that Nicholas Brathwaite, who headed Grenada's Interim Government during the past year, had been seconded from the youth programme at the Secretariat's expense.

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The Observer
Dec. 12, 1989

Radix insists poll was rigged

ST. GEORGE'S,
Dec. 11, (CANA)

The small leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), one of four political parties badly beaten in general elections here last week, says it is still pursuing allegations that the poll was rigged.

Provisional leader of the recently-formed MBPM Kendrick Radix told reporters here the party had taken a decision in this direction against the backdrop of reports that the United States had helped "fix" the election by providing specially padded ballot paper.

"We have had reports that the back of the ballot paper was reinforced with some material and we are investigating that", said Radix, a Minister in the last revolutionary government here and one of the 37 candidates who failed to win seats in the December 3 poll.

The former industrialisation minister said supporters had complained that although they voted for MBPM this was not reflected in the final results.

"The people are asking us today where did their votes go, and we are doing our best to find out", he said.

The right wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) has also alleged that the election was rigged.

Grenada wants publicity to revive tourism

ST. GEORGE'S, Dec. 11, (CANA)

Grenada, which captured world headlines a year ago when Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was murdered in a bloody upheaval that triggered a U.S.-led invasion of the Caribbean island, says it wants to make the most of this publicity in reviving its vital tourism industry.

"What we are trying to do...is to capitalize on that initial world-wide exposure", said Grenada Tourist Board head Dr. John Watts, as he discussed on radio the need to revive this important foreign exchange-earning sector, depressed by the 1983

political violence here.

The opening last October of Grenada's first international airport, he said, should give the industry a big boost and two things needed now were expansion of the hotel sector and the right attitudes by the people to tourism.

Dr. Watts said Grenada, part of a chain of sun-drenched Eastern Caribbean islands, was not interested in the type of tourism which would destroy all the country's cultural norms and social standards, but in "controlled development" of this sector where even the size of hotels would

be limited.

Dr. Watts said there would be no "sky-scraper" type hotels built here nor any of those resorts with 500 to 1000 rooms.

"We believe that tourism should be used as a vehicle to improve relations between peoples of different countries...the type of tourism that we want to build here is one whereby our foreign visitors will get to understand us better,

and we get to understand them better in an atmosphere of friendliness and fellowship" he said.

UWI Libraries

The Gleaner Dec. 13, 1984

University textbooks

THE EDITOR, Sir:

The headline of your issue of November 26, 1984, which read "UWI textbooks prices soar beyond student's reach", highlighted one of the real problems of the University. The story of the book increases indicates one of the financial burdens with which students are faced.

Perhaps at this time, when in the circumstances, a greater demand is being made on the library, it would be a good thing for "the powers that be" of the University to extend the hours of opening. For example, why close the library on week-ends, couldn't arrangement be made to keep it open all of Friday, all of Saturday and Sunday up to 6.00 p.m.

This could be achieved by levying a charge on users of the library for the additional time. The levy could be used to meet the extra costs which would be incurred for the additional hours of opening; all in the name of Education.

I am, etc.,

G.R.W. McLEAN

NOTE: The UWI Library is closed only on Sundays.

— The Editor

UWI Libraries

The Grenader

Dec. 15 1984

Dec 15 1984

Grenada: Seven-man Cabinet sworn in

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

The following is the seven-man New National Party Cabinet sworn in today following general elections 11 days ago.

Prime Minister:

Minister of Finance, Home Affairs, Security, Information, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Affairs, Industrial Development and Planning.....Herbert Blaize.

Ministers:

External and Legal AffairsBen

Jones.

Agriculture, Forestry, Lands, Fisheries, and TourismGeorge Brizan.

Labour, Co-operatives, Social Security and Local GovernmentDr. Francis Alexis.

Education, Culture, Sports and

Youth AffairsGeorge Maguire.

Health, Housing, Women's Affairs and Community DevelopmentDaniel Williams.

Works, Communications, Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and EnergyDr. Keith Mitchell.

UWI Libraries

The Glenner Dec. 16. 1987

What's next for Grenada?

ROOM FOR ARGUMENT
by JANE PATMOS

Journalists of every stripe have been examining Grenada over the past 15 months since the murder of self-appointed Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and the USA-led intervention projected Grenada into the headlines. Visiting journalists agonised and analysed. Now they've written off Grenada, but for how long?

Having supplied the world press with a year of thrills and having been documented in print and picture, Grenadians now face the choice of one of two futures. The choice is that of sinking back into undistinguished poverty or of profiting by the unprecedented publicity which in the main was provided, however inadvertently, by the Soviet Union.

Isn't another invaluable Soviet contribution to Grenada the splendid airport at Port Salines? This facility is, in fact, one of the very few evidence of USSR-USA cooperation, for the installation was constructed by Cubans at Moscow's command, then was completed by the USA at a cost of a reported \$19-million.

At the hands of two super-powers, isn't Grenada doing very well? On which evidence, might not Grenada do even better in the future?

Grenada's prospects of prosperity, as against the temptation to revert to poverty, are considerably, if not entirely dependent, upon how Mr. H. Blaize, Grenada's latest Prime Minister, decides to conduct the possibilities that present themselves to him.

He might, as do most of his Caribbean colleagues, decide that rural agriculture is what's best for Grenadians. Won't that ensure, even if the price of nutmeg quadruples, that Grenadians remain poor and resultantly manageable?

Or Mr. Blaize might secure the enduring gratitude of practically every citizen of the CARICOM community by installing in Grenada a match producing factory whose product is a reliable match with which to light fires, cigarettes, stoves etc.

Grenada's guaranteed matches even might achieve world renown. For Caribbean countries which compete in the unreliability of their matches, with every mini nation from Belize to Guyana and the islands in between, each boasting of producing the worst matches, aren't alone in the need to make a reliable means to start fire. Every underdeveloped region in the world which I've visited has this identical incapability to master what perhaps is the simplest of industrial processes. This is manufacture of domestic matches.

Why does the process defeat us?

I suspect defeat results from the match factory owner's reluctance to supply adequate sulphur for the match stick and the box exterior to effect ignition from rubbing the surfaces together. Is my suspicion unjust that the factory owner figures that by reducing the number of ignitions he deliberately causes wastage, thereby increasing his volume of match sales, thus the profitability of his factory?

Whatever lies at the malfunction of Caribbean-made matches, Grenada could be assured of maximum sale for dependable matches. Their manufacture is the simplest, least technical of all industries. Also, making matches is highly profitable.

Matches, however, couldn't engage the better educated among Grenadians. Or could crafts such as fine needlework and woodwork be any real income-earners? In considering them, Grenadians should reflect that the statistics show that wherever these hand-done enterprises are practised, the populations are desperately poor, plus tend to lose eyesight at early age.

Perhaps what Grenadians should contemplate for their future is converting their exquisite island into an exclusive club. Some sympathetic journalists suggest stamps for Grenada. I've already looked at the stamp business, such as that on which Monaco is thought by many persons to rely for national income.

Stamps do contribute massively to Monaco's wealth. But stamps' contribution

is outrun by contributions from that principality's casino and tourism.

Stamps also do very well for another principality, Lichenstein. But up there, much reliance is in banking for which I scarcely believe Grenada has the personnel. True, that could be imported, but how could Grenadians benefit if the big salaries are all paid out to foreigners?

Very much money intake would remain in Grenada were the island converted into an exclusive club. A sort of rudimentary establishment of such was laid down by USA citizens before the People's Revolutionary Army took the offensive. No money at all is required to transform an island paradise into an exclusive club. What is needed, is imagination, verve and big-wigs patronage. Who possesses these characteristics?

Imagination the Grenadians themselves possess: otherwise could they have become a Soviet satellite, then a USA protege?

Verve, equally, is a Grenadian quality.

Big-wig patronage is available from the very persons who pontificate about Grenada — Sonny Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary General; Margaret Thatcher, the UK Prime Minister; Ronald Reagan, USA president, to start a list of celebrities that would outrun the area of this newspaper.

Besides the foregoing assets, Grenada is among the most scenically God-blessed. What other area of the world, however large and well cultivated, is pervaded by the fragrance of nutmeg, has two-miles plus of uninterrupted silver sand beach, a reportedly bottomless lake and a Soviet-USA built airport? Grenada handled adventures with two super-powers so successfully that with what save maximum confidence does Grenada face the future? Should Grenada need another round of international publicity, who forgets that Grenada is yet to resume one of the most sensational trials of persons accused of murdering three-quarters of Grenada's Cabinet? Won't that return Grenada to world headlines?

The Gleaner

Dec. 16, 1984

The Sunday Gleaner, December 16, 1984



Blaize, who wouldn't be there otherwise

Grenada votes yes, thanks

Says The Economist

December 8:

The Grenada election on December 3rd was a notable success for President Reagan. His favourite contender, the New National Party, led by the middle-of-the-road Mr. Herbert Blaize, scored an overwhelming victory, winning 14 of the little Assembly's 15 seats in a high turnout.

The surge of support for the erratic Sir Eric Gairy that the Americans had feared did not materialise, though this once-but-not-future right-wing Prime Minister's Grenada United Labour Party (known as the GULP) did get 36% of the votes. The rump of the revolutionary pro-Cuban party that had ruled Grenada from 1979 until a year ago got only about 5%. Mr. Blaize and the winners romped home with 59%.

All Grenada knew that Mr. Blaize was the Americans' man. His campaign had been flush with money. The streets of Grenada's ramshackle capital, St. Georges, were bright with stickers and noisy with loudspeaker-vans blaring the New National message, which amounted to "down with the communists" and "down with the Mongoose Gang" (the GULP thugs).

In praise of America

The Gairy men had claimed they had Mr. Reagan's approval, although they were publicly rebuffed by Washington. Thus 95% of the votes went to parties that approved of last year's American invasion — or "rescue mission", as most Grenadians call it. The Grenadians voted in praise of America.

The left tried to distance itself from the harsher memories of revolutionary government. It had renamed its party, formerly the New Jewel Movement, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Its new leader, Mr. Kenrick Radix, argued that its late leader had been essentially a moderate left-wing nationalist. All the MBPM candidates denounced the hardline faction led by Mr. Bernard Coard, who is now in prison awaiting trial for the murder of Maurice Bishop and a number of other people. They also denounced, to be sure, the "Yankee occupation" (now down to 300 paramilitary policemen and back-up troops, plus 435 Caribbean, mainly Jamaican and Barbadian, soldiers and policemen). And they portrayed Mr. Blaize as America's surrogate slavedriver.

Telling graffito

In vain this time. The MBPM was stuck with its record. The most telling graffito of the campaign was "Jewel kill we children" — a reference to the killing of at least 30 demonstrators, many of them youngsters, in the course of last year's bloody Bishop-Coard struggle.

The late Maurice Bishop is still generally regarded by Grenadians as preferable to Mr. Coard; but the documents that the Americans captured last year, and subsequently published, show that he was a standard Marxist whose differences from Mr. Coard were largely tactical. The election has knocked on the head the lingering image of Bishop as a moderate leader hounded to his end by American destabilisation.

The Commonwealth and the United Nations snubbed Grenada by refusing to send observers to the election. Now, however, a number of conclusions are being re-drawn, both in the Caribbean and farther afield. The critics still say that the invasion was illegal, immoral, unnecessary for Grenada and bad for international security. Most of those charges no longer seem to hold any water.

Prime motive

It is true that the coating of legality hastily painted over the invasion was a thin one. The terms of the treaty signed by the eight-member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States did not give the action a clear legal basis. The Governor-General's invitation appears to have been transmitted after the main fact.

Some of the Americans' arguments for the invasion were also fairly dubious. Their prime motive was not to save American lives; nor had Grenada already become a Cuban military stronghold. The big new airfield then under construction (and now completed by the Americans) was a justifiable commercial project, though the Cubans probably did have other purposes in mind for it too.

But was the invasion necessary for Grenada? The Grenadians clearly think so. Mr. Coard had the army, nearly all the guns — far too many of them for a small country — and most of the ruling party's hard core behind him. He could probably have consolidated his rule. True, Cuba's President Fidel Castro had deplored the killing of Maurice Bishop; but if Mr. Coard had survived for a few weeks, he might well have come to terms with Cuba. At best, he might have been defeated in a civil war costing many Grenadian lives.

Bad for international security? The invasion opened rifts between those small Caribbean countries, such as Guyana, that seek to keep America at arm's length and those, such as Jamaica and Barbados, that are prepared to accept American help to stave off possible Cuban interference. The invasion was also bad for American-British relations, and for relations between Britain and the Caribbean governments that thought Britain's chiding of Mr. Reagan churlish and its own half-hearted offers of help sluggish. But it does not seem that it made either the Caribbean or the larger world more dangerous.

Mr. Reagan invaded Grenada for reasons of cold-blooded Realpolitik. The Russians and Cubans have taken note: The little Caribbean island states are sleeping more easily. Grenada is back on the road to democracy — and the Grenadians are not complaining.

GRENADA NOTEBOOK —III

Tragedy beneath the comedy

YOUR WORLD AND MINE

ON THE 12TH MARCH, 1979, Sir Eric Gairy, the dubiously elected Prime Minister of Grenada, left the island for a conference in New York, with Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General. Sir Eric's agenda of discussion, as far as we can gather, was to be on Unidentified Flying Objects, God as revealed to Gairy, and cosmic rays that inspired the select few like Gairy.

In a world where three-quarters of the population was on the edge of starving to death, it was not an agenda that could have filled Mr. Waldheim with a great deal of enthusiasm. But Sir Eric Gairy was the Prime Minister of a sovereign state; and he could claim right of audience, even if the population over which he presided numbered only 110 thousand people.

On March 13, 1979, Mr. Maurice Bishop, Mr. Bernard Coard, Mr. George Louisoun, Mr. Unison Whiteman and Mr. Hudson Austin — led forty-six men, with about twelve firearms between them, in the first coup to be staged in the English-speaking Caribbean. Code name 'Apple.'

It was all over and done with before dark on March 13, 1979. Not a life had been lost. Not a flesh wound sustained on either side. Most of Gairy's policemen and his infamous Mon-goose Gang of thugs fled into hiding. About 60 of them were in goal.

It would be hypocritical to pretend now that almost every right-thinking West Indian did not wish Bishop well. The political leaders in the other islands made the necessary anxious noises about the dangers of seizing government by force than by free elections. But, secretly, they were as pleased as were the rest of us.

Embarrassment

Gairy had become an odious embarrassment who was tainting the whole region, internationally, by association. Maurice Bishop was an immensely likeable man, an idealist, a representative of the best of our Caribbean young. Any debate one might have with some of his radical ideas was debate conducted on a high level. He was, in short, a damned decent product of a good Christian family, whose father had been shot to death fighting the good fight for justice, and who had shown great courage — and suffered serious physical damage — in opposing Gairy's brutal, arbitrary rule.

About Bernard Coard, his chief deputy, less was known — except that he was the son of a prosperous business family in Grenada and intellectually far superior to Bishop.

In the first few months after the March Revolution, the brilliantly named New Jewel Movement of Grenada promised free and early elections, social reforms and the first real democracy Grenada had known in its four centuries of government.

(JEWEL, by the way, is the acronym for Joint Endeavour for Welfare, Education and Liberation).

But as the months, and then the years, went by it became

By
John
Hearne



clear that free elections, a free Press and what we regard as democratic exchange were being relegated to what the Provisional Revolutionary Government considered as 'bourgeois' irrelevancy. Bullets were more meaningful than ballots... Bullets, that is, in the possession of 'true' revolutionaries. Elections were five second exercises conducted every five years, and corrupted in advance by the distribution of corn beef and rum. Parties opposed to New Jewel were, by definition, subversive — or potentially so. Independent media houses were equally subversive of the pure work being carried out by the PRG and its armed branch of the People's Revolutionary Army — by 1983 there were a number of people who had been associated with attempts to form independent newspapers being held in goal without charge or trial. Legislation against acts deemed subversive or counter-revolutionary was retrospective and passed, without public debate, on Bishop's signature.

Up the hill

"We don't call for no votes," he said in his famous Line of March speech of March 13, 1982. "You get detained when I sign an order after discussion with the National Security Committee of the Party or with a higher Party body. Once I sign it — like it or don't like it — it's up the hill for them."

In this tiny society of 110 thousand souls — which really is best suited to the sort of administration needed to run a decent parish council — there grew a quite crazy apparatus of a Political Bureau, a Central Committee of the Party, a propaganda ministry, a committee to counter the subversive activities of the churches, a secret service, a school curriculum that had little to do with reading, writing and arithmetic but with indoctrination in Marxist-Leninist theory which was understood by the instructors scarcely better than it was by their pupils. The army — which in October 1983 numbered about 1500 regulars, plus an undetermined number of militia on instant call — boasted one full general, more colonels than I have been able to count, as many majors as there are marbles in a bag; and a growing supply of highly sophisticated, second-hand and out-of-date weapons, including armoured personnel carriers.

Endless hours were wasted by men and women of talent and, I believe, genuine commitment to the future of their country, in

(Cont'd on Page 15)

The Grenader Dec. 16. 1989

Grenada notebook —III

(Cont'd from Page 8A)

sterile, farcical discussion of the right road to the socialist republic of Grenada. When the American and Caribbean forces came in last October, they discovered 35 thousand pounds weight of documents and minutes dealing with the theoretical appraisal of plans and policies that would have been considered elaborate in a nation the size of East Germany... And those 35 thousand pounds of documents represented only that the last Grenadian government — the Revolutionary Military Council — had not had the time or the resources to burn or shred.

Those who say that we should have left Grenada alone — that its government would have collapsed anyway, in utter confusion from an overloaded bureaucracy and its own ridiculous pretensions — may have a point.

I think it would, myself. But a gruesome personal conflict was already building long before October 1983. Beneath the comedy, there was tragedy.

This tragedy was to emerge, like an eruption from the surface of a sulphur pit, over six days of ruthless seizure of power, of cold murder and of the massacre of nearly 200 innocents.

A revolution had not only been betrayed. It had turned into a savage and mindless assault on the integrity of a gentle, God-fearing people.

In my next piece, I will deal with this — and with why the nations of the Caribbean and their American ally would never have been forgiven by history had they not intervened.

The Gleaner Dec. 16, 1984

● Jamaica Today

Jamaica, Grenada and democracy

by Dudley Thompson,
Q.C. former PNP MP

Grenada but regret the means by which it was achieved.

Unnecessary

Today we are living in a period of great indecision and doubt. There is an air of waiting to see what is going to happen to us next. This is not only debilitating, it is backward. Leadership (and I do not mean merely politicians) must weld this **Fractured Society** into a cohesive body striving forward with a sense of national purpose.



It is just not out there. We deserve better than what we are getting. The human potential is with us. Look back to the days of our Founding Fathers — not so much for what they have undoubtedly achieved but for the **sense of values** that inspired them and made them what they were.

I would say that they showed the following qualities among others — tolerance, a striving for the assertion of human dignity and a love of freedom. Today under the struggle for survival two very different features are uppermost:

1) **We are obscuring justice in the interest of expediency.** We are concentrating solely on the bottom line of figures and less on the state of the people. In other words those in charge of our affairs appear to me to be concerned with the Balance of Payments and not at all with the Balance of Human Distress. We are not observing serious deterioration in the national character.

2) **We appear to be delegating our responsibility to others and passing it out of our hands, both locally and regionally.** Foreign interests are taking greater and greater powers and having greater influence in our affairs. This is not always in our best interest. In any case if we do not learn the invaluable lessons of our own successes and our own failures we shall have failed to pass on to our children and to posterity the continuity of our own historical experience. In short we will have halted our own national movement in its infancy.

I will not dwell on the many ways in which these two tendencies are forcing us dangerously downhill like Gaderene swine, but I ask you to take seriously some of the symptoms which surround us and one striking symbol of our time is the cruel and evil slaughter of our policemen — some twenty so far — an open disrespect for the law as well as for civilisation itself.

Illegal actions are bound to bear bitter fruit. Further, the unnecessary and illegal steps by which a foreign country — the U.S.A. — acted against a Commonwealth territory without the Queen's consent, raises serious questions of great international consequence, and is a dangerous precedent to all small countries. It is said that neighbouring Islands requested the U.S.A. to rid them of a threat (real or imagined) from among them. If this can legitimise intervention from an outside source let us carry this to its ultimate and logical conclusion.

Let us change our parties. Would it arouse the same reaction of gratitude to liberators if Nicaragua had requested the Soviet Union to intervene on her behalf and to rid them of a real, not imagined, threat (including the laying of explosive mines, a blockade and the support of mercenaries under the training of the C.I.A.)? Would we have welcomed that as liberation or seen it as direct interference?

Propaganda

I say it was unnecessary and backward because the tensions over Grenada was a Caribbean problem. All the worldwide propaganda about the building of a military base in that small country which was seen on television, never was true. We were being conned and the Caricom Ministers meeting in Port-of-Spain had leaders capable of solving their problems without bloodshed, and without resorting to a foreign power to intervene.

The proposal by steps to be taken as put forward by Trinidad, would have brought Grenada to the negotiating table, and history would have recorded that we had reached that state of maturity. We as a people would have solved our own problem and not by gunboat. Instead we have taken a great leap backward in the march of time to the era when big powers and gunboats came into small countries and under the pretext of deliverance either captured them outright, settled in them with 'protective' bases or secured an administration most favourable to themselves. We have seen it in Panama, Puerto Rico, Afghanistan, Santa Domingo, Chile, etc. etc...

Growing pains

All small, and indeed even large, countries have their periods of growing pains. As intelligent people we must learn by reflecting on history. There are always challenges to unity and progress. To reach maturity a nation must be allowed to develop its own resilience. It must weigh sincerity against dialectic, effective policy against glib theory. She should have been and **must now** be left alone to find her own way in history by choosing between betrayal and lies. We cannot claim a victory for the causes of unity and progress by putting the meal on the table for people. Grenada, like Jamaica, can only move towards true and lasting victory, when all the people understand the issues involved, and cooperate in the national interest in the accomplishment of national policy in the formation of which they have participated, preferably by the democratic processes of reason and public debate.

'Liberation'

Sometime ago I broke off my observations on Grenada. That was so as not to appear as interfering in their national elections to which we were all looking. We all share a feeling of relief that this is over, and without the shedding of blood or other forms of civil disturbance. I am sure that all well-thinking people will praise the people of Grenada for their large turnout as voters.

It is interesting to note that this element of democratic exercise produced incomparative figures almost twice the percentage of voters that participated in the election of the great democratic power that brought their "liberation". Many lessons ought to be learnt from the Grenada experience by the entire Caribbean and all America — North, Central and South. Among them is this lesson, that: the dangerous example of disrespect for the Force of Law leads inevitably to the use of the Law of Force. Some people never seem to learn. I am glad to see the restoration of the electoral process in

Jamaica's great potential and latent ability will only be developed (at least as long as we cherish real democracy) by laying down and maintaining the basic freedoms, especially the freedom of expression within the background of national participation of all classes in our search for social justice. These are not mere empty phrases or political clichés.

Fear reprisals

Today we are beginning to observe a growing number of people afraid to speak out, not to mention criticize — because they fear reprisal in one form or another. They fear to lose their jobs which are being selectively reduced around them,

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The St. Vincent Dec. 16, 1984
December 16, 1984

Jamaica, Grenada and democracy

(Cont'd from Page 9A)

they fear disfavour, or causing displeasure from those in authority. To entertain this fear is to welcome tyranny. If slaves had not freed themselves from that fear, they would have worn their bondage for a much longer period. On the other hand Government by fear is a slippery and treacherous path to tread. Government operating in darkness of secrecy, non-disclosure and non-participation is a sterile exercise lacking the vital support, and leading inevitably to failure.

We are in new and difficult times and need new approaches. There is an abundance of real ability still left in Jamaica, ability determined so far to stick it out. To make things work out right in this country for our children and posterity. The times demand that we find the formula to maximise the use of this ability to cure this ailing and fractured society, growing daily more selfish under the instinct of survival.

Free expression

There are countless seminars, symposia and international conferences where prestigious audiences consist of affluent and learned ladies and gentlemen like captive audiences listening to the inflexible oracles from above. I propose fuller and more meaningful meetings, held jointly between representatives from government, private sector, trade unions, Church, University and other Community leaders and the workers themselves. Let us have these discussions open to the public preferably on television.

Here, let us discuss the plans and problems of government enriched by the wide and wise contributions of

all, and devoid of that secrecy which always spread suspicion and never fails to give birth to rumours (our favourite pastime). We could at the least arrive at a position of broad understanding, where conflicting ideas would be tested in the fire of reason and debate.

Even at a time when the House of Representatives were the results of full participatory elections and based its authority on that mandate we did not have such an attempt at national contribution. Today we need more than ever the full and free expression of the people whose common sense and deep gut feelings are often much nearer to the correct prescription for solution of our problems than the limited few who have to look over their shoulder to satisfy party or constituency demands.

World affairs

The results of this participatory mix would be fed directly into those responsible to the people. Doesn't this seem a little nearer to that definition of democracy of which I know no better, Government by the People? We would also strengthen the national movement in the steady process of unification and the solution of national problems **BY OURSELVES**.

As a small country we have had an influence in world affairs entirely outside the limitation of our size. We are sure to lose this position in the international arena if we delegate our difficulties and problems into other hands for solution. We would then be doing a great disservice not only to history and to our Founding Fathers but to posterity.

The Observer Dec 17, 1984

FAIR WIND IN GRENADA

It has come as a great comfort that the N.N.P. under Blaize, has won the Grenadian General Election so conclusively. It is an even greater comfort that M.B.P.M., built on the bones of Maurice Bishop, has got nowhere at all, and that the party of the wretched Gairy, appropriately called G.U.L.P. (for one must swallow noisily when thinking of it) did hardly better.

Grenada has rejected the fraudulent propositions at each end of the political spectrum.

The one danger facing the N.N.P. is that as it was stitched together at very nearly the last moment. Its somewhat divergent factions, united for the Election, might soon, without self-discipline, come apart.

It may be hoped that the trial of the alleged murderers will now be resumed. I say 'alleged' because I cannot call them murderers until they are found guilty by a court of law.

That they now challenge the validity of a court under a Constitution they themselves created is the kind of extreme 'Chutzpah' for which, left to me, I would have punished them without any further reason.

So, Grenada now has its big chance. Let us all hope it takes full advantage of it.

UWI Libraries

The Plectner Dec. 17, 1989

Blaize announces aims

ST GEORGE'S, Dec 15:

Grenada's Prime Minister, Herbert Blaize, says his two-week-old New National Party (NNP) government will devote its energies to creating an atmosphere conducive to sound economic development here.

Outlining Government's plans and priorities to just over 1,000 persons at a thanksgiving service yesterday, Blaize said it would also move to reduce unemployment, veriously estimated at between 30 and 50 per cent of the labour force.

He said Government

had already received financial clearance from the United States for setting up factory shells in addition to promises of assistance over and above the 57.2 million US dollars in aid allocated for fiscal year 1984-85.

The Prime Minister stressed that as soon as these initiatives came on stream, Government intended to set up industrial estates around the island 'to ensure that throughout the state, the development is balanced and secure.'

Among the countries and organizations he mentioned that have

shown interest in providing assistance to the new government are Canada, Britain, China, France, those Caribbean states with security personnel on the island, as well as South Korea, Venezuela, the European Economic Commission and the Organisation of American States.

Blaize said Government could not wait on the agriculture sector for the badly needed development boost, and announced plans to set up an industrial development corporation aimed at speeding up applications by investors.

'We need a corporation that could move with expedition to give people answers quickly and assuredly,' Blaize said. 'and we have already identified not only the chairman of the industrial corporation but the deputy chairman.'

A chairman for the Constitution Commission had been identified, he said, and next week discussions would begin on the issue with serious work to begin early in the New Year so as to put the control of Government in the hands of the people.

In addition, Blaize said, each elected member of the NNP, (which won 14 of the 15 parliamentary seats in the December 3 general elections) had already started the process of preparing financial declarations for public scrutiny.

tiny in keeping with the party's manifesto pledge

'...We are definitely going to file our declaration of financial standing so that you would have the confidence to know that those of use who are handling your affairs will be hendling them with integrity

Carry on, Carriacou

The Economist, Dec. 8:

Nobody knows how many people live on the tiny island of Carriacou, 20 miles north of Grenada. Maybe 6,000, down from about 10,000 five years ago. For decades this island's main export — even more than nutmeg and cocoa — has been people, mostly to the Yorkshire town of Huddersfield, the rest to New York's Brooklyn, which is said to hold 60,000 Grenadians all told. (Grenada itself has shrunk to 90,000 souls.)

Under Maurice Bishop's rule, the Carriacou emigration rate rose.

Some islanders say they feared that if they did not get away quickly they would not be let out. One of the earlier leavers was Mr. Nicholas Brathwaite; he came back to Grenada last year to lead the interim administration set up after the American invasion.

Another distinguished Carriacouan, who stayed put, is Mr. Herbert Blaize, the shy, severely arthritic, notably honest 66-year-old solicitor who has now become Grenada's Prime Minister.

When the Americans landed on Grenada last year they forgot Carriacou. It "fell" to them without bloodshed a week later. Since then the Americans have improved the little airstrip but the jetty that serves

the island "capital", Hillborough, looks as if it is falling into the sea. The local island-hopping airline often ignores the official timetable and gives Carriacou a miss.

Carriacou's economy has been in decline for many years. But Sir Eric Gairy made things worse while he was in power by nationalising a lime-squeezing factory, frightening off entrepreneurs and neglecting the ordinary islanders' needs. The 1979-83 Bishop regime was not much more interested.

As in Grenada itself most of the islanders reckon that Sir Eric was bad and Bishop worse. Sir Eric, they say, roughed up his opponents but grudgingly permitted rough-and-ready elections; Maurice Bishop closed down the press,

abolished the ballot, and jailed his enemies without trial.

Of the thousand-odd people who passed through the Bishop regime's jails during its four-year life, only three were Carriacou-born. But Carriacouans became increasingly cautious. "Silence was golden" says the island's weatherbeaten Irish priest. The churches were viewed as hostile. "They would all have been closed down in the long run", said the priest. Dreadlocked Rastafarians also got short shrift from Maurice Bishop.

About 30 Carriacouans were armed and called "the people's militia". With Cuban help, the people's revolutionary army set up a training camp, run until just

before the American invasion by the officer who later allegedly commanded the firing squad that shot Bishop in October last year.

On December 3, 1984, Blaize swept up 84% of the Carriacouan votes. A retired pharmacist, Mr. Hyacinth Clyne, was the Gairy's party candidate in Carriacou, but declined to inform our correspondent what his policies were ("I don't know about that one"); he got 6%, one point behind Mr. Lyle Bullen, a lobster exporter, standing for the remains of Maurice Bishop's party, who played down Marxism and confessed that his elder brother was Mr. Blaize's campaign manager. Bringing up the rear, with 3%, was Mr. Winston Fleary, who argued for autonomy for Carriacou, and carried a red hibiscus flower "for love".

The Observer Dec. 17. 1984

No US involvement in Grenada elections

—Lawrence

The U.S. has denied that it supported any party in the December 3 Elections in Grenada. Mr. Loren Lawrence, former Ambassador to Jamaica, and who has been the US Ambassador in

Grenada said on Saturday, December 1 that though the US wished to see a moderate Government in Grenada, the US had not been directly supporting any party in the elections.

According to the N.Y. Times, Mr. Lawrence said that the New National Party appeared to be 'more moderate than any other group. The N.Y. Times continued.

Officials of both the National Republican In-

stitute for International Affairs and the Free Trade Union Institute said in telephone interviews from Washington that their organizations were not supporting any particular party or candidate in the election.

"We're doing nonpartisan work to help the democratic forces on the island", said Robert Henderson, programme director of the Republican group.

"This is a part of a voter's education, get-out-the vote campaign", he said.

The FTUC is affiliated with the AFL-CIO of the USA.

In the December 3

elections the NNP won 14 of 15 seats. The BBC and sundry writers in Jamaica referred to the NNP as "American backed".

In the elections campaign the Grenada United Labour Party of Sir Eric Gairy said that it was supported by President Reagan of the USA, but this was denied by the White House.

Jamaica's Prime Minister said on December 2 that JLP MP Cliff Stone and three others had been giving technical assistance to the NNP in the campaign, and that the NNP's success would be the JLP's success.

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The Glendon Dec. 18-1984

Brathwaite acting as GG

ST. GEORGE'S, Dec. 17 (CANA)

Nicholas Brathwaite, who headed a caretaker administration after the political crisis in Grenada last year, is acting as Governor General during the absence from the island of Sir Paul Scoon, the Government Information Service (GIS) reported today.

A GIS release said Scoon left yesterday for the United States on a one week private visit.

Brathwaite relinquished the leadership of the governing Interim Advisory Council on December 3 when the New National Party of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize won the first general elections in seven years.

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Grenada moves to restore good relations in Caribbean

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

Grenada's new Foreign Minister Ben Jones says the main thrust of Government's foreign policy would be to restore the island's good relations with its Caribbean neighbours and friends outside the region.

Jones, a lawyer, said the New National Party (NNP) administration intends to pay more atten-

tion to the 13-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of which Grenada is a member.

He said Government was interested in strengthening relations with "our neighbours, and we are going to be giving prime attention to

that side of our affairs."

Relations between Grenada and some of its neighbours particularly Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago soured following the US-led invasion of the island last year to unseat a Marxist military Junta that had seized power in a bloody coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop died.

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MBPM expels member for secret meeting with GULP

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

The left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) says it has expelled Kennitha Gittens-Thompson, 27, a candidate in recent general elections here, over an 'unauthorised' meeting she had last week with right-wing opponents on protesting the outcome of the December 3 poll.

When Sir Eric Gairy, political head of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) first announced that the two sides had met to discuss joint protest against the alleged rigging of the elections — both parties were badly beaten — the MBPM denied there was any such contact.

But in a new statement here today the MBPM said an "investigation revealed Gittens secretly met with... Gairy last week, without the knowledge or consent of the leaders of our party."

"We have therefore decided that as from...December 15, 1984, Miss Kennitha Gittens is expelled from our party," the statement added.

At the weekend Gittens-Thompson told reporters she was resigning from the MBPM because party leaders, Kendrick Radix and George Louison, "browbeat" and "pressured" her into signing a statement about the talks. The lone MBPM woman candidate in the election, Gittens-Thompson ac-

knowledgeed she had not notified the party leadership about the meeting with the GULP.

She said that after discussing the planned meeting with a "close advisor" of Radix, she felt her discussion would have been approved by the MBPM leadership.

She said after signing a statement to the MBPM on the issue, Radix and Louison added the words "i wish to apologise to the party and the people for the damage this incident has caused."

Gittens-Thompson said she saw no cause for apology.

The Glenner Dec. 20, 1983 18.1

Grenada notebook IV

That terrible afternoon

by John Hearne

It is easy to forget that a West Indian island as small as Grenada — about 130 square miles, population 110,000 — is not just a crude plantation of a few overseers and a manual labour force.

It has a social and political history that is 400 years old; it has institutions of considerable sophistication. It is materially underdeveloped but it is a part of a metropolitan culture: with manners, habits, styles of speech, dress and expectations that make it far more a part of the First World than the Third.

There is far more in common between a Grenadian peasant and, say, an Illinois farm hand, than between a Grenadian peasant and an African tribesman in a remote Nigerian province.

The Grenadian and his American counterpart share more or less the same language and assumptions about life and education.

A highly educated Grenadian can take charge of a top level United Nations agency as easily as a product of Harvard or Oxford or Cambridge. An elementary school graduate from Grenada can become a New York taxi driver within a month of landing in the United States — and become an employer of native American labour within six months of his entrance into the concrete jungle of Manhattan.

Which is why we must take what very nearly happened in Grenada between 1979 to 1983 very seriously.

Ideological weight

In terms of fire power, of forces in combat, it was insignificant. As an area of influence, of intellectual and ideological weight, it could have disturbed the whole Western Hemisphere.

Those who took power from Eric Gairy by force — in a few hours that were hardly planned but just seemed to happen — were highly trained minds, capable of inspiring a great deal of mischief along one thousand miles of frontier between the Soviet Union and the North American sphere of influence in the Caribbean.

Maurice Bishop, Jacqueline Creft, Bernard and Phyllis Coard, Hudson Austin and their subordinates in the Provisional Revolutionary Government had no economic or military strength to offer the Moscow-Havana axis in our sea — but they were in sole charge of an unsinkable aircraft carrier and they spoke the same language of politics as their masters in Moscow and Havana.

A careful reading of the first — and, to my mind, authentic documents captured in October last year — reveal a calculated strategy for Grenada as a staging area for the communist subversion of the entire English-speaking Caribbean.

Task Force

As I suggested in my article last Sunday, almost all government business conducted by the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Provisional Revolutionary Government was dedicated to the creation of a task force, not to the growth of a reformed society. Although the political education and the organisations at the popular level were still elementary after four years, they were systematic and — given time — could have become efficient and highly disciplined.

At the higher levels — among the Bishops, Coards, Austins, Louisons etc. — the understanding of Communist subversion was not yet sophisticated enough for real infiltration of their Caribbean neighbours. But they were learning fast. Perhaps they were being asked to learn too fast. Some of the minutes and documents and speeches now open for inspection are plainly records of people uttering jargon they do not fully understand, being asked to play parts for which they are plainly not yet ready.

We can only be thankful that a sort of delusion of grandeur seemed to have seized the top leadership as they spent interminable hours discussing theories of Marxist-Leninist development for a society which needed no more than a few years of honest administration, the most basic parochial improvements and free, open elections.

Mini-Castro

At any time between 1979 and early 1983, Maurice Bishop could have won a popular mandate by simply putting his name up on a few posters and campaigning from a rocking chair on his verandah.

But he wanted to be a mini-Castro — as he saw Grenada as a mini-Cuba. A Russian 'camp' in a sea that is, by all the iron laws of real politics, an American lake.

Dec 20, 1984

P.2

The intellectually far superior Bernard Coard was similarly bemused by a concept of Grenada's destiny and grew increasingly impatient with what he considered Bishop's cautious approach and attempts to keep America tolerant while building more and more solid alignments with Moscow through Havana.

As month succeeded month during 1983, it becomes increasingly clear that the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Provisional Revolutionary Government are not thinking of Grenada as a society to be nurtured into economic health, but as a centre for overt and covert action against its neighbours in the Caribbean: as a Cuban satellite.

Bishop plainly has to go — because he still has a rational understanding of how far he can go if he is to reform his society.

Madness

When he was put under house arrest on October 19, 1983 by Coard, Austin and the extremists of his party, he was already a dead man.

There was one moment for which Coard had not allowed: the spontaneous uprising of the Grenadian people when they freed Bishop and his pregnant lover from the beds to which they were strapped.

What sort of madness then seized the Revolutionary Military Council as Bishop, Jacqueline Creft, Unison Williams and eleven others were gunned to death and mutilated after death, I cannot analyse here.

The Grenadian people will hardly talk of it...Any more than they will talk of the 200 or so children and adults whom the People's Revolutionary Army shot down or who flung themselves over the wall of Fort Rupert as the assassinations took place inside the fort itself.

Nearly 200 adults and children dead or maimed by the so-called people's army — in a population of only 110 thousand — is a lot of people. If you were talking about Jamaica, you would have a count of well over 4,000, in a little over an hour of butchery and terror.

In my final Grenada Notebook, I shall try to describe the devastating effect of that terrible afternoon on the Grenadian people, the superb work by the Interim Administration, and why Mr. Herbert Blaize and his New National Party did not so much win an election as have a country eagerly given to them by the people to hold in trust for a period of tender loving care.

Dec 20, 1984

Blaize calms MPs' backers

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Dec. 18 (CANAL) opposition Grenada United Labour Party

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has gone on radio to calm angry supporters of two new parliamentarians of his New National Party (NNP) which gained on seat to the NNP's 14 in the 15-member House of Representatives in general elections two weeks ago.

who have not yet been assigned government jobs. Blaize announced his Cabinet and other appointments Friday during a thanksgiving service but the names of small business proprietors Phinsley St. Louis and Grace Duncan were missing. They represent the St. George South and St. John constituencies respectively, previously strongholds of the

Supporters of the two MPs showed open dissent at the absence of their representatives from the list of appointees after the service.

In response, Blaize in a message, frequently repeated on Radio Grenada, referred to matter as a "regrettable omission" and promised jobs for both Duncan and St. Louis.

Louis would be given an unspecified job in Parliament when it convenes December 28 while Duncan had been offered a "special position", he said.



JLP-NNP relationship: 'clearly fraternal'

The New National Party (NNP) led by Mr. Herbert Blaize won the December 3 General Elections in Grenada. These were the first elections to be held on that island in eight years, which included the four and a half year reign of the Leftist regime headed by Maurice Bishop.

The ruling Jamaica Labour Party, as well as several other moderate parties in the English-speaking Caribbean, supported the NNP, which was formed just prior to the elections out of the merging of three moderate parties — the Grenada National Party, the Grenada Democratic Movement and the National Democratic Party.

On Sunday, December 2, Prime Minister Edward Seaga told a JLP constituency conference in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, that his party had a team working in Grenada assisting the NNP in the elections on a party-to-party basis.

Mr. Seaga said that the team was headed by Mr. Clifton Stone, Member of Parliament for North-West Clarendon. The following was an interview with Mr. Stone on his return to Jamaica conducted by BALFORD HENRY, staff reporter, on December 13.

Free and fair

Q: How fair and free do you think those elections were?

A: "It was a totally free and fair election and an election free from fear. On election day there wasn't one incident; not even involving rum drinking."

Q: What about the period leading up to the elections?

A: Nothing to speak about. I think there were two incidents of stone-throwing at a political meeting, but that was about all I heard of.

Quiet election

Q: Knowing that Grenada has been in a

sort of militant mood for a long time, what accounted for such a quiet election?

A: I think the reason is, as is evidenced in the results of the elections, that the people of Grenada were tired of violence and the political upheavals and they wished a return to normalcy and to a democratic Government; hence, the total rejection of Gairy's party which closely resembles Fascism, or the extreme right, as well as total rejection of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement led by Radix, which represents communism, or the extreme left. It was for that reason that the results were so overwhelmingly in favour of the New National Party (NNP). The people spoke clearly that they wished to return to a sane, democratic middle-of-the-road government. Mr. Blaize fielded the best qualified team in the election. In it were included about two Ph.Ds. One had a double Masters, in economics and history, about five or six were lawyers and some very able moderates.

Q: For how long were you in Grenada?

A: "For the past two months I have been there, in and out."

Q: Was there any special reason why you were chosen to represent the JLP in this exercise?

A: "No. Not that I know of."

Co-operation or interference?

Q: Could the co-operation between the NNP and the JLP be considered interference in Grenada's internal matters?

A: If it were the Government of Jamaica involved with the elections, that would have been interference. But, this is a political party in Jamaica — the Jamaica Labour Party, which shares similar views with a political party in Grenada and we went to ensure a return to democracy in Grenada; and I don't consider this interference.

"It is the same way, personally speaking, when I was a student in the U.S.A., I was involved in the Civil Rights Movement. And, on that score, I was happy to see an old civil rights leader from the U.S., Bayard Rustin, one of the most respected civil rights leaders, there (in Grenada) on behalf of the American Labour Movement watching the proceedings, and his remarks about the elections were very interesting. He was reported in a Barbados paper as saying how free and fair the elections were."

"Therefore, as far as my, and the JLP's, involvement with the NNP in Grenada is concerned, it is clearly a fraternal relationship. And, let me say that Jamaica wasn't the only Caribbean island that assisted. There was assistance from Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. It was a question of people sharing the same ideology, the same political views on democracy and we simply went to re-assess that, fraternally."

"The other parties..."

The Gleaner Dec. 23, 1984
from Jamaica and other parties from Jamaica over the years have been helping their counterparts in Grenada."

Pressure from Jamaica?

Q: But there is the feeling that the three parties which came together to form the NNP would not have done so, without some pressure from Jamaica and the other islands?

A: "I don't think it was a matter of pressure. They, the three parties, were assisted by other Caribbean islands, by the leaders from other Caribbean nations primarily St. Vincent, Barbados and Dominica; assisting them not in forming an alliance, but to merge into a single political party since their political ideology was more or less similar. Going into the elections with so many political parties would have only resulted in a victory for Gairy, because of the splitting of the votes.

"So, this new party was founded; and, possibly in that respect what is needed for the Caribbean is for all the democratic parties to form a regional political grouping. This is highly necessary, because the democratic parties do not have this formal grouping in the Caribbean whereas the communists have their grouping and there is the Socialist International, as well. So I think that for the democratic forces in the region it is about time they seriously think about having some formal political grouping.

Sound political judgment

Q: Is this an indication that something along those lines is being worked out?

A: I don't know of any formal thing being worked out, I am saying that the time is ripe for such a group to emerge.

Q: Were there any discussions between the JLP, the Barbados Labour Party etcetera, about coming together to do something for the NNP in Grenada?

A: As far as I know, there were no formal discussions. There might have been some discussions from time to time. There has been interaction, but it is a question of seeing a need out there and seeing people who share your common political philosophy and ideology and simply going to their aid. The victory was really a victory of the Grenadian people: it is the Grenadian people who have spoken. It is not the involvement of any help from outside. This was merely an assistance. The victory was totally credited to the good sense and sound political judgement of the people of Grenada.

Intention

Q: But you said that without your help and that of the others, Gairy would have won?

A: Well, we assisted to see to it that the 'far left' with communist leanings, and the 'far right'

(Cont'd on Page 19)

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JLP-NNP relationship

(Cont'd from Page 9)

— Gairy and the Fascists, were defeated: That was our intention.

Q: Would you be prepared to take the same steps if a similar situation arose in another Caribbean island?

A: I couldn't make that decision. I couldn't say. The JLP is against communism, and the JLP saw, or would see the rise of communism anywhere, or the rise of Fascism, anywhere in the Caribbean, as a threat to the security, the peace and well-being of the area and if there is any possibility (to assist), yes.

Gairy

Q: Gairy has said that a lot of the things said about him weren't true, but were propaganda made up efficiently by the Left to topple him; other democratic leaders have often made similar claims about the Left.

A: The history of Gairy's involvement in Grenada is documented and his regime there was one where it was alleged that squandermania took place, and they had total disregard for financial institutions. There were quite a few violent actions with the establishment of what was called in Grenada the "Mongoose Brigade" which threatened the lives of many of the opponents of Gairy and, therefore, was a deterrent to a normal democratic society flourishing in Grenada. In addition, there were charges about him being a bad 'payman' to use the colloquial expression there: several people had to take him to Court. There were firms who could not collect debts owed to them by him. All of this led to total disgust on the part of well-thinking people in Grenada as far as Gairy was concerned.

But he still has a very strong base because, let's face it, he got 35% of the votes. This was a significant effort. He started early as a trade union leader and had achieved some benefits for the people. Later on, however, as he went into government, that is where whatever good he did was being questioned.

The significant thing in addition to the rejection of Gairy and the Left, was the high turn-out at the polls, approximately 85%. It was a very high poll.

Q: Was that unusual?

A: I don't know if it was unusual, but it stands out amongst the very high polls.

Q: Why didn't people make a lot of noise about Gairy's behaviour prior to recently?

A: Oh yes. The history of Grenada will show that. Don't forget that you had a Jamaican Administrator down there at one time, Jimmy Lloyd.

Q: But that was before Independence?

A: And, there was also the famous Commission of Enquiry conducted by Sir Herbert Duffus.

Outside support

Q: Was there outside support for the other parties, like the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement?

A: Well, they had strong support from Cuba. They are in collaboration with Cuba. It is strongly suspected that their pamphlets and other political things were done in Cuba.

Q: Do you think that the centrist parties in the region have learnt anything from this experience?

A: If there is one lesson that the Centrist parties should become aware of, it is that they shouldn't

sit idly by and allow extremism to take hold of the region again; whether it is extreme right or extreme left. The point to note is that the moderate parties should not sit idly by and think that it is all over, because there is strong infiltration in the area. It is a question that they are going to change their strategy now that they have been defeated in Grenada. They are going to change their strategy from a military solution or a military approach to one of political infiltration. They will be more subtle now. The threat is not in any way lessened.

Moderates

Q: So what will the moderates do?

A: My suggestion is that they form a formal regional grouping.

Q: What are they doing about this?

A: "I don't know about a formal organization, but certainly there are informal discussions in this respect. There are good relations between our Edward Seaga, Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados, Prime Minister Mitchell in St. Vincent, Prime Minister Charles in Dominica, Prime Minister Simmonds in St. Kitts. There are good relations and a common understanding.

Q: What would happen in the situation, as we have experienced, where the party assumes a great deal of power over the Government?

A: That is not a moderate or centrist situation.

Q: No, but you could be accused of having started that kind of behaviour?

A: The leader of the JLP has clearly differentiated between the party and the Government, and he specifically said that my involvement with the NNP in Grenada was a party-to-party relationship and that it was the JLP which assisted the NNP in Grenada. But, the communists and the socialists are realities throughout the world, and if we believe and have strong convictions to our political ideology, then we have to find strategies to counter what is happening if we are to survive, or else we will be run over.

Regional grouping

Q: Do you expect that the relationship which has been developed between the NNP will continue?

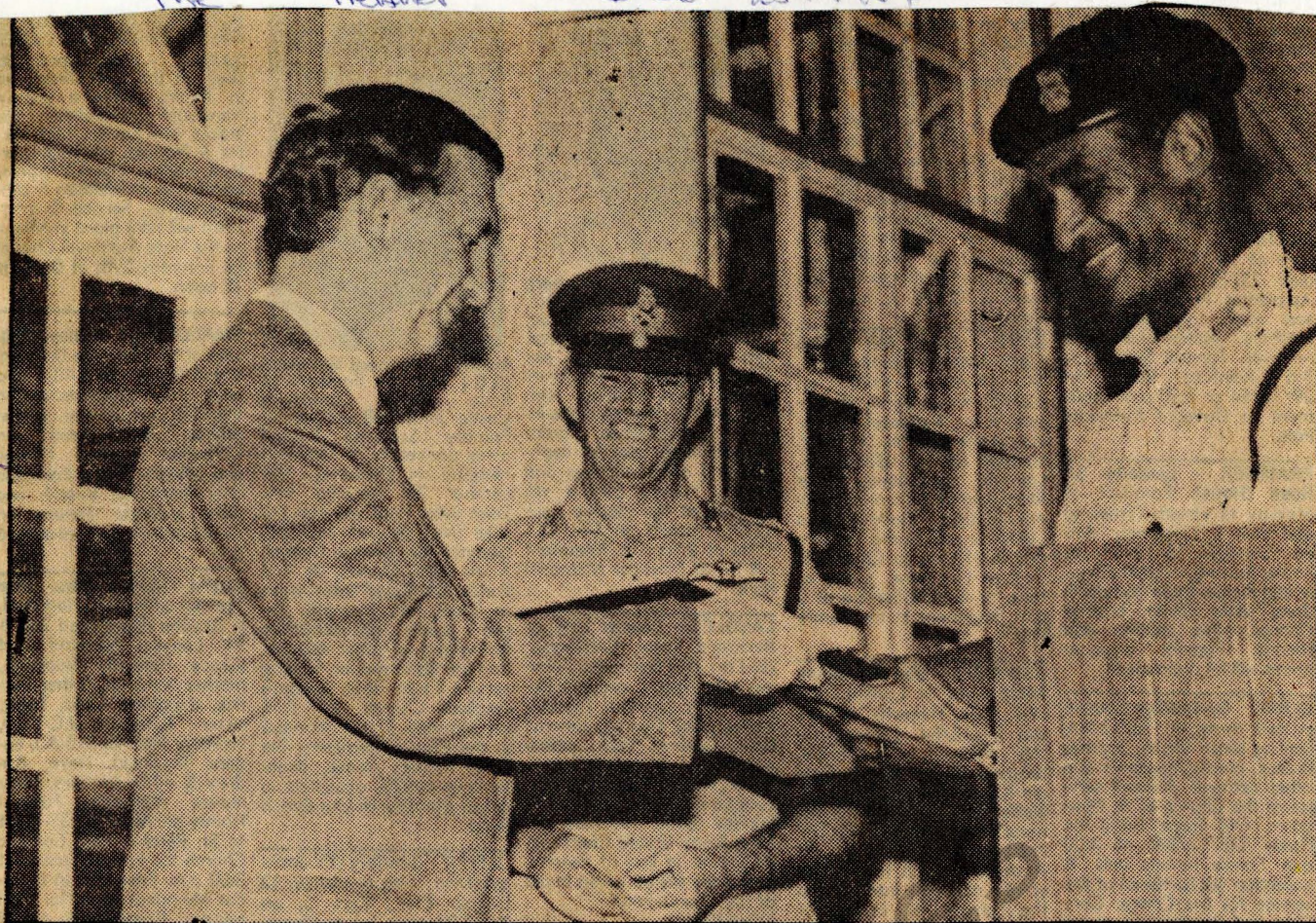
A: We have set them on the road and we have left them to run their country. But we would be ready if they needed our advice, or the benefit of our experience at the party level. But we don't intend to interfere with how they run their country. It is a question of a fraternal relationship. For instance, we have similar views and we share them and that is why I think that a regional grouping would be good. It could probably provide a forum where once a year we could meet and have dialogue.

Q: Do you see it possible that there could be a break-up of the NNP?

A: No, I don't see that. They are a very highly qualified and sophisticated group of people who realise what the common external danger is and, therefore, for the survival of Grenada and for good government and democracy in Grenada, I think they see themselves as the saviours. Therefore, sticking together is crucial.

"One of the leaders, George Brizan, made it quite clear that they are not an alliance but a merging of these separate parties into one party. They have established a constitution and they are committed to democracy."

Dec. 28, 1984



—Wilkinson photo

GRENADA THANK YOU: Prime Minister Edward Seaga (left) receives a token of thanks — a painting — for having allowed the Jamaica Defence Force to take part in the Grenada invasion, from Col. Ken Barnes, the first commander of the forces in Grenada. Looking on is Major-General Robert Neish. Occasion was a short ceremony held at Up Park Camp yesterday to enable the Prime Minister to express thanks to the members of the military who took part in the Grenada invasion.

Number of JDF soldiers in Grenada to be cut in half

The number of Jamaica Defence Force soldiers stationed in Grenada is to be cut by half, Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced yesterday. He announced also that it was proposed to strike a special medal to be awarded to "all those who served in Grenada at one time or another."

Mr. Seaga was speaking at Up Park Camp to members of all sections of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) who took part in the U.S.-led Grenada invasion in October last year.

Mr. Seaga praised the Military who he said had discharged their duties "in the best possible manner, and left a very strong and good image of Jamaica in Grenada."

The Prime Minister recounted what he described as the "barbarous and atrocious" events that led to the Grenada invasion, as he explained the principles under which Jamaica took part for the

benefit of his hearers who might have had doubts.

Mr. Seaga said that in talks with members of other states they expressed the view that, had they been aware of the background of the Grenada situation, their country would not have taken the stand they took at the United Nations.

The army men had carried out their duties in the "best professional conduct," always having a good image which had spoken highly of their public relations. Many in Grenada had hailed this conduct.

Their effort had also brought peace, tranquility and the basis on which a society could be built, Mr. Seaga said, referring to the recent election of a new Government in Grenada which was seen as a return to democracy.

"We are proud of you," the Prime Minister declared, stating that he hoped the day would come when there would be a complete withdrawal of forces from the spice island as it had been decided to reduce the force down there by half.

Mr. Seaga also told of the proposal to "strike a special medal" to be awarded to all those who served in Grenada at one time or another.

Major-General Robert Neish who ear-

lier welcomed the Prime Minister and, recalled behind-the-scenes events that resulted in Jamaica's role in the invasion, adding that he had asked Mr. Seaga if there was a job for the J.D.F. to do. The Prime Minister replied that it was very possible, he said.

Major-General Neish said, he was pleased that the J.D.F. was capable of taking on a challenge of the kind and could deal with it successfully as shown in the plans that had been made.

"The lessons we learnt as a result of this joint operation will be very useful to us in the future," he said. "We performed in a very creditable and professional manner."

Grenada's Prime Minister was very keen on the J.D.F. providing continued assistance, he said, pledging that this would be done as he encouraged the soldiers to continue doing the job to the best of their ability.

Also attending the short ceremony were the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding; Col. Ken Barnes, the first officer to head the troops in Grenada, and who thanked the Prime Minister for allowing the army to take part in the invasion, and presented him with a painting; and Col. Nestor O'Gilvie.

The Star Dec 29, 1984

Grenada returns to Westminster democracy

Seaga among Carib. leaders in attendance

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada Dec. 28, (AP)

A NEWLY ELECTED Parliament took its seats Friday as the tiny Caribbean island returned to Westminster democracy for the first time since a 1979 Leftist coup.

As Caribbean Prime Ministers Edward Seaga, Eugenia Charles, John Compton and James "Son" Mitchell observed from the packed chambers, the formally attired 14 Parliamentarians took their oaths of office from the clerk of courts and listened to the traditional "Throne Speech" of Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, who remains Queen Elizabeth 11's official representative on the former colony that is a member of the British Commonwealth.

Scoon, who was recognized by the United States and its Caribbean allies as Grenada's constitutional leader following the Oct. 19, 1983, army execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, stressed the continued need for security on Grenada. The Reagan

Administration cited an "invitation" from Scoon as a legal reason for its invasion of Grenada six days after a radical army junta claimed power.

"The rule of law is primary," said Scoon. He said the new Government is "constitutionally formed" and warned against abuse of power.

He also said anyone not working in the interest of the nation should be removed from office.

Some 250 U.S. troops and 350 members of a multinational Caribbean peace-keeping force remain on Grenada. President Reagan and the Caribbean Leaders involved have said the troops will remain as long as the Grenada Government feels they are necessary to maintain order.

During the two-hour ceremony at York House, the parliamentary chambers downtown, Scoon and Prime Minister Herbert Blaize inspected a Grenada police honor guard. The island's police force is being built and trained with British and U.S. help.

The brief business included announcement of plans to form a Police Service Commission which will review police activities and represent citizens' interest and to form a Commission of Inquiry into the events of Oct. 19, 1983, particularly in determining how many people were killed and the fates of Grenadians still unaccounted for.

A thousands-strong mob freed Bishop, 39, from the house arrest where he had been placed following a split in his Leftist Government, but the army later on Oct. 19 attacked the crowd assembled at Fort Rupert, where Bishop went, killing an undetermined number of people. Bishop and seven close followers were subsequently executed.

Former Bishop Deputy Bernard Coard and 18 others are awaiting trial on charges of murder and conspiracy in the executions.

The last time Grenada's Parliament met, Bishop was the Opposition Leader, and Coard, Unison Whiteman and Blaize

(Continued on Page 3)

Grenada returns to Westminster

(Cont'd. from Page 1)

were among the six-member Opposition, representing three parties. Whiteman was executed with Bishop.

Sir Eric Gairy was the Prime Minister then, but Gairy was overthrown in a Leftist coup led by Bishop March 13, 1979. Bishop's New Jewel Movement suspended the constitution and ruled by decree.

The United Labour Party of Gairy, who returned from exile in the United States last Jan. 21, was routed in Dec. 3 elections by the New National Party of Blaize. The moderate party was formed from three parties after an August meeting hosted by Mitchell, Prime Minister of the neighbouring nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Miss Charles, of Dominica, was the chairwoman

of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States who called on Reagan to invade fellow member state Grenada in 1983. St. Lucia's Compton and Jamaica's Seaga were among seven Caribbean leaders who contributed troops to the invasion.

The Parliament was one member short. The lone United Labour Party candidate who won in the elections, Marcel Peters, said earlier he will refuse to take his seat because the elections were allegedly fixed by the United States.

Blaize has said Peters must miss three Parliamentary sessions before his seat is declared vacant and a new election is held for it.

In keeping with the ceremony, the clerk called loudly three times "Marcel Joseph Peters." But there was no answer.

High-ranking regional diplomats from the Unit-

ed States, Canada, Great Britain and South Korea attended the ceremonies, along with Roderick Rainford, Secretary-General of the regional Caribbean Community trading organisation; William Demas, president of the Caribbean Development Bank and Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the Scoon-appointed interim council that ran Grenada from November 15, 1983 until the elections.

In his first foreign appearance as a head of government, Manuel Esquivel attended as the Prime Minister of Belize. He was elected on December 14. His predecessor on the former British colony in Central America, George Price, was among four Caribbean Community leaders who opposed the invasion of Grenada.

Another significant spectator was Basil Ince, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, a nearby nation that also opposed the invasion. Trinidad Opposition Leader Baseo Panday also attended.

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