

Scoon and US 'run Grenada'

ANTHONY RUSHFORD, the British constitutional lawyer who resigned last week as Grenada's Attorney General, has confirmed that the island is being run by the Americans, in conjunction with the Governor General, Sir Paul Scoon, and that the interim civilian administration 'barely functions at all'.

Rushford was despatched to Grenada by the Commonwealth Secretary General Sonny Ramphal to act as legal adviser to Sir Paul, and in particular to assist in the restoration of civilian government. He arrived on 2 November. Two weeks later, on 15 November, he became Attorney General in the interim administration sworn in that day to govern the island pending elections.

Rushford resigned his post on 5 December, accusing Sir Paul of lacking enthusiasm for an end to

the US occupation and of treating him with 'contempt and condescension'. He said that Scoon was 'quite unfit to serve as Governor General'.

Speaking to the NS from Antigua, where he is on holiday with his wife, Rushford said that he had been 'deeply delighted' when the interim administration was set up. Since then, however, it had 'never functioned as an effective body, and barely functioned at all'. The new government had met only once - on 15 November - to pass a law regularising the position of 47 'security detainees', and that meeting had been at Rushford's insistence.

A particular problem had been the absence for medical treatment of the designated chairman of the interim administration, Alister McIntyre, a senior official with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Eventually, Rushford concluded that 'this headless government was not providing sufficient leadership to the people', and resigned.

Rushford said that the real decisions in Grenada were being taken



Rushford: cheesed off

at meetings held each working day between Sir Paul Scoon, the US Ambassador, Charles Gillespie, and the commander of US military forces, Major General Jack Farris. Rushford had attended several of these conferences.

Generally, however, the Attorney General had been kept in the dark by Sir Paul Scoon, and he said that foreign media correspondents 'were often my only source of information'.

Rushford reiterated doubts about Sir Paul Scoon's role in the invasion by US and Caribbean forces. Washington and its local allies have claimed that Sir Paul issued a verbal appeal for intervention, and that this was later confirmed in writing. The document is of crucial significance since it forms the key legal basis for the entire military operation. Rushford, however, said: 'If there was such a piece of paper, Sir Paul never showed it to me'.

Under the socialist government of the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Sir Paul performed purely ceremonial duties. It appears, however, that his new role as America's proconsul has gone to his head. When it was put to Anthony Rushford that the Governor General was reluctant to see a full restoration of civilian government because this would spell the end of his new-found powers, from which he derived considerable personal satisfaction, the former Grenadian Attorney General replied: 'I would not contradict you'.

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