

# CARIBBEAN DATELINE

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EVENTS, TRENDS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA

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## GRENADA

In an address to the Security Council of the United Nations, Jamaica's Permanent Representative Ambassador Sir Egerton Richardson said that the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), at a meeting on October 21, took note of the anarchical conditions then prevailing in Grenada, the serious violation of human rights and the bloodshed that had occurred, and the consequent unprecedented threat to the peace and security of the region, created by the vacuum of authority.

Sir Egerton, whose statement was made in the context of a demand for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Grenada, went on to explain the circumstances leading to Jamaican troops joining the peace-keeping force on the island.

The Bishop regime, Sir Egerton said, was illegitimate, coming to power as the result of a coup; refusing to hold elections, despite pressure from its Caricom associates. "Instead, they concentrated on building up a military force until that force has become strong enough to destroy its political leaders and to place the whole country under siege."

The Ambassador explained that the OECS has a charter. Under Article 8 of that Charter they are required to take action in a collective manner when they recognize that their security is threatened.

Following the overthrow of the Bishop regime, concern was felt by the Chairman of the OECS that military forces and supplies would be introduced into Grenada to consolidate the position of the new regime. The Chairman therefore wrote to PM Edward Seaga requesting assistance under Article 8 of the Treaty, to provide transport, logistic support and additional military personnel so as to assist the OECS to stabilize the serious situation within the Eastern Caribbean.

Jamaican troops along with other troops from the OECS were part of a peace-keeping force, intended to remove the threat of peace and security in the area and restore normalcy to Grenada. "We are not there

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to determine what form of government the people of Grenada should decide to have. We are there to assist the people of Grenada to free themselves from a military dictatorship, and to establish conditions within which it might be possible from the will of the people to be displayed in free and fair elections," according to Sir Egerton.

Governor General Paul Scoon has selected an interim governing council composed mostly of expatriates, to administer Grenada in the coming months and organize election of a new government. The nine member group will be called the Advisory Council and is the first step toward return to self-government.

Scoon, as he had pledged, chose no Grenadians who had shown political leadership in the past. He had eliminated anyone with a vested interest in the country "as I do not wish to see membership of the council give rise to a conflict of interests and far-reaching embarrassment." Five of the members have not lived in Grenada for some time holding posts abroad as educators or international civil servants.

Nicolas Braithwaite is temporary spokesman for the council until the chairman, Meredith Alistair McIntyre, returns to Grenada. McIntyre, a U.N. official, is waiting to be relieved of his post in New York before assuming his duties. Other council members taking the oath of office from Chief Justice Archibald Nedd, with Braithwaite, were James Devere Pitt, Joan M. Purcell, Christopher Williams and Raymond Smith. Others to be sworn in later are McIntyre, Arnold M. Cruickshank, Patrick Emmanuel and Allen Kirton.

Plans are being made to build an efficient and effective police service free of politics. Meanwhile, U.S. officials are in charge of most public activities. A Navy ship has delivered heavy equipment for large-scale road repair across the 133 sq. mile island. Military people under the command of Maj. Gen. Jack Farris continue to man roadblocks and U.S. military police remain attached to the 320 man Caribbean