

## OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THE GRENADA CRISIS

STATEMENT FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NEW  
JEWEL MOVEMENT, OCTOBER 16, 1983

"Dear Comrades: The New Jewel Movement wishes to speak to you... about the unfortunate situation which presently exists in our country.

During the past four and a half years of the revolution, our party and people together have faced several difficult moments. There have been the events of October and November 1979, and June 19 and November 18, 1980. We have also faced many problems and difficulties both in bringing about the revolution and also afterwards in overcoming the divisions between ourselves and building unity in our country in moving towards solving unemployment, in getting rid of corruption, in developing our education and health services, in building the economy of our country and overcoming the propaganda directed at sabotaging the Grenada revolution. Yet, in our opinion, the present situation is the most difficult that our party and our people have yet had to face.

Therefore our party has taken the decision to give a full account to the people of Grenada on the events which have led up to this crisis, in order that our people should understand fully the present political situation which faces our party and revolution.

Sisters and brothers, as you know, it has always been the policy of our people to be fully truthful to the people in all matters, including the policy of party, the state of our economy and the strengths and weaknesses of our work in the country as a whole. Yet there is one matter which we have never revealed to our people and that is the serious internal problems that have taken place within our party, especially during the past year. We have never spoken about these problems publicly because we thought it was vital to maintain an appearance of full unity of our party at all costs, especially concerning the attacks which the Grenada revolution has received from outside.

However, the truth is that during the past year, our party has faced a serious problem on the constantly growing desire of Comrade Maurice Bishop to exercise full and exclusive power and authority. One of the main principles of our party is that of collective leadership. That is, that all important decisions must be made by the leadership of our party together by our central committee and not by any one member of the leadership. Yet, during the past four and a half years, at many important moments in our country's history, and on many important issues, Comrade Bishop has deeply resented this collective leadership and has taken the position that no action can be taken to which he is opposed. At the same time, he has become increasingly hostile to criticisms and increasingly suspicious that other members of the leadership of the party may be trying to seize power from him.

Matters first came to a head one year ago, when this suspicion focussed on Comrade Bernard Coard, then the deputy leader of our party. On that occasion, Comrade Bernard Coard said, that in order to avoid division in our party, he should remove himself from the leadership of our party and that this would also make it clear to Comrade Bishop that he had no wish to replace him as leader. The central committee of the party mistakenly, as it turned out agreed with this decision and permitted Comrade Coard to resign from the political bureau and central committee of the party and to concentrate on his work as minister of finance, trade and planning.

*Bulletin of Eastern Caribbean Affairs, Vol. 9, no. 4,  
Sept./Oct. 1983*

Over the past year, however, the situation has not gotten better, it has got worse. When members of the political bureau and central committee of the party disagreed with Comrade Maurice's opinions, he has become angry and increasingly hostile. His attention has been increasingly focussed on the question of power, and who he thinks wants to take it away from him. He has imagined conspiracies within the central committee aimed at removing him as leader of the country.

Sisters and brothers, at the same time as we experienced the problem of increasing concentration of power in one man, the work of the party and revolution began to decline because the truth is that Comrade Maurice's strength had always been in his direct link with the masses and his weakness has been that he has never been able to adequately organise, supervise and guide the work of the party.

During the past several months, the party has been receiving increasing complaints from the masses concerning supporters of the revolution being denied work by elements of the civil service hostile to the revolution. Complaints of strong and hardworking supporters being the first to be laid off the job often after long years of service, while inefficient and hostile elements were deliberately kept on. Complaints have also been received about a lack of concern and care of agricultural machinery and equipment received as gifts from friendly countries, the worsening state of our roads, the constant electricity blackouts, and the abuse of workers by some managers and supervisors. The masses of our country have also been seriously concerned about the disorganised state of the CPE, militia, house repairs programme, mass organisations and about the increasing boldness of counter revolutionary elements in some of our workplaces and communities.

All the concerns brought by the people to the attention of the party, have been discussed by the party leadership in our central committee. Yet, less and less action has been taken to solve these problems. Of course, there has been some objective difficulty. For instance, lack of finance to undertake some projects and the old generators in the power station. Let us make it clear that we are not trying to blame Comrade Bishop for all of the problems. However, the major problem has been lack of strong leadership from the top and the unwillingness of Comrade Bishop to take firm decisions to solve the problems, while at the same time, trying to concentrate power in his own hands. He alone simply could not solve all the problems. The party therefore became paralysed, almost unable to take firm action on any matter.

By last month, the situation within the party had reached a crisis point. The central committee decided to hold an emergency meeting and at that meeting it was decided to restore what has always been existing in the past, but this time to establish it formally: the joint leadership of our party, with Comrade Maurice Bishop doing what he has always done best - directing work among the masses, and Comrade Bernard Coard, doing what he has always done best, namely guiding and organising the political work of the party. The central committee believes that by dividing up the work in this way based on the strengths of both comrades, the overall work of the party and revolution would be improved both in quantity and quality.

The NJM wishes to stress that the establishment of the joint leadership of our party is an internal question and has nothing whatsoever to do with who is Prime Minister and leader of the state. There was never any suggestion or intention to remove Comrade Bishop from his post as Prime Minister of Grenada and

leader of the revolution and this was made very clear to him. Joint leadership of the party was aimed at giving both comrades the necessary authority with their respective areas of work in order to push forward the political work of the party.

The problem, however, sisters and brothers, is that Comrade Bishop has allowed his power and authority to go to his head and he refused to accept the decision of the central committee of the party. The matter, therefore, had to be taken to a meeting of all members of the party. At that 15-hour meeting, the party unanimously voted in favour of joint leadership of the party, including Comrade Bishop himself.

The next day, Comrade Bishop left for Hungary. However, on his return home, the party discovered that he had changed his mind and that he was again refusing to accept the party's decision on joint leadership. Moreover, the party learned that he intended to try to overturn the party's decision by taking an internal party matter on to the streets.

Members of the central committee became deeply concerned about the possibility of Comrade Bishop causing a public scandal and planned to raise the matter at a meeting scheduled for last Wednesday, October 12.

However, that very same day, the rumour hit the streets of Grenada that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate Comrade Bishop. At lunch time, the central committee learnt that one of Comrade Bishop's security officers had given a sworn statement to the security forces stating that Comrade Bishop had given himself and his chief personal security officer, Cletus St. Paul, a list of names that morning. Comrade Bishop had instructed them to contact all the names on the list and tell them that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate him.

Last Thursday night, the matter was taken to a full meeting of all members of the party. All the evidence against Comrade Bishop which the party so far possesses, in terms of his involvement with the rumour was laid before the members. Comrade Bishop spoke for 45 minutes in his own defence.

After hearing both Comrade Bishop and all the evidence, including evidence provided by members of his personal security unit themselves, the overwhelming sentiment of the hundreds of party members present at the meeting was that for having disgraced the party and the revolution, Comrade Bishop should be removed from the central committee of the party and expelled from the party itself. However, the central committee is to take the final decision after the security forces have completed their investigation of the matter. It should be stressed that Comrade Bishop had stated that he may wish to speak again later in the meeting. After two personal security comrades gave a blow-by-blow account of his part in directing the rumour, however, Comrade Bishop was asked by members of the central committee if he wished to reply and he said no. He did not even maintain his innocence.

Sisters and brothers, over the past four and a half years, the central committee of the party has struggled very hard to win Comrade Bishop to a position of collective leadership. They have tried to keep the problem away from the masses in order to maintain the unity of the party and the unity and prestige of the Grenada revolution. The central committee took a position of maintaining the unity of the party at all costs and as it turned out, its position has become incorrect, because it has allowed the problem to get worse.

However, finally, the situation had to be dealt with within the party because not to have dealt with it would have been to release one-man rule in Grenada once more, and this we could not do. If we did not act now to stop the steady growth of one-man rule in our party and country, would it have been easier or harder to stop it one year from now, two years from now, or five years from now? One of the main struggles of our party over the years was against one-man rule. How can the NJM now simply decide not to deal with the question because we want to take the easy way out of the problem. It is the firm position of our party that the interests of our country and revolution must be put above the interest of any one man.

Sisters and brothers, during the past few days, a lot of our people have said to us: we understand what the party says - if you are a member of a party or organisation, then you have to abide by its rules and decisions. We say that Comrade Bishop was wrong. We agree that the party had to discipline him. But that is a matter for inside the party, why take it on to the streets?

Comrades, this is a very good question. That is the exact position of the central committee of the New Jewel Movement. It is our position that we should have resolved this issue, quietly, because this matter did not affect who is Prime Minister or the running of the government or the running of the ministry. The political and economic policies of the party would not have been affected in anyway. There has been no dispute in the party over these issues and there still isn't. The fact is that it is Comrade Bishop who chose to take this matter out of the party on to the streets, weaving an ugly loom in order to whip up the masses and claim on the love of the masses for him which he did not develop as a result of his own but as a result of the work of the entire party over the past ten and a half years. Comrade Bishop was hoping to use the masses love for him and violate the principled stand taken by the central committee of the party, to use the masses to change the party and to change its position on an internal party matter.

The rumour which Comrade Bishop sent out on to the streets tried to lay out that there was some kind of power struggle going on within the party. Comrades, if that is so, how come two-thirds of the central committee and all except a handful of our entire party membership fully support the decision of the central committee of our party on joint leadership of our party? Even with all the love and admiration which exists within our party for Comrade Maurice, the entire membership except for a very tiny minority fully supported the position of the central committee. The truth, comrades is that there has never been in our party, any struggle for power. The struggle of Comrade Bishop has been the struggle of one man to exercise unlimited power and that our party cannot and will not permit.

The people of Grenada must understand that it has taken enormous moral courage on the part of our party to take a step that we know that would be unpopular with many sections of our people. But our party stands for principle and we believe that principle for one, must be principle for all. No one loves Comrade Bishop more than the members of our own party, but the decision on this matter must be based on principle alone. In other words, right is right and wrong is wrong, no matter who does it, and no more one-man rule can be permitted in our country.

The party understands that our people are concerned about where Comrade Bishop is, whether or not he is safe. The NJM wishes to assure the people that Comrade Bishop is at home and is quite safe. Our party also understands our people's concern over who is in charge of the country at this moment, especially in view of a nasty lie put out by the CANA News Agency to the effect that there has been a military takeover in Grenada. The New Jewel Movement wishes to assure

our people that the central committee of the New Jewel Movement is in full control of the running of the country at this moment, just as it has been during the past four and a half years of the revolution. The NJM, the same party which has led the struggles of our peoples over the last ten and a half years, the party which has made the revolution, would continue to push the revolution forward to complete our international airport, and to solve the problems still facing our people.

We call on our peoples to have courage at this difficult moment in our history, to continue to defend the revolution and the gains of the revolution and to maintain unity in order to ensure that imperialism does not take advantage of this moment of difficulty. Our people must also be on guard against any attempt to create panic and discontention.

In keeping with the overwhelming desire of our people, the NJM is still making every effort to settle this problem within the party. We call for the support and solidarity of our people at this time. Comrades, as a people, we must stand firm at this moment and it is the conviction of our party that if we as a people stand firm and remain united and settle this matter on the basis of equity, we would find that the revolution is unbreakable.

Long live our strong and courageous people. Long live the struggle of our working people to build our country. Long live the New Jewel Movement. "Long live the revolution. Forward ever, backward never."

[Extracted from *The Nation*, October 18, 1983]

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER GEORGE CHAMBERS,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE CARICOM LEADERS' MEETING HELD IN TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO ON OCTOBER 22 AND 23

"As Chairman of the meeting, I am authorised to convey to you two decisions of the meeting.

The first is that a decision was taken to deem Grenada suspended from CARICOM until further notice, based on a number of recitals contained in a resolution, which is yet to be put in its final form. The substance I can give to you.

The first recital deals with the manner of assumption of power by the present people in authority. The second recital is to be effected, in view of the meeting, that the people in authority are not empowered to exercise the rights and obligations of the Government of Grenada. The third is, that in the view of the meeting it constituted as such, a threat to the national security and interest of the Caribbean Community. The fourth is that the integrity of the Community must be expressed by the reaffirmation of fundamental norms. And the other recital was to the effect that the rights and welfare of the people of Grenada must be protected. And that the members of the Caribbean Community were

united in their efforts to avoid, as far as it is possible, a recurrence of events of this nature.

And the resolution followed to the effect that the meeting deemed Grenada to be suspended, and it appointed the Attorneys General of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). I think Bahamas or something like that, and Belize I think. The intention is that the Attorneys General are to advise the governments of the steps required to give legal effect to that decision.

I draw attention to the fact that the decision was not unanimous. It was a majority decision.

The second decision of the meeting concerned proposals put to the meeting by the OECS States following their discussions in Barbados on Friday in which they enumerated several sanctions which they proposed, and asked for general endorsement. One was, no official contact with the existing persons in authority in Grenada; that the persons in authority there would not be permitted to participate in the deliberations and business of the OECS. That the persons present in authority would not be able to participate in their caucuses and so relating to international agencies. Also that Grenada will cease to enjoy trade, economic and other benefits as they flow from the OECS agreement. That there will be no new issues of currency by the OECS to Grenada, and that the OECS governments will cease all air and sea communications links with Grenada.

Those were the only decisions of the meeting which I am authorised to convey to you as Chairman of the meeting. You may have a question on one or other of those things."

In response to a question, Mr. Chambers said other matters were discussed, but as Chairman, he could not speak about them, but he could have expressed a Trinidad and Tobago view on those matters at the end of the conference. He also said that both decisions were majority decisions.

In reply to another question, he said, "The decisions we have taken are political decisions demonstrating political will. If somebody wants to challenge that in the International Court in the Hague, they may do so. In the region the Attorneys General will advise on the mechanisms required to give effect to that. And at this stage I would very much like to terminate the Chairman's conference".

Asked if anyone was entrusted to convey the decisions of the meeting to Grenada, Mr. Chambers said he was not entrusted to do that. "It is not necessary to convey it", he said. "You're suspended, and you're suspended. That's a political decision".

"Well thank you very much, my conference as Chairman has ended."

[Extracted from *Trinidad Guardian*, October 25, 1983]

TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE SENT TO US EMBASSY BARBADOS BY  
THE REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL, OCTOBER 23, 1983

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Revolutionary Military Council of Grenada presents its compliments to the honourable Embassy of the United States in Barbados and takes this opportunity to express concern to the honourable Embassy.

It is our information that at a meeting of some CARICOM Governments in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on Sunday, October 23, 1983, some of the participating governments decided on establishing a military force to invade Grenada. In their decision, they called for direct participation of extra-regional forces in invading Grenada.

We are concerned because in many reports the name of the government of the United States of America has been mentioned as participating in such a military force to invade our country. We have had concrete information that for the past ten hours two warships have been patrolling between 12 to 15 kilometres off the shores of Grenada well within our territorial waters.

We would view any invasion of our country whether based on the decisions of those CARICOM Governments or by that of any other government as a rude violation of Grenada's sovereignty and of international law. Furthermore, any such invasion can only lead to the loss of lives of thousands of men, women and children. Therefore we strongly condemn such a decision. The present situation in Grenada is of an entirely internal and domestic nature and presently peace, calm and good order prevail in our country. For these reasons we do not understand the basis or the reasons for the reported violent reaction of some Caribbean and other governments. We view any threat or the use of force by any country or group of countries as a gross and unwarranted interference in the domestic affairs of our sovereign and independent country.

Grenada has not and is not threatening the use of force against any country and we do not have such aspirations. Our armed forces and people are fully prepared to courageously defend the sovereignty and integrity of our country with dignity and determination. However we are not seeking military confrontation with other countries or group of countries but on the contrary we are prepared to hold discussions with those countries in order to ensure good relations and mutual understanding and with a view towards maintaining and strengthening the historic ties with all of these countries.

We are also concerned about reports that the government of the United States of America is considering sending battleships to evacuate citizens of their country presently in Grenada. We reiterate that the lives, well-being and property of every American and other foreign citizens residing in Grenada are fully protected and guaranteed by our government. However, any American or foreign citizen in our country who desires to leave Grenada for whatever reasons can fully do so using the normal procedures through our airports on commercial aircraft. As far as we are concerned, these aircraft can be regular flights or chartered flights and we will facilitate them in every way we can.

We have been further informed that 500 parents of American students studying in Grenada at the St. Georges University School of Medicine yesterday met in New York and unanimously agreed on a resolution calling on the United States of America Administration not to take precipitous and provocative action against Grenada.

We have also been informed during the last two hours by Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, Vice-Chancellor of the St. Georges University School of Medicine where most of the US citizens are based that less than ten per cent of these students wish to leave Grenada at this time. In fact, Dr. Bourne stated this in his own voice with Radio Free Grenada in a telephone conversation with the newsroom less than three hours ago. We further assure you that any US and other foreign citizens who choose to leave Grenada in the coming days and who wish to return to Grenada in the future are welcome to do so.

We are for peace, friendship and for maintaining historically established ties between our countries and hope they would grow and further strengthen. We further take this opportunity to inform your government that the Revolutionary Military Council of Grenada has no desire or aspiration to rule the country.

We have already held discussions with our local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, commercial bank managers and hoteliers, as part of the process of constituting such a government. Our civilian government will pursue mixed economy with state cooperatives and private sectors and would encourage foreign and local investment within the framework of the national interest of the country. In closing we wish to state once more that there is absolutely no basis whatsoever for any countries launching an invasion of our beloved country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Revolutionary Military Council of Grenada takes this opportunity to reassure the honourable Embassy of the United States of America the testimony of its most distinguished and highest regard.

[Extracted from *Barbados Advocate*, October 25, 1983]

#### STATEMENT FROM OECS GOVERNMENTS, OCTOBER 25, 1983

"The member governments of the OECS met at Bridgetown, Barbados, on Friday, October 21, 1983 to consider and evaluate the situation in Grenada arising out of the overthrow of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the subsequent killing of the Foreign Minister together with some of his cabinet colleagues and a number of other citizens.

The member states were deeply concerned that this situation would continue to worsen, that there would be further loss of life, personal injury and a general deterioration of public order as the military group in control attempted to secure its position.

Member governments considered that the subsequent imposition of a Draconian 96-hour curfew by the military group in control was intended to allow them to further suppress the population of Grenada which has shown by numerous demonstrations their hostility towards this group.

Member governments are also greatly concerned that the expensive military build-up in Grenada over the last few years had created a situation of disproportionate military strength between Grenada and other OECS countries. This military might in the hands of the present group causes a serious threat to the security of the OECS countries and other neighbouring states. Member governments considered it of the utmost urgency that immediate steps should be taken to remove this threat.

Under the provisions of Article 8 of the Treaty establishing the OECS concerning defence and security in the sub-region, member governments of the Organisation therefore decided to take appropriate action.

Bearing in mind the relative lack of military resources in the possession of the other OECS countries the member governments have sought assistance for this purpose from friendly countries within the region and subsequently from outside. Three governments have responded to the OECS member governments' request to form a multinational force for the purpose of undertaking a pre-emptive defensive strike in order to remove this dangerous threat to the peace and security of their sub-region and to establish a situation of normality in Grenada.

These governments are Barbados, Jamaica and the United States of America. Barbados and Jamaica are members of CARICOM and Barbados is linked to some of the OECS member governments in a sub-regional security agreement. It is the intention of the member governments of the OECS that once the threat has been removed they would invite the Governor General of Grenada to assume executive authority of the country under the provisions of the Grenada Constitution of 1973 and to appoint a broad-based interim government to administer the country pending the holding of general elections.

It has been agreed that while the arrangements are being put in place the presence of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy and other undesirable political elements would complicate the situation and that they would therefore not be welcomed in Grenada.

It is further intended that arrangements should be made to establish effective police and peace-keeping forces in order to restore and maintain law and order in the country. After normalcy has been restored non-Caribbean forces would be invited to withdraw from Grenada.

Member governments of the OECS wish to solicit the diplomatic support of all friendly countries for this initiative."

[Extracted from *Trinidad Guardian*, October 26, 1983]

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY US PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN  
IN WASHINGTON D.C., USA, OCTOBER 25, 1983

"On Sunday, October 23, the United States received an urgent, formal request from the five-member nations of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to assist in a joint effort to restore order and democracy on the island of Grenada. We acceded to the request to become part of a multinational effort with contingents from Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the United States. I might add that two of those, Barbados and Jamaica, are not members of the organisation, but were first approached, as we later were, by the OECS and asked to join in that undertaking. And then all of them joined unanimously in asking us to participate.

Early this morning forces from six Caribbean democracies and the United States began a landing or landings on the island of Grenada in the Eastern Caribbean.

We have taken this decisive action for three reasons. First, and of overriding importance, to protect innocent lives, including up to 1,000 Americans whose personal safety is, of course, my paramount concern. Second, to forestall further chaos. And third, to assist in the restoration and conditions of law and order and of governmental institutions to the island of Grenada, where a brutal group of leftist thugs violently seized power, killing the Prime Minister, three Cabinet members, two labour leaders and other civilians, including children.

Let there be no misunderstanding, this collective action has been forced on us by events that have no precedent in the Eastern Caribbean and no place in any civilized society.

American lives are at stake. We've been following the situation as closely as possible. Between 800 and 1,000 Americans, including many medical students and senior citizens, make up the largest single group of foreign residents in Grenada.

From the start, we have consciously sought to calm fears. We were determined not to make an already bad situation worse and increase the risks our citizens faced. But when I received reports that a large number of our citizens were seeking to escape the island, thereby exposing themselves to great danger, and after receiving a formal request for help, a unanimous request from our neighbouring states, I concluded the United States had no choice but to act strongly and decisively.

Let me repeat, the United States objectives are clear, to protect our own citizens, to facilitate the evacuation of those who want to leave, and to help in the restoration of democratic institutions in Grenada.

I understand that several Caribbean states are asking that the Organisation of American States (OAS) consider the situation in Grenada. Our diplomatic efforts will be in close cooperation with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the other countries participating in this multinational effort."

[Extracted from *Barbados Advocate*, October 26, 1983]

## GRENADA

The state-owned Radio Free Grenada (RFG) reported that Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard had resigned his Cabinet post as Minister of Finance and Trade in order, he said, to dispel rumours containing the "vicious lie" that he (Coard) and his wife Phyllis had been plotting to kill Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. On Saturday October 15, RFG reported that Kenrick Radix, had resigned his former PRG post of Minister of Labour and Industrialisation and had led a demonstration and

41

and addressed a rally in St. George's where he announced that Prime Minister Bishop was under house arrest. Radix advised demonstrators that if Bishop was not released by the following Monday, "there must be no work, no school and no play in Grenada". RFG also reported that Mr. Victor Nazin Burke had been appointed to succeed Coard as the new Minister of Finance and Trade.

\*\*\*\*

In a statement broadcast on RFG, Army Major Leon Cornwall said that Bishop was under investigation to determine his part in the spreading of a rumour that at least two of his PRG colleagues were plotting to kill him (Bishop). The statement accused Bishop of refusing to implement decisions of the ruling NJM party. Denying that the issue involved any "personal power struggle between two individuals" and accusing Bishop of attempting to reintroduce one-man rule in Grenada, Major Cornwall insisted that no one man was above the majority and explained that the principle of collective decision making was at stake. Though the NJM loves and respects Comrade Bishop, said Cornwall, the "rules must be applied to all, no matter who they are". The NJM army officer further warned that any action aimed "at disturbing the peace or the normal life of our country or which threatens the revolution, will be firmly dealt with".

\*\*\*\*

Four former members of the PRG, Foreign Affairs Minister Unison Whiteman, Agriculture Minister George Louison, Tourism Minister Lynden Ramdhanny and Housing Minister Norris Bain resigned their Cabinet posts on Tuesday, October 18 and a fifth, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft was expected to do likewise, said Mr. Whiteman in a statement telephoned to the Barbados-based CANA headquarters. The former PRG official explained that the resignations were submitted because "... we have been holding discussions... with Mr. Coard who is running the show and they are not discussing in good faith a way to resolve the deep crisis in our country". With the resignations of the five Ministers and the previous resignations by Kenrick Radix and Bernard Coard, the remaining PRG Cabinet comprised Health Minister Christopher Deriggs, Construction Minister Hudson Austin, Information Minister Selwyn Strachan and Victor Burke who succeeded Coard as Minister of Finance and Planning.

\*\*\*\*

An estimated 500 demonstrators, comprising mainly school children, reportedly disrupted operations at Pearl's airport where they demonstrated for the release of Bishop, chanting slogans of "No Bishop, no school" and "C for Coard, C for Communism".

\*\*\*\*

Former Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop was killed on Wednesday, October 19 during a violent incident at Fort Rupert, one of the island's headquarters for the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA). Earlier in the day Bishop who, according to reports, had not been seen in public since the previous Wednesday, was freed from house arrest by a large crowd of demonstrators led by other former leaders of the PRG. It was reported that the crowd marched to Fort Rupert in the capital, St. George's where they disarmed a number of PRA soldiers and took over the Fort. In a statement from the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC), a 16-man junta which assumed power following the death of Bishop, it was said that a detachment of PRA soldiers was sent to retake the Fort from Bishop and his supporters. In a violent clash that ensued, said the statement read by General Hudson Austin, the

*Bulletin of Eastern Caribbean Affairs, Vol. 9, no. 4  
Sept./Oct. 1983*