

Graffiti invade Grenada

ST GEORGE'S, March 14, (CANA):

The sign put up by supporters of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, who recently returned home nearly two months ago after almost five years in exile, had simply said: "We want Gairy."

Now political opponents of the flamboyant and controversial ex-Head of Government have twisted its meaning by painting two words underneath: "For murder."

Gairy, the leftist party that ousted him in a coup d'etat on March 13, 1979, the revolutionary Government, the Army group that toppled it, even the island's Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and U.S. forces that invaded Grenada to unseat the junta have become targets in a virtual graffiti war here.

The walls in the capital, St George's, have erupted in a rash of graffiti. Soon after the intervention by American and Caribbean forces on October 25 last year most of the leftist New Jewel Movements (NJM) wall slogans were painted out by unknown hands.

Almost overnight, "join the N.Y.O (National Youth Organisation)" and "Forward ever, backward never" disappeared and were replaced by new messages.

"God bless America" and "America, we love you" appeared, reflecting Grenadians' gratitude that they had been rescued after the People's Revolutionary Army's (PRA) gunning down of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, some of his Cabinet Ministers and more than 100 others on October 19.

Until January, that was about all. But after January 21 returned to Grenada from the U.S. and the NJM launched the "Maurice Bishop and October 19th Martyrs Foundation" to keep alive the memory of Bishop and those who died with him. The "wall artists" have been busy.

Using spray-can paint, they have spread their political messages. "Welcome back, Gairy" and "We want Gairy" were quickly followed by "no way, Gairy" and "Gairy is trouble."

And the politicians have not been allowed to forget their past. Under the pro-Gairy sign of "we want Gairy," has been painted at one site, "for murder", and at another, "for Duffus".

The charge of conspiracy to murder was, at one time, pending against Gairy because of his association with the activities of a terrorist group called, "the Mongoose Gang."

The mention of "Duffus" is a reference to the commission of inquiry headed by then Jamaican High Court judge Herbert Duffus into the breakdown of law and order and police brutality in Grenada when Gairy was Prime Minister. That commission found that Gairy had been personally responsible for the establishment, recruitment and control of the Mongoose Gang, which for years terrorised Grenadians.

The NJM was not allowed to forget its past. The notice Bishop sold us to Russia" condemns the late Prime Minister for his eastern bloc agreements.

Another slogan refers to the massacre of October 19: "No Jewel Communist murderers, never again," it says.

Several of the slogans take a crack at leftists, whose popularity is on the wane. "Leftist in Government," says one, taking a swipe at some unspecified person in the Interim Advisory Council. Another brands the Grenada Democratic Movement, (GDM), one of the parties gearing for this year's elections, as being of the same ideology as the leftwing NJM. "GDM is NJM agent," it says.

A crack has also been taken at the Grenada National Party (GNP) of former Chief Minister Herbert Blaize, which has been having talks with the GDM with a view to a merger. In the 1976 general elections, the GNP and the NJM teamed up to fight Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP). One slogan says: "GNP join leftist again."

The Queen's representative has also been a target. "Sir Paul desive (sic) us," he says, but he does not say how the Governor General has deceived Grenadians.

Other signs say: "KGB behave", "No Gairy or Jewel killers", "No Jewel Communism, no Gairy fascism," and "When aligned to a doctrine, prepare for the backlash".

One piece of graffiti sums up most Grenadians' feelings in the aftermath of the political unrest and their concern for the future.

It says simply: "Oh God, help us."

Cleaner MARCH 16 1984

Louison predicts another rebellion

ST. GEORGE'S, March 14, (CANA):

Grenada could have a second revolution on its hands if social, economic and political conditions here deteriorate badly, according to former Agricultural Minister Gorge Luison, whose leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) staged a coup in 1979.

Speaking yesterday, when the NJM marked the fifth anniversary of its coup, Louison said "massive repression" of the type that existed in Prime Minister Eric Gairy's day and unsatisfactory "material conditions" could force people to recognise "they need to free themselves."

The NJM ousted Gairy's right wing Government after accusing it of repressing political opponents, corruption and economic mismanagement.

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) which the NJM set up to replace Gairy's was unseated by the Army after internal feuding between moderates such as ex-Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and hardline communists led by Bishop's former deputy, Bernard Coard. The military junta was toppled in an October 25, 1983 U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported invasion of Grenada.

"If there is a repeat of the kind of repression Gairy would have been engaged in," Louison said, "if there is massive repression in this country, once the material conditions are repeated there is every chance of people recognising that they need to free themselves."

Louison said the future with respect to revolutionary struggles in Grenada could be known only when the "concrete conditions" were there.

The ex-Minister is one of the key figures in the "Maurice Bishop and 19th October Martyrs Foundation", an organisation launched by the NJM last January 21 to perpetuate the memory of Bishop and those massacred by the Army on October 19.

Louison said the foundation wanted to have relations with Cuba but had not been able to contact Havana.

"Fidel Castro did a very honourable and noble memorial for Maurice Bishop," he said. "Cuba was one of the few countries in the world that declared an official period of mourning for Maurice Bishop."

Before Bishop died, Louison said, the Cuban party and Government had made it absolutely clear they would not support the "Bernard Coard clique." He said he thought Cuba would support the Foundation.

Louison said those behind the Foundation would like to discuss the matter with Cuba. His problem, he said, is not having travel document.

He said his passport was taken "either by the Revolutionary Military Council (junta) or the invaders" and, even though he had applied to the Immigration Department for a new passport since last November, it has not been issued.

Every time he has to travel, he is given a "one-shot document" which must be handed in at the airport, Louison said.

Louison said he will apply, "at some point", for a document to visit Havana, but he does not know what the reaction of the authorities will be to this.

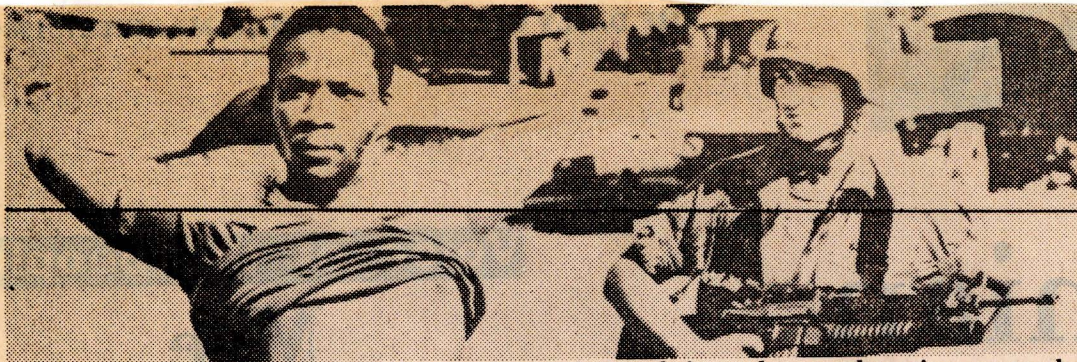
The Foundation is, at the present time, not in touch with the Soviet Union, Louison said, but he and his colleagues "have nothing against the socialist countries", and the Foundation would like to have relations with similar organisations in various parts of the world.

"We cannot expect Government relations, even in Cuba," Louison said, "because of the fact that the Foundation is not a Government or a political party, and the Foundation will not become a party."

If a political party emerges from the remnants of the NJM, the ex-Minister said, it would be completely separate from the Foundation and would not necessarily comprised the people in the Foundation because the Foundation is open to "anyone who would like, in any way, to identify with the life and work of Maurice Bishop."

Should a political party emerge, Louison said, he could not say what its ideology would be or whether it would seek relations with Cuba. He thought those decisions would depend on "what the party is all about."

"I can tell you," he said, "that if I were part of a party that were to be in power in this country in the future, I would build relations with countries far and wide."



UNDER THE AMERICAN GUN: Grenadian prisoner being taken to detention centre by American soldier. UPI file photo:

Grenada's Govt. trapped in crisis over treatment of detained coup suspects

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 26 (AP):

Grenada's caretaker government has been caught in a crossfire over the handling of suspects in last year's bloody takeover, with international groups alleging human rights abuses while bitter Grenadians call for vengeance.

Eighteen people were charged Feb. 22 murder or conspiracy in connection with the Oct. 19 executions of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and eight supporters.

Presiding Magistrate Lyle St. Paul removed himself from the case March 3 after he received death threats. And a mimeographed sheet circulating around this tiny Caribbean island threatens a wave of terrorism if the alleged ringleaders of Grenada's takeover are freed.

Hundreds of people gathered to jeer the suspects as they left their hearing, and Phyllis Coard, wife of the reputed mastermind of the takeover, was hit by a rock.

Earlier, the interim government received a letter saying the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army would rise up again if the detainees weren't freed.

Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the Interim Council, said in a February speech that "no bomb threat, no attempt of intimidation will cause the Interim Council to depart from the course it has set: A stance to ensure that every Grenadian receive justice in the land, and that the island-nation remains a peaceful country."

Amnesty International, Americas Watch, the Religious Society of Friends, the Congressional Black Caucus and former U.S. attorney General Ramsey Clarke, among others, expressed concern about the lengthy detentions and other rights of former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and others linked to the overthrow and slaying of Bishop after a split in the ruling New Jewel Movement.

"We don't have the time to counter all these things that are said. I think the people of Grenada have great faith that the right process is being followed," said Leslie Seon, a spokesman for the interim government.

Bishop loyalist and former Agriculture Minister George Louison said international critics "are not aware of the facts. They are a group of criminals up there who committed the worst crimes this country has ever seen. They organized the slaughter of our beloved leader and other innocent people."

Other Grenadians noted that some of those in jail were responsible for jailing hundreds of people during the 4½-year Bishop regime.

"This is what annoys me. Where was Amnesty International the last four years? Where were the Quakers? Why are they speaking out now?" said Anglican Archdeacon Hoskens Huggins, who has continued his practice of visiting the prison each week.

Some Bishop-era detainees display scars they claimed were caused by torture. Two detainees, Ralphie Thompson and Ethelbert John, died in 1982 after months of imprisonment.

The number of remaining detainees isn't public, but it's believed that between 20 and 30 suspects remain in jail besides the 18 charged.

Investigation, which is continuing, has been hampered by the resignation of the interim government's acting Attorney General in December and the disorganization of the police force, officials say. The British government sent two Scotland Yard detectives to help in January, and is training Grenadian police officers.

Asked why no bail has been set for those suspected or charged, Brathwaite replied: "The bitterness that exists in the community creates a serious problem. I feel there are some people who would want to take revenge."

There have been allegations that prisoners are being tortured as investigators seek confessions and information.

"We deny that there has been any torture or beatings," Seon said.

A letter, sent out of prison by detainee Maj. Leon Cornwall and reported by east bloc news agencies, alleged that detainees were tortured.

Huggins said he had seen no evidence of torture.

But two detainees released in December claimed in interviews that two prisoners were taken out of prison overnight in early December and beaten during interrogation by Caribbean soldiers.

"Maj. Chris Stroud came back the next morning and said they beat him. He was limping bad," said one ex-detainee.

The ex-detainees, who requested anonymity, said Kamau McBarnette, former Secretary of Information, returned in tears and said he was forced to sign a confession.

"He was all bent over, holding his stomach. He bawled all day," said one, who added that he had refused to sign a confession, even though "they kept punching me and calling me 'murder' but I didn't do anything."

Coard's Jamaica attorney, Jacqueline Brown, said the beatings and tortures have continued.

Stroud was charged with murder, while McBarnette was charged with conspiracy.

With all the emotion and allegations, there is concern among the prisoners and their attorneys that they can't receive a fair trial in Grenada.

"They're worried they won't get a fair trial. Bernard calls it a 'Kangaroo Court,'" said Huggins.

The U.S. army's psychological operations team last November put up posters that pictured detainees — some half-naked — above slogans calling them "corrupt," "Hoodlums" and charging that they betrayed their country.

Col. James Ashworth said then that the posters were to "re-assure Grenadians, because they were afraid of these people who treated them very harshly."

Seon said prosecutors must decide whether a fair trial is possible here. But the British legal system followed by the former colony would allow the defendants appeals off-island, including to the United Kingdom Privy Council.

Gleaner March 1, 1984

OECS asks visa ease for Grenada

CASTRIES,
February 29,
(CANA):

The seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is to make joint representation to Trinidad and Tobago to seek some ease in the visa requirement for Grenadian nationals wishing to visit Trinidad.

This was announced here today by Antigua's Hugh Marshall, chairman of the second meeting of OECS Ministers of Foreign Affairs which ended in Castries last night.

He said that most of the matters which came before the meeting were either put off pending deeper investigations, or referred to the OECS Heads of Government summit which opens here today.

On the question of Trinidad and Tobago's four months old stipulation that Grenadian nationals wishing to visit the neighbouring staff must first obtain a visa, "we thought that the present situation needs some easing up for Grenadian nationals who have had a long standing

relationship with Trinidad," Marshall told CANA.

"We have decided to approach the Trinidad Government jointly, and bring our concerns on this matter to their attention," he added.

On a proposal for joint OECS diplomatic representation overseas Marshall said: "We took a decision to ask member Governments to send in their comments on their position on joint representation in respect of the Ottawa, and London missions and on the question of an OECS presence in the

Far East."

He added that by April 15 this year the Secretariat should have their responses in time for the next Foreign Ministers meeting scheduled for the latter part of May.

The Ministers also thought more work needed to be done to concrete relations with international institutions such as the Organisation of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America.

"The Secretariat has been asked to continue their consultations with organisations such as the OAS and ECLA as to the question of administrative costs involved...." Marshall said.

The Foreign Ministers also discussed the question of fisheries as it related to the Law of the Sea, Marshall said, and agreed that the Secretariat will seek technical advice from the Commonwealth Secretariat's legal department.

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Gleaner March 2 1984

Grenada preparing for elections says Brathwaite

UNITED NATIONS: The head of the interim Government of Grenada said Feb. 23 that his caretaker administration's primary responsibility is to restore an atmosphere to the island conducive to free elections.

Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the interim government told reporters at a press conference here that his mandate upon taking over Nov. 15 was "to take the country to the point where the people could elect the government of their choice in free and fair elections before the end of 1984 and this we are committed to do."

In the past three months, the interim council has grappled with the problems of security, a "grim" economic situation in the public sector, a highly politicized civil administration, high unemployment, and a hostile international climate due to the intervention of the Caribbean military force. But the biggest challenge, he said, has been helping Grenadians overcome the trauma of the Oct. 19 murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other government officials.

"It is taking time for the people to adjust to the new situation," Brathwaite said. "They fear there might be guns hidden in the hills and that young men will get the arms and terrorize them again."

Creating a conducive atmosphere has included encouraging free speech, the press, and political parties, he said. "And our confidence that

government is indeed their servant and not their master."

Brathwaite said that there has been improvement in all areas. The security situation is now "stable," the morale of the public service employees has been raised, the international situation has been improving, development projects have been identified, and "in general terms, Grenada at this stage is back to what is considered a state of normalcy."

"It has taken time for the people to adjust to a new situation and in some cases one gets feedback that suggests that many people prefer that the interim administration operate beyond the end of 1984. But we are making it clear that we intend to honor our mandate to hold elections before the end of the year." He also said, "we hope with the intensification of the electoral campaign, the mood will gradually change and before the end of this year the people will, in fact, be fully prepared to participate in free and fair elections," he said, adding that "the election campaign is truly on."

Answering a question on the level of U.S. involvement in the Grenadian Government, Brathwaite said, "I want to assure you...that no U.S. government diplomat or army personnel at any time attempted to indicate what steps the interim government should take. We take our decisions based on our understanding of

what is in the best interest of Grenada.

"We will not let any country dictate to our policy," he said.

The presence of almost 300 U.S. military police continues at the request of the Grenadian Government. Brathwaite said that number was determined "in response to the people's request for a level that would make them feel secure." Brathwaite was at U.N. headquarters for meetings with U.N. officials and the chairman of the credentials committee of the general assembly. After the interim government took office, The United States challenged the credentials of the Grenadian representative who had been appointed by the Austin regime.

Brathwaite said he explained to the chairman of the credentials committee, Ugandan Ambassador Olara Otunnu, that the interim administration had appointed a charge and hoped that the committee would recognize the choice. It would be "an embarrassment to have operating in an international forum a representative in whom it does not have any confidence" Brathwaite said of the previous Grenadian representatives.

Brathwaite refused to discuss the financial details of the island's airport which was being built and financed with Soviet and Cuban assistance before the Oct. 19 coup. He did, however, emphasize that the airport was the "number one priority" of the interim government.

Gleanes March 2 1984

Justice in Grenada

By John Hearne

THIS column made no distressed noises last year October when the American, Eastern Caribbean, Barbadian and Jamaican task force made its sudden and sanitary intervention in Grenada.

I am on record, both abroad and here, that after the brutal murder of Maurice Bishop and his top supporters — and given the obvious intention to spread violence throughout the Caribbean by Bishop's assassins and their Cuban teachers — neither America nor the democratic, English-speaking Caribbean had any choice left.

Too much was at risk; and those who pretended to speak in the name of the Grenadian people had no legitimacy — as the Grenadian people unequivocally demonstrated when they welcomed the multi-national rescue mission.

The documents discovered by the task force after the arrest of those who had seized power by murder in Grenada leave little doubt as to the disarray into which Grenada had fallen even before Bishop's death by violence, or as to the danger represented by those who proclaimed themselves as the Caribbean's true 'progressives'.

Subsequent attempts to suggest that the armed overthrow of these usurpers — or Bishop's murder itself — were part of another C.I.A. plot are hardly worth debate.

A small but strategically important country which had been terribly misgoverned and misused since its independence had finally come to a point of political sickness that would certainly have infected the rest of us.

The attempt to cure a local disease came just in time if it were not to become epidemic.

Look again

It is as well to be straightforward and unapologetic about the disagreeable necessity that was forced upon people like Mrs. Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Mr. John Compton of St. Lucia, Mr. Tom Adams of Barbados, Mr. Edward Seaga of Jamaica — and their United States presidential ally, Mr. Ronald Reagan.

But we must now begin to take another look at what is happening in Grenada.

Nobody can question that the Interim Government under the direction of Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General, has popular support. As far as can be seen, it is composed of people of integrity whose over-riding wish is to return Grenada to government by honest vote as soon as possible.

They wish to make whole a country that had been too long wasted by the corruption of an Eric Gairy and the follies and brutalities of those who succeeded Gairy.

Yet all this decent purpose may be tainted if those who were detained and charged with murder do not receive the fairest trial and the highest

justice.

It is disturbing that Lord Tony Gifford, Q.C., the British lawyer who has been retained for the defence of several of the detainees, has been denied the right to plead in a Grenadian court.

This denial is based on the Legal Council Agreement, signed by various Caribbean countries in 1981, and which limits the right of advocacy in our courts to nationals on the region.

Again, the intention behind this agreement has much merit. It was meant to firmly establish the credentials of the graduates of our UWI Law School, and to ensure that they were not downgraded by the random importation of lawyers from outside the region for any and all trials. It was a justifiable assertion of our cultural sovereignty and integrity.

Would be ill...

But it was never intended, I am told, to be absolute and inflexible. Trinidad and Tobago, I understand, has an amendment to it that does permit very wide discretion to its Registrar of the Court in allowing defendants to retain the services of counsel from outside the Caribbean.

In the case of the Grenadian detainees such amendment to what is basically a just agreement should be made. These people will be facing trial for their lives, on charges arising from the most embittered and confused circumstances. If some or all of them feel that a qualified lawyer from far away is likely to give them the best defence that they are entitled under the letter and spirit of human rights to retain his services, if, as Lord Gifford charges, some of these detainees are being subject to the most severe physical and psychological pressure without access to legal advice and protection, their right to the lawyer of their choice is made even more imperative.

There is talk, which I have not been yet able to verify, that the Interim Government of Grenada may bring a prosecuting attorney from Britain. He or she, one imagines, would have to be made a member of the Director of Public Prosecutions Department on a contractual basis if this is the case. It would look and be an ill day for justice in the Caribbean if this were done the Lord Gifford was denied permission to appear for the defence.

We are speaking, now, not of political sympathies or private opinions about what happened in Grenada last October.

We are addressing the great issue of Justice not only being done but seen to be done to those who are innocent until proven guilty.

Our Bar Council here in Jamaica ought to look very closely into this matter, and determine whether there might not be a serious conflict in this matter between the Caribbean's Legal Council Agreement and the Legal Profession Act which entitles a qualified lawyer to defend a client against the judgement of his peers and to appeal, if necessary, the sentence of a court.

Gleaner MARCH 3, 1984

Grenada threats

St. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 2:

The head of the government-appointed detention tribunal in Grenada, Magistrate Lyle St Paul today submitted his resignation, complaining about threats on his life and those of his family, official sources said.

The tribunal set up in november, has been hearing applications for release from soldiers and former government officials detained following last October's military coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet were killed.

Last week 18 of the prisoners, including ex-deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis and former government Minister Selwyn Strachan, were charged with either murder or conspiracy to murder Bishop and others.

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US envoy predicts stronger Carib links because of Grenada

Barbados, March 2, Cana:

Last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada brought about "greater awareness" among Americans of the Eastern Caribbean and Washington expects relations with countries in the area will become "a lot stronger", the outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean said today.

Ambassador Milan Bish, who was spending

his final day at his Bridgetown desk, said

increasing U.S. aid allocations to the region along with investment opportunities for spurring economic growth under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) would enhance U.S.-Caribbean ties.

"We see a stronger relationship with the Eastern Caribbean... (but) we want everyone to be free and independent in their decision making," Bish said in an

interview with the Caribbean News Agency (Cana).

"We are not going to agree on everything but we do have common and mutual goals and so I think I see this growing and growing."

Bish said his two-year tour of duty was a "real exciting time" and someone with "fresh ideas" was needed to take over and implement any new U.S. initiatives for the region.

Bish said had the

United States turned down the invitation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to spearhead the Grenada operation, it would have been clear to the Soviet Union and its supporters that Washington was not strong in its commitment to the Eastern Caribbean.

"I think we would have seen immediately adventurism and expansionism by those forces (aligned to Moscow), he said. "...Grenada was a stepping stone...."

U.S.-led multinational forces landed in Grenada last October 25 to topple a pro-Moscow military junta that had seized power six days earlier after slaying leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half his cabinet.

Bish said the United States was concerned about the security of the Eastern Caribbean, though not as concerned as before, and was helping regional countries boost their defences.

He said military aid centred on training in the use of small arms. "You are not going to see tanks, aeroplanes (in the Eastern Caribbean)."

The U.S. ambassador said the American aid allocation for the Eastern Caribbean this year was 69.9 million dollars, compared with 50 million in 1982 and 58.4 million in 1983.

Speaking on the 1984 allocation, Bish said "...it's a bad example but when a congressman looks at it in a committee on a per capita basis, this is probably one of the highest in the world."

"I cannot help but feel that with the new awareness in this area, there'll be new assistance in different directions...", the ambassador said.

Bish said the United States was working for "a proper mix" in disbursing aid bilaterally and multilaterally in the Eastern Caribbean, though the present leaning was towards bilateral arrangements.

He said bilateral arrangements were more efficient in some cases, citing as an example a road project in Dominica, while it was better to channel aid funds for regional projects through institutions like the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

WEEK-END REFLECTIONS

More undesirables for Grenada?

by Dr. Able De'Broom,
of Grand Village,
Grenada
in a letter to the Editor

As Grenada returns to normal political activities in the aftermath of the U.S. led intervention which ended five years of leftist dictatorship under Maurice Bishop, some interesting features are emerging in the island's politics which warrant careful analysis.

One such feature is a possible replay of the politics of the 1976 General Election, when the N.J.M. rode into Parliament on the back of the Grenada National Party of veteran politician, and one-time premier, Herbert Blaize.

Immediately before the 1976 election, the N.J.M. led by Bishop succeeded in forging an electoral alliance with the G.N.P. and the U.P.P. led by Winston Whyte.

The N.J.M. manoeuvred candidates into seats which were traditionally G.N.P. strongholds resulting in political unknowns such as Bernard Coard getting into Parliament.

With Gairy's return to the island the two traditional parties have resumed their historic position on centre stage. For some time, prior to 1976, both parties have been finding it difficult to attract support among the young. As a result, their support comes from the electorate over age 40. The majority of the electorate is under 40 and, with the discrediting of the N.J.M., mainly without political allegiance.

Hopefuls

A number of political hopefuls and groups are now attempting the mobilisation of this politically indifferent majority.

Of those groups, one which is beginning to attract attention is that being organised by Robert "Boca" Grant, a British trained lawyer and D.J. known on the island as "Boca, Sweet Soca", and George Brizan, a Secondary School teacher now attached to the Ministry of Education.

"Boca, Sweet Soca" has no track record in Grenadian politics. He arrived on the island in 1982 having been recruited from London, personally by Bishop, to serve in the legal department. Thus, at a time when the N.J.M. was being severely criticized for its abuses of Human Rights; hundreds of Grenadians were illegally deprived of their liberty; allegations of torture were being directed at the regime, "Boca, Sweet Soca", had no compunction to actively seeking and accepting to serve that regime.

An enigma

George Brizan, unlike "Boca, Sweet Soca", has been on the perimeter of the island's politics for about 10 years. The enigma that is Brizan violently criticised the N.J.M. in Sep-

tember 1978, describing N.J.M. as a "political organisation that uses lies, insincerity, deceit and rumours in an effort to build itself," and opined, "the N.J.M. would never survive in Grenada of the future".

Brizan accused the N.J.M. of disrespecting truth and resorting to lies and defamation of character in answer to criticisms. He claimed that N.J.M. had become "impatient, hostile, bankrupt and filthy".

Yet, by 1980 Brizan was comfortably serving the N.J.M. implementing their policies and travelling to Cuba and elsewhere in pursuit of N.J.M. missions. For four years, therefore, he wallowed in the filth which he knew was the N.J.M., actively assisting in placing the Communist yoke on the neck of Grenada.

Now that the yoke has been removed, they emerge seeking to be washed in the "blood of the lamb" that is the Grenada National Party.

Will the G.N.P. again be the vehicle for foisting undesirables on the people of Grenada?

Gleaner March 4, 1984

Grenada plans trial of former leaders

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 3 (CANA): op, three cabinet ministers and four others last October 19.

Grenada's interim government is recruiting Caribbean lawyers to prosecute people charged in connection with the murders of political leaders during a military coup last October, chairman Nicholas Brathwaite said.

He told reporters last night that the caretaker administration is making "every effort" to put together a team of well-qualified lawyers.

Eighteen of the island's former military and political leaders will reappear before a magistrate in a preliminary hearing on April 4 to face charges of murder and conspiracy to murder Prime Minister Maurice Bish-

Brathwaite did not say where the prosecution lawyers would be recruited but noted that the Barbados Bar Association had offered legal assistance and Grenada was seeking legal co-operation with Trinidad and Tobago.

He said negotiations were continuing regarding an appointment to the post of Director of Public Prosecutions. He declined to elaborate but he was quoted in New York last month as saying that a Grenadian Barrister in Canada had been identified for the job.

Grenada's economic woes

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 3, CANA:

Head of Grenada's caretaker government, Nicholas Brathwaite has called for a more understanding attitude from nationals towards the country's economic problems exacerbated by last October's U.S.-led military intervention.

His comment was made at a press conference last night which reviewed his visit last month to the United States to attend a world bank-spon-

sored international aid donors conference for the Caribbean.

Brathwaite appealed to Grenadians to have patience with the efforts by the Government to find aid to bolster the economy because, "We would want to ensure that the people who are interested in hotels and developing industry in the country are properly checked."

He said the interim government, which took office in the aftermath of the intervention, was now in a

position to state that the outlook for the island's economic development is much brighter than when it was sworn in last November.

Brathwaite indicated that the nine-man Government has been holding discussions with several private sector bodies including those directly involved in the hotel industry which have expressed some interest in constructing hotels here.

He stressed that negotiations with

some of these people were at an advance stage, but said: "I am not in a position now to name specifically the companies which have expressed interest."

The Grenada Government, Brathwaite said, has received assurances from several countries and international agencies in connection with assistance for infrastructural development in the areas of electricity, roads, telephone and sewerage disposal systems.

Gleaner MARCH 6 1984

Barbados wants good relations with Carib

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 5 (CANA-) Barbados, pledging its commitment to having good relations with its Caribbean neighbours, said today it felt differences among regional countries over last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada were "transient".

"History has demonstrated that the countries of the Caribbean cannot exist in isolation," Foreign Minister Louis Tull said.

"The pressures of external developments will continue to direct our individual countries into closer contact with each other."

Tull, addressing the opening of a five-day conference of the heads of Barbados diplomatic missions, said Bridgetown views its relations with its partners in the 13-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as being of "the utmost importance."

Barbados and six other CARICOM nations that participated in the Grenada operation, were roundly criticised by Guyana which condemned the action. CARICOM members Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and the Bahamas also opposed the intervention.

The conference will review the failures and achievements of Barba-

dos foreign policy. It is the first collective meeting of senior Barbados diplomats since 1979.

Tull said "significant changes" had taken place in the world at large and in the Caribbean since the 1979 meeting.

Barbados foreign policy objectives had not changed "in any great degree" since 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) came to power, he added, while rapid changes were taking place around the world.

"New concepts of national interest are emerging and while on the one hand, there is increasing recognition of the inter-dependence of states, there is also a revived interest in the concept of nationalism," he said.

Tull said last October's political crisis in Grenada, in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was murdered in a bloody military coup, had brought an end to the regions traditional perception as being an area removed from war and turbulence.

"...the Caribbean is a different place now in the post Grenada era," he said.

It was the slaying of Bishop, and half his cabinet in the army take-over that climaxed a feud between moderates and radical leftists in the government that triggered the invasion.

Grenada to set rules for investors

ST. GEORGE'S, March 5 (CANA)

The head of Grenada's interim government Nicholas Brathwaite has said here that potential investors would not be allowed to lay down their own terms and conditions.

Brathwaite told reporters over the weekend that the care-taker administration, which was appointed after last October's U.S.-led invasion "is not going to allow people just because we want new hotels to come

here and lay down their conditions. We are going to lay down the rules."

He added that the government was reviewing the country's investment code, which currently gives a prominent role for the state sector.

The code was drawn up by the leftwing People's Revolutionary Government, deposed in October's bloody military coup that triggered the invasion.

GRENADA: First 100 Days

By Rickey Singh

The Interim Administration in St. George's, a creature of last October's invasion has witnessed its first 100 days with the Spice Isle continuing under foreign military occupation with at least four political parties, among them Sir Eric Gairy's GULP, in a scramble for power, via new elections promised for November.

Apart from the expected elections, the machinery for which Barbados is helping to establish, starting with a new electoral register next month, perhaps the most central factor of attention, both in Grenada itself and in capitals in and out of the Caribbean, is the fate of what was, under the crushed Maurice Bishop's government, the island's most ambitious development project, the new international airport at Point Salines.

Of the four Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries which opposed the October 25 invasion of the island by the U.S.A. only one, Trinidad and Tobago, has been dialoguing and doing business, as usual, with the Interim Administration, while maintaining its preference for a Commonwealth peace-keeping force to the military presence of the invading forces.

The Guyana Government of President Forbes Burnham, insists in declaring its non-recognition of the Interim Administration. Headed by Nicholas Brathwaite this administration is functioning under the very watchful eyes of the Reagan Administration in Washington and also, Governor General, Sir Paul Scoon, the Commonwealth Queen's representative in St. George's who provided a highly controversial letter that gave what is in my view a fig leaf cover for the invasion of his country.

Prime Minister George Price in Belize is too preoccupied with his own domestic problems, some necessitating Cabinet changes, and more mindful about Guatemala's threat to his country's territorial integrity, to worry over where it stands at this moment on Grenada.

Down in Nassau Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, the fourth CARICOM Government not to

have taken part in the invasion is being kept busy by a three-member Royal Commission of Inquiry that he was forced to set up to probe corruption and bribery charges into his 17-year-old administration.

Credibility

But Pindling's Attorney General and Foreign Minister, Paul Adderley, is on record as having informed the Organisation of American States of what his Administration thinks of the government in St. George's.

Adderley said that his government could in no way accept "the legal aberrations invoked to give credibility to a government that has no constitutional legitimacy...."

Sir Eric Gairy, who has just turned 62 but says he "feels like 42", also considers that the Brathwaite-Scoon interim regime has no "legal basis", though he has agreed to "co-operate until new elections", which he says he would not contest, but which he boasts his Grenada United Labour party "will win".

There are three parties committed to ensuring that this boast does not become a reality - a realisation that may prove embarrassing for the governments of the invading forces.

They are the old Grenada National Party (GNP) of ex-Chief Minister Herbert Blaize, the veteran politician from Carriacou; Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) of UWI law lecturer, Francis Alexis and the National Democratic Party (NDP) of which George Brizanne, a teacher is associated with its leadership.

Conflicting reports

There have been conflicting reports over recent weeks about possible merger of these three parties, a development which Alexis sees as an imperative "if we are to defeat Gairy's party and provide effective government."

Brizanne's NDP views the GDM, with its high pro-US profile as a group of largely "foreign" Grenadian leaders those who have lived abroad and been out of touch with Grenadian realities for too long.

Nevertheless, these three parties have much in common, even with Gairy's GULP, the party of mismanagement, corruption and repression dating back to pre-independence years:

They are all opposed to the surviving Maurice Bishop colleagues of the ruptured blood-stained New Jewel Movement ever rising to power — a position they share with the U.S.A.

For their part, Bishop's colleagues like ex-Cabinet ministers, Kendrick Radix, George Louison and Lynden Ramhanny, have said that the Interim Administration is "most ineffective", and made clear their own position that the US now had a moral and legal obligation to complete the Point Salines airport, damaged by US invading forces in October.

These former stalwarts of the NJM, a name they are most likely to replace when they form a new political movement, are concentrating their energies on building "The Maurice Bishop and October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation", which they launched at a ceremony in St. George's last January 21 — the date Bishop's father, Rupert, was murdered ten years ago by Gairy's "Mongoose Gang" and the date Eric Gairy chose to return to the island last month from his exile in the USA.

Airport

And what about the new international airport that the US\$75 million project to which the Cubans had contributed at least at least forty percent of the cost and were working to complete next month in time for the fifth anniversary of the NJM's March 13 coup of 1979? The Reagan Administration campaigned, vigorously, against the airport as a Soviet-Cuban strategic project for armed subversion.

Now, speaking through Secretary of State, George Schultz, following his recent "hop over" visit to Grenada earlier this month, the Reagan White House thinks that this same Point Salines airport "is important" to Grenada's tourist industry and general economic progress.

Back in December, within three weeks of being appointed a member of Brathwaite's Interim Administration, the Grenadian communications specialist, Ray Smith, warned that the US should cease being ambivalent about the completion of the airport project, and declared:

"There would be shock, dismay and alarm if any country were seen to be standing in the way of the airport".

It was a sentiment shared by Richard Menzes, current President of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, who said: "The airport is critical to our development. It had been the one single issue on which all Grenadians are united."

Radix was to later tell the Maurice Bishop Foundation ceremony that "Grenadians will not sit still while this airport remains unfinished."

Some three weeks later, head of the Interim Administration was in Washington negotiating for US\$150 million in loans from the World Bank, US Government, etc. for Grenada's development, including US\$24 million to complete what some Grenadians would like to be known as the "Maurice Bishop Airport".

Gleaner march 7 1984

Function to honour New Jewel's coup

ST. GEORGE'S, March 6, (CANA):

Supporters of the deposed Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) are planning celebrations next week to mark the fifth anniversary of the first **coup d'etat** in the Eastern Caribbean on March 13, 1979.

Former PRG Agriculture Minister George Louison told CANA the event is being coordinated by the recently formed Maurice Bishop October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation, established to honour and preserve the memory of the late Prime Minister and others killed in a bloody military coup which triggered a U.S.-led invasion.

It was a feud between moderate and radical leftists in the PRG which led to the military takeover by the more radical faction.

Louison said the celebrations

would include a cultural show and exhibition at one of the community centres built with funds provided by the Bishop Government and the European Economic Community (EEC).

According to Louison the Interim Government had given the foundation the go-ahead to bring in Caribbean artistes including top calypsonians for the occasion since it was felt there would be no security problems.

Louison also said that local artistes such as calypsonians Lady Cinty, the reigning monarch, as well as Scorpion, Survivor, Defender and the Praying Mantis would make appearances.

It was March 13, 1979 that the left wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) of which Louison was a leading member, toppled the Sir Eric Gairy Government.

UWI Libraries

U.S. to aid Grenada airport

WASHINGTON (USIS):

The United States of America will contribute US\$19-million toward completion of the airport at Point Salines, Grenada, the White House said March 2.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said President Ronald Reagan's decision to help finance completion of the facility followed "a detailed feasibility study" conducted by the Agency for International Development. U.S. officials once criticized the airport concept, saying the planned 10,000-foot runway was more suitable to military uses than tourism, and claiming the existing airport was sufficient for Grenada's needs.

Speakes said the statements of the former Government, together with the discovery of military equipment at the Point Salines site, made it clear that the airfield was intended for military purpose.

He said the fact that a new Government, intent on peaceful use of the facility, is now in power justifies the U.S. contribution.

Speakes said he did not know if the airport's planned 10,000-foot runway would be completed or if a shorter strip would be substituted. He said the object of the U.S. contribution, given at the request of the Grenadian Government, is to aid in the "revitalization" of the Grenadian economy after four years of mismanagement by the previous Marxist Government. He said the new airport would aid in developing tourism and agricultural and industrial development.

Following is the text of the White House statement:

"We are pleased to announce today that the U.S. will assist the Government of Grenada in its efforts to complete the airport at Point Salines. Following a detailed feasibility study, commissioned by

USAID, and after considering the Grenadian Government's request, the President determined that the airport is vital to the revival of Grenada's economy, which was left in shambles following four and one-half years of mismanagement under the Cuban-supported Bishop regime.

"In a February 27, 1984 letter to Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the Advisory Council of Grenada, the President said that the U.S. is 'committed to the timely completion' of the airport 'as quickly as possible'.

"The airport is expected to boost tourism in Grenada, generating badly needed hard currency to enable the private sector-oriented economy to revitalize itself.

"While the U.S. plans to contribute a substantial part of the estimated US\$24-million to finish the project, other countries have indicated they are prepared to participate in the financing of the airport as well."

Cleaner

MARCH 10 1984

U.S. sent 580 claims for Grenada invasion compensation

ST. GEORGE'S, March 9, (CANA):

Grenadians have submitted 580 claims to the United States Government for US\$100-million for property damage and lives lost during last October's U.S.-led invasion. Thelma Phillips, the Government's chief social and community development officer, said today.

She said US\$50-million was for property damage, US\$33-million was to cover the cost of lands for persons who had to be relocated because their homes were destroyed, and the remainder related to compensation for loss of life.

Originally, it had been believed that the United States Government

would pay for all damage done, but Phillips said the U.S. will not pay for combat damage and will accept claims for "minor" damage done by the soldiers such as when they were searching for Cubans and ammunition after the fighting was over, she told CANA.

"If they had come to your house

and had broken into the doors and windows, that would be considered minor damage."

She said that to date, the U.S. authorities have accepted claims for EC\$130, (EC\$1=37c U.S.).

"I believe the United States authorities are trying to help," she said.

"Colonel John Murray, who visited Grenada earlier, returned to the island late last month with a TV crew, and he told me a presentation is being prepared in a drive to get donors to a relief fund."

Phillips said the TV team took pictures of the bombed out areas and

interviewed people who suffered loss, and the production is to be shown in the United States.

"I still have hope that we will get some help," she said. "I have been telling our people to be patient, it may take some time, but I believe we will get help."

Caribbean communists grieve setback in Grenada

GEORGETOWN, March 6, (CANA):

Members of a dozen opposition communist and revolutionary parties from the Caribbean who met here at the weekend described last October's U.S.-led invasion as a setback to socialism in the region, a spokesman said today.

The Marxist-opposition politicians, from countries including Ja-

maica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Dominica and Guadeloupe, also said that the Caribbean's economic conditions and living standards were deteriorating, threatening the regions peace and security.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, head of the Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP) of Guyana told a news conference today the meeting felt the invasion of Grenada was "a tragic blow

for socialism and for the people of the Caribbean."

Dr. Jagan, who chaired the meeting, said the parties backed the stand taken by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries Belize, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas, which opposed the sending of troops to Grenada.

The delegates "concluded that the Grenada tragedy introduced a renewed emphasis on the use of force

by U.S. imperialism as a solution to the region's problems," said the former Premier of Guyana.

Among those problems were listed the state of regional economies and the standard of living.

"Participants unanimously agreed that the deteriorating economic situation and the declining living standards of the Caribbean peoples are endangering peace and security in the region," Dr Jagan said.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Movement for National Liberation (MONALI) of Barbados, the Communist Party of Cuba, Action Committee for a Socialist Movement (ACSAM) of Curacao, the Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance (DLM), the PPP, the Communist Party of Guadeloupe, the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), the Martinique Communist Party, the United People's Movement of St

Lucia, the February 18th Movement, and the Peoples Popular Movement (PPM) of Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the participants were former Cuban ambassador to Guyana, Dr. Ivan Martinez, who represented the Communist Party of Cuba, Dr. Trevor Munroe of the WPJ, chairman of the PPM, Michael Als and Dr. James Miller of the February 18th Movement.

THE DAILY GLEANER, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1984

Officer: '100 Grenadians died in coup'

ST GEORGE'S, March 9, (CANA):

More than 100 Grenadians died when soldiers opened fire last October 19 on supporters of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who also perished in the Army coup, a senior Grenada Government official said

today.

Thelma Phillips, chief social and community development officer also cast doubt on official U.S. figures of 45 Grenadian dead during the subsequent Multi-National invasion that toppled the shortlived military Gov-

ernment. The figure may be higher, she said.

Phillips said Ministry of Health investigations had so far revealed 112 deaths as a result of the Army action at Fort Rupert (now Fort George), the Army headquarters, on a crowd

which had just freed Bishop from house arrest.

The coup, by a radical faction in Bishop's leftist New Jewel Movement, followed a leadership feud with moderates.

Phillips said enquiries were

continuing throughout the island in the hope of arriving at the exact number of dead. She gave the first authoritative figures on the massacre — the military Government had only admitted to 16 dead, including Bishop and three Cabinet members.

Regarding the local casualty figure

for the invasion, Phillips said, "I feel there is still some doubt about the number of Grenadians who died during the invasion."

A senior U.S. military figure had said 71 Grenadians died, but he later retracted.

Cleaves MARCH 11 1984

WILL GRENADA MAKE IT?

asks Morris Cargill

It goes almost without saying that parliamentary democracy should be instituted in Grenada as a matter of urgency and that all foreign peace-keeping forces should be withdrawn as soon as possible.

Yet, too great a haste to do so might well defeat the objectives of the rescue mission and the present wishes of the majority of the Grenadian people. The irony is that the most urgent pressures for fast action, for elections for instance, are not coming from the Grenadian people, but from all those states which condemned us in the Security Council or at the recent meeting of Commonwealth countries, most of which wouldn't be seen dead with any form of democracy for themselves.

Large airport

It is clear that the Grenadians are suffering, at present, from a certain political bewilderment amounting almost to a lack of interest. It is also clear that the Grenadians are in no hurry whatsoever about having the peace-keeping forces removed. The vast majority of Grenadians welcomed the 'invasion' and are at present enjoying a breathing space, politically speaking, which they have not had for a long time; and a degree of security denied them for years, first by Gairy's 'Mongoose' gangs and then by assorted Communist thugs.

Yet Grenada's economy needs urgent attention. Unem-

ployment is running high. The large airport needs to be completed. Capital needs to be found. It would be easy for the U.S., considering the small size of Grenada, to grant the country funds enough to finish the airport, pay off its external debts, and put some money in the bank to bolster its foreign reserves. This would cost the U.S. no more than the cost of the 'invasion' and U.S. foreign policy would be indeed short-sighted and self-defeating were something of the sort not done, and soon. On the other hand Grenada could not continue to be dependent upon U.S. or any other foreign hand-outs, even given a good initial start, so that it needs a government which will give creative thought about how Grenada is to earn its living in the modern world.

The hard truth is countries the size of Grenada can never be viable propositions if administered along the lines which have become traditional. A mighty expansion of tourism might do the trick; but the tourist trade is a whimsical business and needs something to anchor it down. The reason why tourism has been doing so well, so consistently, in places like Nassau, Bermuda and the Caymans is that those countries are also tax-havens, in which one may mix business with pleasure, as it were.

Better off

As the whole world becomes more complex, more bureaucracy-ridden, more laden down with income and other taxes, people increasingly crave a simpler way of life. In particular, better-off people and those who are senior executives in, or owners of business are bludgeoned almost into insensibility by forms in triplicate. The

very wealthy do indeed save a great deal in taxes by moving their money and themselves to tax-havens. The medium well-off do not, for they pay in consumer tax what they would probably pay in income tax. But to them, the whole joy is that their taxes are silently collected from them as they buy goods; without their having to fill in forms or undergo the trauma of I.R.S. investigation.

One makes money in business or manufacturing if one can spot trends and cater to them. A blind man ought to be able to see that a growing trend, soon to reach a flood, is toward those countries which will enable people to live free of the dead and dread hand of the bureaucrat. Thus if any Caribbean country has the sense to see this, and cater to it, that country will prosper. In Jamaica we are going in the opposite direction. We are choking ourselves and everyone else with red tape. So much the worse for us.

But Grenada now has a golden opportunity to follow the wise course and become a bureaucracy-free tax-haven. Grenada is a very beautiful island; and given clever management in this direction, it could make a fortune for itself and its people. But it needs to settle who that management is going to be. It is no good asking its caretaker government, for worthy people though they are, they are to a man, essentially bureaucrats and have not the moral authority besides. It is no use Grenada asking the U.S.A., or Britain, who obviously don't like tax-havens; and asking Barbados or Jamaica would be like getting the blind to lead the blind. The creative urge, the sheer cleverness, will have to come from the Grenadians themselves. Can they do it?

One never knows, of course, who will arise. But they certainly will not if they cannot escape the rack of the remnants of the New Jewel Movement on the one hand,

arid ideologues of an Old Time Religion, or, on the other, of psalm-singing nincompoops and racketeers as exemplified by the wretched Gairy.

Needs time

I see nothing else arising at the moment. But as I have said, nobody can be sure. Grenada needs time. We ought to give it time for someone, some party, with real brains and creativity to arise. All Grenada has at the moment are the dregs — and when I say dregs, I mean dregs. To hasten the Grenadians into making a choice between dregs is not to do a service to Grenada.

Of course, the obvious retort is how long should we wait, and what assurance is there that anything better will arise? There is no precise answer to this. All one can say (and it is all one can say of anything in life) is that the Grenadians should be given time. A year, maybe. Maybe two years. If, at the end of some reasonable time, nothing creative happens, nothing ever will. Abandon them, then, to their own devices and let them forever afterwards stew in their own juice. Unless, of course, the Cubans start arming them once more to our menace, in which case clobber the Cubans again.

If Grenada is worth saving it will, given time, save itself. If it doesn't, it isn't worth saving. West Indian Ramshackle is a state of mind. You either grow out of it, or you don't. In either case, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter, because in the long run, nobody can do anything about it, except the people involved. You either end up like Haiti, or you don't.

It is said that there are sermons in stones. There are sermons in Grenada, too. For all of us. And I would like, once again, to quote H.L. Mencken. In life, he said, there are neither rewards nor punishments. Only consequences.

WE IGNORED CARIBBEAN SECURITY

Says Canadian External Affairs Minister
by Ramesh Deosaran

During his Caribbean visit last month, Canadian Minister for External Affairs, MR. JEAN LUC PEPIN, gave an exclusive interview to Dr. RAMESH DEOSARAN, Lecturer at the St. Augustine campus of UWI. In this interview, Mr. Pepin talks about the Grenada crisis, criticises the U.S. actions, and explores the possibility of reconciliation.

DEOSARAN: Mr. Pepin, is your presence in the Caribbean a struggle by Canada to maintain the spirit of brotherhood which has long lasted between the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada and which, from some appearances, is now strained because of the favoured position of the U.S. held by some Caribbean states over the Grenada crisis?

PEPIN: Well, first of all let me raise some points over this issue. There was not enough consultation before the U.S. took action. Some people would tell you that had there been enough consultation among all the parties, a peaceful way might have been found. It is vital to me that countries have an obligation to exhaust all avenues for peaceful solution.

We in Canada had been told just the night before the joint U.S.-OECs action in Grenada, leaving us with the possibility of calling a meeting of the concerned parties. It is also difficult for us to believe that you had to have a full-scale invasion or rescue as the Americans call it.

Any group of countries planning an invasion must think of the consequences. For example, any revolutionary group, X,Y,Z, could take over Anguilla, or even South Africa could

undertake an invasion with justification...so we must think of the consequences.

Then the talk of saving democracy is a difficult one to understand. Look at Nigeria where a military has taken over an elected government. Would the Americans now go to Nigeria to save democracy? But of course, if you will allow me, we are not fighting a war of ideas on this subject.

We have our views, we are not infallible, and whosoever disagrees, well, let them suit themselves. Right now, I think we must still try to see how the whole situation could be resolved.

Rejected force

DEOSARAN: Some Caribbean Governments including the Trinidad and Tobago government rejected force as a first step in handling the Grenada situation. Is this the same view of Canada, in that at what point would you have actually recommended force, if such was desirable at all?

PEPIN: Well, as the United Nations Charter commands, you must exhaust all avenues of peaceful settlement. Were they exhausted in this Grenada issue? Well, you have to be a strong believer to think so. We don't think so.

We were just consulted the night before. Now you are a thinking man, and you have a situation in the Caribbean where all countries are in favour of ideolog-

ical diversity or pluralism. Yet some of the Caribbean leaders I have met will tell you yes, we are in favour of ideological pluralism but there are limits to that when a country like Grenada imports into the region ideas of violence in the conduct of policy.

The next question from you and me is well, who is going to decide the limits? Is it Mrs. Charles, Mr. Reagan. It is terribly complicated. This is not like playing baseball.

DEOSARAN: Don't you think that some caution ought to be had in your current consultations with the different governments in the Caribbean in that the views of some of these governments may not necessarily reflect those of the majority of people they govern? Now I agree that sometimes principles should not bow to majority pressures. But in this case what is the implication if there are discrepancies?

PEPIN: That is why we in Canada are not fanatical about the subject. I come here and talk to people and try to see about now, what do we do about the situation now.

The debate we have among ourselves in Canada is when is "now" since there are so many documents and reports for us to study. Now you are a thinking man, I repeat. I have just had a debate over whether Bishop is over-turning to the left or to the right...It is amazing how deep one's reasoning could get in matters of this sort.

DEOSARAN: Do you think that members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States have now moved away from Canada because of Canada's position over the joint U.S.-OECs action in Grenada?

PEPIN: I don't think so, and this is something I want to emphasise. Canada has a rather romantic view that all these problems, the Grenada problem, the Central American problem, are all socio-economic problems.

The Americans will smile to that and say "How nice," because to them there are socio-economic problems and there are security problems. Canada has indulged in the luxury of neglecting the issue of security in the Caribbean. In this area of security, we are lost. We do a little bit with police training, military and coast guard training...But really, this is not ensuring the security of the Caribbean region.

So when it comes to a matter of Caribbean security, as in the case of Grenada, Mrs. Charles, Mr. Compton and the others, think that their protection lies in the hands of the United States of America.

DEOSARAN: Isn't this situation linked to the fact that Canada is outside the arms race, especially in the nuclear build-up?

PEPIN: No, I think this has always been the case, ever since Britain ceased being at the zenith of her imperialistic powers. If she was, that would have been her job.

DEOSARAN: So all in all, there was really no good reason for the OECs to call on Canada to deal with the Grenada issue?

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ernemnt's

his recent consulta-
tions with some world
leaders on the need
for more severe and
expeditious controls
over nuclear arms?

PEPIN: Well, there are two parts to Mr. Trudeau's mission. The first one is a political message which says, hey look, there is danger ahead, so it is time that the politicians take their responsibilities and stop leaving it all up to the diplomats and the specialists on armament. This is a job for politicians. The second message is the range of consensus obtained on related matters. It is also interesting that the Chinese who first said that they would not meet the Prime Minister are now coming back saying that they would.

take part in the security
of the Caribbean re-
gion...but we have not
really addressed that
question yet.

DEOSARAN: In
terms of international
security, do you think
that your Prime Min-
ister, Mr. Trudeau
has been successful in

Cleaner

MARCH 11 1984

Press Freedom, Barbados and Grenada

by Herbie Arthur

THE PARTY ORGAN of the governing party in Barbados, the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), the Beacon, delivered itself of an editorial in its August 5, 1983 issue the consequences of which must give the lie to its own self-contained absurdity: the Beacon called for government control of the local media of mass communication.

Although this is an event which took place a long time ago it is important to come back to it at this time because of the recent claims by certain Caribbean regimes to be so committed to the principles of democracy that they were prepared to run the risks of going to war in order to preserve it for the Caribbean region as a whole. I speak of course of the infamous Grenada invasion in which the BLP government played no small part.

I have never been able to follow nor logically accept the argument in favour of the invasion. But I cannot fail to take note of the deep sense of satisfaction the pro-invasionists appear to feel today about the outcome of the exploits they so passionately supported. And I take particular note that the Caribbean Press which gave stout support to the cause seems unrelenting in its efforts to prove that it has been vindicated.

But I wonder whether any in this group has ever paused for a single moment to consider whether any of the governments of the Caribbean would have genuinely been any worse off today had the Americans found it inconvenient or unnecessary to have become involved and consequently Grenada had been left along to sort out their own problems.

It is my thesis that in the light of the behaviour of some of these self-styled "liberating" Caribbean governments their willingness to commit their countries to battle over Grenada should be emphatically rejected as a test of their commitment to democracy. And I am using the incidents surrounding the infamous Beacon editorial as an illustration.

Now it is axiomatic that the freedom of the Press is the linchpin of true democracy and it must therefore follow that any government which profess a commitment to the democratic principles must not only respect the principle of Press freedom but must also do all in its power to encourage and promote it.

Caribbean journalists may not wish to believe that it was the regional

news agency CANA which first pounced upon the Beacon's rude assault while the local Barbadian Press remained either in ignorance, fear, stupor, or slumber. But their doubts will dissipate when they go to the August 16 issue of the Barbadian daily, the *NATION* and read the back page story written from a CANA source and encaptioned "Media Control! Cries Beacon".

And on August 17 another leading daily the Barbados *Advocate-News* carried on page 2 a stout defence of the Beacon's editorial stance by information minister Senator Nigel Barrow. Here Barrow is reported as having "pointed out that on the reading of the editorial he noted that it neither called for media control by government nor ... put any case for government having a final say on news."

He went on to quote with approval precisely that section of the editorial which the Press eventually discovered to have been particularly offensive to them, claiming that its omission (presumably by CANA) served only to "distort" the views expressed by the editorial writer.

In light of this it would be an eminently reasonable conclusion to draw that the editorial view is at least not inconsistent with that of the minister's with regard to the government's relation to the Press.

It took another two days for editorial resistance to break out: the *NATION* spoke "vehemently": "We won't Surrender Our Right" objecting in "the strongest terms" but feeling fortified by an assurance from minister Barrow and carried on the front page of the same issue that the Beacon editorial went "against the policy of the BLP government."

In this front page story captioned "Beacon Put Out" Senator Barrow was quoted as having said that "the practice of government has not been what is reflected in that editorial ..." which he had earlier cleared as innocuous and proper.

But Mr. Barrow failed to recant from the construction he had originally placed upon the editorial and therefore no other conclusion can be come to than that his own views, like those of the editorial writer also go "against the policy of the BLP government". In his later statement he can be taken to have spoken as a man instructed against his will and better judgment.

How does all this square with the commitment to democracy and to the principles of the Westminster model of government having regard to the role of the Press in a democracy?

But, ironically, Mr. Barrow managed to secure the support of the Press throughout the entire fiasco: the *NATION* editorial of AUGUST 19 absolved

him completely, stating emphatically that he had "repudiated the editorial", it was "counter to all that (Barrow) had been saying publicly and doing privately since assuming office."

The *NATION* must have known what private intercourse they had had with the nation's minister of information but their view did not square with that of most of the former staff of the government-run Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which falls within Barrow's portfolio, nor of some of those still attached who dared to speak out.

But the Press must have known that this was not really funny because Barrow had only quite recently managed to slap down the prime minister publicly over certain remarks he had made about his willingness to allow the local calypsonians to manage their own affairs in planning for the Barbadian cultural festival, the "Crop-Over Festival", an eminently democratic position for the prime minister to adopt.

But the Press "chose their man" and backed him to the hilt.

But what of the *Advocate-News*? They never managed to chime in until August 21 in an editorial brutum fulmen about "Muzzling the Media" in which they lamented the embarrassment to "the party".

Also speaking in this issue was the recently formed Barbados Association of Journalists jointly headed by Guyanese journalist Rickey Singh who was one of the "casualties" of the Grenada affair. They were at this point expressing dismay over the editorial and welcoming the minister's statement dissociating the Barbados government from it.

It is now for Mr. Singh to know whether the Barbados government was so dissociated or not.

But the real revelation of the crisis afflicting the Barbadian Press lies in the *NATION* editorial of Friday, August 19 where it was triumphantly trumpeted: "Had the Beacon been allowed to get away with its sinister proposals, the way would have been clear for government to move in and implement policy."

How foolish and how dishonest can we get?

The leading newspapers of Barbados never uttered a whisper against the offending editorial until the minister, it appears, was instructed to clear the government's name, and it was then safe for the Press to rant and rave.

So who stopped the government from getting away with what? And why would the government have moved in to implement policy based on views which "go against" their own policy?

It is too often that I have to wonder whether the Press of Barbados know its role, its function, the true extent of its power, or most of all how to respect itself.

Clearer MARCH 13, 1984

PRG supporters regroup for test of public mood before elections

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 11 (CANA)

Supporters of the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) which ruled Grenada for four-and-a-half years before it was ousted last October 19 are regrouping and in the process feeling out public reaction in advance of general elections later this year.

The NJM, which came to power in a coup on March 13, 1979, was itself overthrown in a military takeover by a radical faction after a leadership feud with moderates.

Supporters are using the platform of a newly formed charity foundation in honour of Maurice Bishop, the NJM Prime Minister, and more than 110 others who lost their lives in the bloody coup that triggered a US-led invasion.

Leaders say they have not addressed the question of elections but they have made a number of moves clearly designed to test public reaction, in addition to the stated aim of preserving Bishop's memory. These include the launching last month of the "Maurice Bishop and the October 19, 1983 Martyrs Foundation," and the first issue yesterday of a monthly newsletter **Peoples Heroes**.

The next step is the celebration of the fifth anniversary Tuesday of the 1979 coup, the first in the English-speaking Caribbean. The NJM had planned lavish festivities including the opening of the Point Salines International Airport, their show-piece project, and on which construction halted when U.S. troops invaded.

The celebrations are taking place against the backdrop of charges of murder and conspiracy to murder brought last month against 18 of the country's former political and military leaders -- all NJM members -- arising out of the slaying of Bishop and three members of his cabinet.

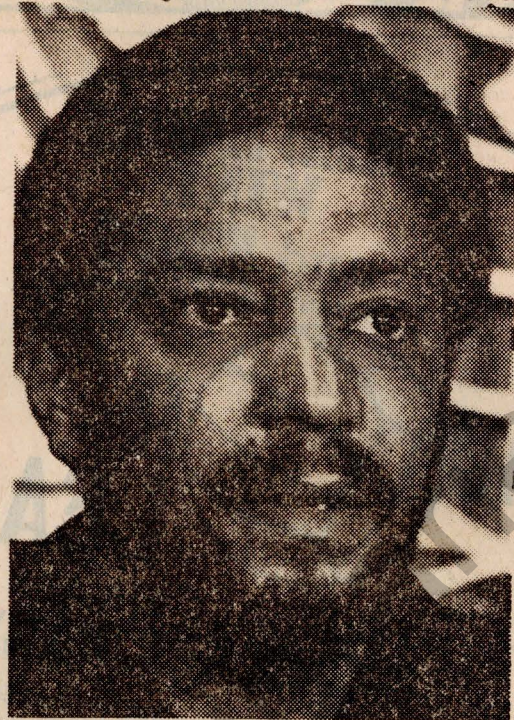
Former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and ex-army commander, General Hudson Austin, were charged with conspiracy to murder along with nine others under a 1980 terrorism prevention law passed by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) as the NJM regime called itself.

Seven former soldiers of the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) were charged with the murder of Bishop, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Housing Minister Norris Bain and four others.

The Foundation was founded by the three PRG ministers not killed or in detention George Louison, Lynden Ramdhanny, and Kendrick Radix who had distanced themselves from the radical faction.

It's festivities will centre on an exhibition and cultural show involving regional artists and calypsonians.

Although March 13 has been removed by the new Grenada government as one of the official



BISHOP.....victim of internal party squabble.

public holidays, the Foundation in its weekend newsletter said the day remains "the most important positive historic date in the Grenada calendar, despite efforts to whitewash it from the minds of the Grenadian people."

The achievements listed by **Peoples Heroes** during the reign of the PRG include free education, medical care and milk distribution, as well as a housing repair programme, and cheaper consumer items such as sugar, rice, flour and cement.

Also mentioned were expanded port facilities, additional telephone facilities, the setting up of an agro-industrial plant and the construction with Cuban assistance of the international airport in the south of the island.

The airport is now due to be completed by the end of October with American and Canadian

funds, after the Cuban workers on the site were expelled.

Reaction to Tuesday's planned activities is mixed here with the government publicly stating that it is in no way connected with plans of the organisers.

Last night, head of the Grenada Government Nicholas Brathwaite said the caretaker administration has no intention of celebrating March 13 and the request made by the Foundation to government (to bring in foreign entertainers) was intended to create "confusion" since this was not an issue.

"I have said many times before and even in my recent broadcast to the nation that I hope that things like March 13 and October 19 do not ever return to this country," Brathwaite told CANA.

Additionally, the Government Information Service (GIS) in frequent announcements on the state-owned "Radio Grenada" this weekend, said that March 13 is not a public holiday and schools would be opened as usual and all government workers and others should report to duty on Tuesday.

Enthusiasm for the occasion seems most among the youth where the PRG drew its support.

Former Agriculture Minister Louison states that no amount of "undermining" can wash out the fundamental importance of the "Grenada revolution" in bringing benefits to Grenadians.

The significance of March 13, according to Louison cannot be washed away and as such the Foundation intends to celebrate the event every year "and we think whether March 13 is a public holiday or not the people of this country would want to celebrate it."

"I think everybody in this country as well as people throughout the Caribbean and the rest of the world recognise the importance that March 13 meant for the participation of the people in the development of this country for their social, political, cultural and economic development," he added.

Louison said the Foundation which is now in the process of setting up branches throughout the country would prefer to have March 13 on the list of public holidays and would work towards this aim.

"We think that it is such a critical date in the history of our country that there is no way in which we can see it as not being a public holiday, and in fact it is more important than many other days that are celebrated as public holidays in this country."

Grenada and the CBI: a case for federation

By Suzanne Soracco

NEW YORK: March 2:

During his lecture at Columbia University on February 23, Mr. Michael Manley responded to questions on a number of issues of importance to Jamaica which point to the need for a West Indian Federation. Although he did not develop his argument that far, it is inevitable that sooner or later we will have to address the problems and opportunities presented by Grenada, the CBI and other major issues in the light of a new movement toward a formalised Caribbean political structure.

Mr. Manley criticised the CBI, as he always has, for being a foreign policy exercise in "non-regional bilateral favouritism." He suggested instead that Washington develop a "Good Neighbour Policy" which would "invite if not challenge" the Caribbean nations to work through existing regional structures such as CARICOM and the Caribbean Development Bank to devise programmes for regional development to which Washington might lend its support.

It is a reasonable proposal, but perhaps some responsibility for the Reagan Administration's bilateral approach rests with the Caribbean itself. I do not recall CARICOM, for instance, asking Washington for assistance in creating an overall development plan. While duty-free access to U.S. markets is available to all nations included in the CBI, grants and loans tend to be made on a project-by-project basis. The United States has limited objectives which usually fall into the categories of trade or strategic considerations, or both, and long-range development of any particular nation or region is neither its concern nor its responsibility.

CBI aside, if we had achieved structural integration earlier we would not have had the dislocations in CARICOM trade caused by the introduction of the parallel market last year. It is also possible that Jamaica would not have incurred so much external debt in the last few years if

negotiation for external loans had to be made or approved by a Federal government.

Suspicion revised

The Grenada issue loomed large in The Gleaner's published report of Mr. Manley's speech, but I think it is worth noting here that his earlier suspicion of CIA infiltration as the cause of the New Jewel Movement's downfall has been revised; he now says "What happened inside Grenada was a major tragedy. They (NJM) themselves must accept responsibility." This is a much more realistic assessment, in my view, than his earlier reported remarks about "a plant at the centre of power" in Grenada.

But a Federal government, if we had one, might have averted the whole disaster. It would provide a stabilising force, a check on the abuses of a Gairy in the first place and a protection against insurrection or revolution.

Mr. Manley still maintains that U.S. intervention in Grenada was "wrong on principle...no nation has the right to solve the problems of another country." Perhaps it is wrong on principle. But during the "invasion" itself I grew very tired of hearing, from members of the U.S. liberal establishment, the Congressional Black Caucus and people at the UN that Grenadians had an absolute and divine right to determine their own destiny. How grand that sounded, and how easy for them to say, sitting in the safety of their comfortable offices in New York or Washington! I asked them if someone held a gun to their head, would they consider it an infringement of their right to self-determination if a stranger disarmed their assailant. They said this is different: the nation-state is sovereign.

Now is it, I wonder? Or should it be? There is a generally-accepted principle that a man's home is his castle; yet if you hear gunfire in the house next door, or someone is violently beating a child and you hear the cries of pain, it is cruel indifference and a neglect of civic duty to shrug and say you have no right to intrude upon the privacy of that home. In such a situation the authority of the community overrides the authority of the house-

hold; either you intervene personally, if you can without endangering your own life, or you call the police.

In the case of Grenada there was no internationally recognised "police." The UN peacekeeping force is not designed for such an emergency and cannot be mobilised instantly. Just this week there was a veto in the UN Security Council on the issue of sending a peacekeeping force into Lebanon. If the UN had been the agent responsible for Grenada's rescue, they might still be debating resolutions about it today. Mr. Manley also maintained that a group of Caribbean nations had no legal right to invite the United States to intervene in Grenada. This is a narrowly correct view in the present circumstances. But if we had a Federation last fall, we would have had a Caribbean military force with established authority to deal with the problem, and perhaps there would have been no need for an external power to intervene.

Most urgent

Mr. Manley also addressed the issue of the coming elections in Grenada, which he dismissed in advance as "a superficial exercise." Of the PNP's boycott of the December elections, he said, "By taking a stand about it, we will have saved democracy for Jamaica." Again, if we had a Federal government now, we would have had a Federal electoral commission to oversee the electoral process in the Federated territories which would act as a restraint upon irregular or improper practices. And then perhaps nobody would feel impelled to save democracy by boycotting a general election.

The question of the nature and extent of national sovereignty is an important one. We in the Caribbean must look seriously at our pretensions to nationhood and at what each individual island can hope to achieve in that direction. There are so many reasons to create a West Indian nation now — for co-ordinated and complementary rather than competitive and repetitive development programmes; for improved trade and ease of fiscal management; for political stability and to provide for the common defence. These are old reasons: we heard them in the 50s, we heard them in the 20s. But the imperative for unified action is more urgent now than it ever was.

Steen March 13 1984

Relations with Cuba still undecided

ST. GEORGE'S, March 12, (CANA):

Nearly four months after taking office, Grenada's provisional Government is still to work out an official position on the question of future relations with Cuba, chairman of the Advisory Council, Nicholas Brathwaite, has said.

Brathwaite, who is responsible for Foreign Affairs, said although no official position has been taken on relations with Havana, Grenada did not wish to break off relations with the Communist country.

"We have not got to the point where Council has discussed in any formal way the future of the relationship between the two countries," he told reporters.

There is a Cuban Charge d'affaires in Grenada, and Brathwaite said from his own stand point he

would prefer to see relations between St Georges and Havana at the level of non-resident ambassadors.

Grenada was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean during the 1979-83 regime of the left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) which toppled the Sir Eric Gairy Government in a March 1979 coup.

Relations between the two countries were downgraded, after a U.S.-led invasion here last October to topple a military junta that had seized power in a bloody coup after killing NJM Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Following the military intervention, Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon expelled Cuban ambassador Julian Torres Rizo and all other Cuban diplomats and workers except Charge d'Affaires, Gaston Diaz.

UWI Libraries

Gleaner March 14 1984

● BISHOP'S COUP:

No sign of celebration in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, March 13, (CANA):

It was business as usual in Grenada today with no indication it was the anniversary of an unforgettable date in the island's history.

The English-speaking Caribbean's first coup d'etat on March 13, 1979, gave Grenada its first left-wing Government which ruled until last October 19 when it was toppled by the Army. U.S.-led troops invaded six days later to oust the military Government.

Government offices, schools and business places were open following frequent weekend radio announcements that today was a normal working day. During the reign of the deposed New Jewel Movement (NJM) regime, March 13 was a public holiday.

The Interim Government effectively scuttled plans for a big NJM celebration involving regional performers, when it refused entry to a top Barbadian calypsonian the Mighty Grynner. The organisers advised other invited Caribbean artists not to come.

Ex-NJM Agriculture Minister George Louison accused the administration of a deliberate attempt to thwart the anniversary activities but he said they would go on with local musicians. An exhibition highlighting the NJM's workers, including that of its slain leader Maurice Bishop, and poetry reading are planned for tonight at St. Pauls Community Centre outside St. George's.

In a statement today, Louison said "we believe that March 13 has signified a new beginning for our people and was able to give new aspirations and hope to the Grenadian people as a whole."

The Interim Government, whose chairman Nicholas Brathwaite has disapproved of the celebrations, has not made any statement on the decision not to allow entry to the Mighty Grynner.

THE DAILY GLEANER, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1984

Thompson for Grenada

Mr. Dudley Thompson, attorney-at-law, will leave for Grenada during the next few days "in an attempt to join the legal team being put together to defend members of the New Jewel Movement, who have been charged with murder and conspiracy to murder arising out of the events of last October 19, in which the Prime Minister and NJM leader, Maurice Bishop, and some members of his Cabinet, were killed."

Mr. Thompson spoke of his plan to travel to Grenada, as he officially opened an exhibition on Grenada, titled "Grenada Update", and put on by the Jamaica Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Grenada, at the Creative Arts Centre, on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies.

In his speech, and in an interview given subsequently, Mr. Thompson emphasized that he was not at this time going to represent anyone in court, but to add to the effort to secure a proper trial for those detained, including the institution

of proper proceedings in the court.

A release issued by the Jamaica Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Grenada, said that Mr. Thompson praised Jamaican attorney, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, who had been representing those detained in Grenada's Richmond Hill Prison. He said she was being harassed by the Grenadian authorities, and that she had shown courage in undertaking a task "which she should not have been left alone to bear."

He said he hoped to see a team of lawyers from countries throughout the Caribbean and other Commonwealth countries participate in the defence effort to ensure that those

charged received a fair trial.

Mr. Thompson said that those detained in the Richmond Hill prison were now being denied their human rights, and they would be heartened by the Committee's exhibition. He called for the memory of the Grenada Revolution to be kept alive.

Also speaking at the opening was well known Jamaican attorney and political ideologue, Mr. Richard Hart, who was Attorney-General in Grenada, during the last months of the PRG.

The aim of the exhibition is to publicize the situation in Grenada -- what it was before the revolution; what obtained during the revolution; what it was at the time of the invasion and the present, in which a

campaign for human rights for Grenadians, has been launched.

On Tuesday night, the Committee will put on a function to mark the fifth anniversary of the Grenada Revolution at the Inter-Faculty Lecture Theatre on the Mona Campus. At that function, there will be audio-visual displays, music, poetry and an update on the present situation from a legal point of view.

Gleaner March 15, 1984

Grenada gets aid from OAS

WASHINGTON,
March 14, (CANA):

The Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Interim Government of Grenada today signed an agreement allowing for the carry-over of US\$100,000 budgeted for assistance to Grenada last year which went unused, an OAS statement said.

The funds will be used to enhance the Interim Government's development planning capabilities.

Denis Noel, the interim representative of Grenada to the OAS, said at the signing: "I wish to thank the General Secretariat and the OAS for the support it has given to Grenada particularly at this point in time when, as we all know, we are going through great pains."

"The OAS was the first international organisation to come to the assistance of Grenada...and we are grateful and indebted to them for approaching the situation we have faced with understanding and maturity," said Noel.

Assistant Secretary General, Val T. McComie, who signed the agreement for the OAS, said: "As a national of the Caribbean, it is gratifying that the OAS has been able to respond...when questions are being asked about the efficacy of the organisation, it is gratifying to hear Noel's words of praise."

McComie said: "This is a moment of particular personal satisfaction for me to sign an agreement...to help Grenada meet short-term needs of manpower for long-term planning."

"We further pledge our assistance and commitment to you in the tasks ahead," stated the assistant Secretary General.

Noel reaffirmed his Government's objective "to bring back the country to constitutional status in which free and fair elections will be held."

Last January, the OAS sent a team of experts to Grenada to meet with the island's officials regarding development priorities.

Grenada

THE EDITOR, Sir:—
I would like to make it crystal clear that I go to Grenada holding no brief whatsoever for those who murdered Maurice Bishop and the leadership of his Government.

I am not going as a politician but in my capacity as a lawyer and because I believe that those held for the killing of Bishop must be brought to justice speedily and others who have been detained must be charged and tried.

In the emotional response to the horrifying events that occurred in Grenada and based on whether we agreed or disagreed with the Bishop Government's policy on detainees, many of us have developed a dangerous indifference to the question of human rights in that country.

It is dangerous because as responsible Caribbean people, we cannot allow emotionalism to permit precedence to be set for the erosion of the judicial system and the administration of justice in any part of the region.

In addition, I have received some disturbing reports from eminent lawyers and international personalities, including Dame Judith Hart of Britain who is chairing a human rights committee looking into the treatment of detainees in that country.

It is against this background that as a lawyer I felt it my duty to accept a request to assist in efforts to see that those in custody are not deprived of basic human rights.

I am, etc,
DUDLEY
THOMPSON, Q.C.
March 13, 1984

Colonel MARCH 18 1984

● WINDOW on the WORLD

...by VINCENT TULLOCH

Grenada elections: speed could spell disaster

LAST WEEK this newspaper published a feature article, the gist of which was that the New Jewel Movement had launched a campaign to test public reaction to its moderate wing, ahead of the scheduled general elections.

In view of the mood of the country where it is obvious that under United States' pressure, aided and abetted by a number of Caribbean Governments, including Jamaica, an election which is not wanted is being forced on a populace, it is useful at this time to examine the state of affairs there.

It has now been established that the followers of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy are in the best position to take advantage of an election, whenever it is called. Despite not being actively involved in political organisation for nearly five years, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of Eric Gairy is set to emerge as the dominant party in any elections and, of course, will dictate terms whether

it forms the government or not.

The other six parties or so, including the New Jewel Movement must scramble for the remainder of seats. The New Jewel Movement even before the October crisis was losing ground, but it should never be taken for granted that the party has been written off the political scene.

Still sway the young

The party still commands a sizeable percentage of the young votes in the age range of 18 to 35 years and will no doubt try to redouble its efforts among that sector in a bid to gain representation in the new parliament which will govern under the nose of the occupying American/Caribbean Peace-keeping Force.

Pretending at this stage that a new government in the country will govern without keeping its ears open to the views of the Commander of the American/Caribbean Force is to indulge in fantasy.

In fact, what remains of the information service in the country suggests that the New Jewel Movement may not get a fair chance in contesting the election. Are not Grenadians being prejudiced by repeated broadcasts that Cubans and possibly rebel nationals are still hiding in the hills? And this is being done with the full support of the Americans even though authoritative Caribbean military sources told me that such claims are virtually unfounded.

So in addition to the behind-the-scenes manipulation of events by the Americans which will ensure that a staunch pro-American administration emerges, comes the news of unnecessary pressure on the remnants of the NJM.

Grateful, but..

The Grenadians are grateful for the assistance that they received from the Americans and others,

(Continued on Page 15)

Grenada elections

(Contd. from Page 7)

but like all other nationals with patriotic dignity, they would love to be given a chance to try and work out their future at the pace they like.

Forcing an election, merely to impress the international community that democracy has been restored, will not solve the long-term problems of the country. Let's be frank, if the American idea of democratic elections is to be measured by, say, that which has been staged and are to be staged again in El Salvador, then it would probably be better not to have elections. It would be a mere farce.

So while outsiders push to tell Grenadians what to do and when to do it, would it not be better if for a change they start to listen to what the Grenadians are saying. Too much pressure on the Grenadians could be the recipe for disaster in the future.

Time for U.S publishers aid press in Grenada

March, 1984:

Across the desk was the dean of Grenadian journalism, 64-year-old Alister Hughes, looking into the future from the cluttered office in his St. George's hilltop home, outlining the necessity of an instant comeback of his profession on the underdeveloped Spice Island.

"We need young journalists," declared Hughes, the silver-haired editor of a West Indian newsletter, who also serves as a stringer for several North American news organizations. "Give them pencils and pads and turn them loose. We don't have time now to train them, to send them to journalism schools abroad. We've got to get communications moving right away."

What he described as the U.S. "rescue mission" had ended four long years of tyranny, disguised as "revolution," under Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Hughes himself had been rescued from prison by invading troops, along with scores of other professionals who had refused to buckle under to the Castro-type government. He had paid a heavy price. Over the years, his phone had been disconnected, his car impounded, and he had even been beaten by "goons." But Hughes still refused to give up the concept of a free press.

The future looked grim and risky, considering the sparse resources of home-grown talent. Rebuilding a nation is a slow process after a "brain drain" in which hundreds of the educated have fled persecution. Upwards of 6,000 young people, trained for the army to ease unemployment under Bishop's rule, roamed the island, jobless and disenchanted, while some Americans back

in the States, caught up in political controversy, demanded that U.S. forces leave the island.

Telltale signs

Months after the invasion, there were the telltale signs of an economy in limbo — deserted guest and vacation houses, pothole-scarred roads, and bombed-out police and military installations. There were also glaring warnings of unrest — the ex-Bishop officials languishing in prison, anti-American signs and slogans plastered on walls, and fear gnpping people caught up in a situation they could not quickly change.

As simplistic as was Hughes' formula, it caught fire. Print and broadcast journalists from neighbouring islands pitched in to help publish a weekly newspaper and to assist the U.S. military in putting a radio station back on the air. During the fighting, Cubans had destroyed extensive radio equipment. The newspaper had to be printed in Barbados or Jamaica and then shipped to Grenada. There were far more spirit and devotion than facilities and supplies.

Bright spot

This unpublicized vitality of Caribbean news and women is one of the bright spots in the bloody Grenada episode. Freedom of the press is a paramount issue that the region's "news flock" believes in and fights for.

As a guest at the 40th anniversary conference of the Jamaican Press Association in Kingston, I was impressed with the dedication and the striving for excellence of the men and women in the Caribbean's Fourth Estate.

A U.S. Information Service invitation to conduct a Caribbean lecture tour concided with the plan of my publisher for me to visit Grenada. In six island nations, I talked with broadcasting officials, publishers, editors and reporters, learning, among other things, about their joint effort to expose conditions in Grenada right up to the downfall of the Bishop regime.

Throughout the trip, I heard one point made again and again. Carib

journalists, who consider themselves frontyard rather than backyard neighbours, feel that Uncle Sam's news media ignore them — except during times of conflict or uprising. There are few links such as organization membership, technical assistance or study opportunities in the United States, despite the desire of the Carib press people for a closer association with American journalists. Ironically, even the black press in the States fails to cover these islands with their heavy percentage of African descendants. The fact that the islands are only a few flying hours from Miami makes it very difficult to explain the black press' affinity for African affairs.

American and Caribbean journalists

What also disturbed me was the distance between priorities of American and Caribbean journalists relating to Grenada. The first U.S. outcry on Grenada was not over the presence of hundreds of American medical students in a country without any semblance of human rights, but over the exclusion of American reporters in the initial stages of the invasion. U.S. news organizations spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to deploy helicopters, yachts and planes to dispatch reporters to the scene. But it was a handful of West Indian newspapers that moved zealously to help Grenadians restart their own press.

A free press well could be the key to whether Grenada will rise like a star in a democratic sky or fall like a comet in an ideological nightmare. Grenada's journalists are some of the most courageous anywhere in the world. Like Alister Hughes, many have been imprisoned, tortured and beaten, yet they still share a determination to put their nation back together via a free press.

Typical is the bittersweet philosophy of ex-broadcasting station manager Jerry Romain, who was held five years in prison without charges except that he opposed Marxist rule. Shrugging his shoulders, the slender black man sighed, "I've just wasted the five years I was in prison. But at least I'm alive."

P.S. My publisher, Johnson Publishing Co., Inc., contributed \$2,000 to help Hughes get his crash journalism programme off of the ground. And I am delighted that ANPA is donating \$30,000 for the purchase of a press for The Grenadian Voice.

Gleaner March 19, 1984

Grenada expects more visitors from America

ST. GEORGE'S, March 18, (CANA):

GRENADA ANTICIPATES THAT ITS improved relations with the United States would lead to more American visitors coming to the island in the near future according to the newly appointed Director of Tourism Richard Sherman.

Sherman told CANA that with relations between Grenada and the United States on the improve since last October's U.S.-led military intervention there was no doubt that "the U.S. market is once again going to become the predominant one."

Relations between the two countries were cold under the left wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) deposed in last October's bloody military coup.

A Multi-National Force toppled the military Government on October 25.

Sherman said he felt the proximity of the United States to Grenada would be a boost to the island's tourism which declined in the last few months in the aftermath of the political upheaval. 3,756 stay-over visitors came here in the last quarter of 1983, a drop of 29.2 per cent on the 1982 figure of 5,309.

He also spoke of a communique put out by the U.S. State Department indicating that Grenada is once again safe for visitors which was directed specifically at travel agents, tour operators, to the cruise ship industry and the consumer in general.

The Tourism Director also said he did not expect to see any "dramatic attempt" by the Interim Government to set up a tourism office in the Caribbean in an attempt to try and attract more West Indians to the island.

He said that for many years the Caribbean particularly the islands of

Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been one of the major market places for Grenada and there was no need to launch any immediate campaigns in this area.

"The Caribbean is not a new market to us but I think we must first of all concentrate on getting back those segments of the markets we have lost principally in North America and Europe," Sherman said.

On the question of whether the new Government would make changes to the tourism policy pursued by the previous administration, he stated that he did not anticipate any significant changes except in the area of marketing and in the type of visitors coming to the island.

Sherman said under the Bishop Government many persons were attracted to the island because of sympathy to the "Grenada revolution" but felt that with the new political situation which exist Grenada might once again see a return of the "traditional visitor" type.

"...I think that the mix is going to be slightly different in that you are going to find the traditional type visitor who used to come 10 to 20 years ago is going to once again return to Grenada.

"These are the type of people I can see coming back to Grenada in numbers, and we welcome that sort of thing but at the same time we welcome other persons coming to us whatever nationality, mix or political persuasion.

"We are not concerned with their beliefs and views that they hold. We are here to offer a product, and we feel that we have something good to offer," he added.

Cleaner March 19 1984

Grenada

THE EDITOR, Sir:— It is amusing to hear advocates for members of the former Bishop regime who have been charged for murder or conspiracy to murder, complaining that their human rights are being abused.

These are the same persons who were Bishop's colleagues when amnesty published their 1983 report on Grenada stating "Amnesty International's major concern was the continued detention without charge or trial of suspected opponents of the Government...." ".....Amnesty International continues to investigate the cases of the detainees held under Peoples Law No.8...."

It seems those now charged in Grenada and their advocates are in disagreement with the saying "what's good for the goose is good for the gander."

Their problem as is the problem of most politicians is that they fail to heed the warning "when yu dig a hole dig two."

I am, etc.,

JOAN WILLIAMS.

20 Bedford Pk. Ave.,

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March 2, 1984

Gleaner

MARCH 20 1984

Grenadian Govt. wants Gairy to pay back US\$176,000

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 19 (CANA)

The interim government in Grenada has asked former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy to repay 176,000 dollars (1 EC dollar ; 37 cents U.S.) owed to the state before his downfall in a March 1979 coup, administration sources said.

The sources said Sir Eric was recently handed a letter from the Ministry of Finance telling him to repay the money advanced as travelling expenses or face legal action.

Sir Eric returned to the country in January after nearly five years of exile in the United States following his ouster by the leftwing Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) which was also

toppled in an army coup last October. The interim administration was installed after a U.S.-led invasion removed the army from power.

The sources, who declined to be named, said that letters had been sent to ex-PRG Minister George Louison and the president of the senate under the Gairy Government, Greaves James in connection with money owed to the government.

No details have been given as to their arrears.

Last December Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon said that between 1979 and 1983 there were uncleared accountable advances in the sum of just over 3.5 million EC dollars in the names of PRG members.

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Gleaner MARCH. 20 1984

Jamaican attorney seeks release of 14 Grenadians

ST. GEORGE'S,
March 19 (CANA)

Jamaican lawyer Jacqueline Samuels-Brown today filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Grenada Supreme Court seeking to have the government charge or release 14 people detained in connection with last October's military coup, she said.

Among the persons

named in the writ are Hugh Romain, Cecil Prime, Keith Roberts, Raeburn Nelson, Basil Gahagan, and Rudolph Ogilvie of the short-lived Military Council that ruled for six days after an army coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and more than 100 others were killed.

The others men-

tioned were former Commissioner of Prisons Justin Roberts, as well as top intelligence officer Brian Pivott, Remy Noel, Crispin Hpolite, Gordon Raeburn, Martin Simon and George Paul, all former soldiers of the disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA).

Mrs. Samuels-Brown is arguing that the deten-

tion of the 14 persons at the top security Richmond Hill Prison is in violation of their rights under section 3 of the Grenada Constitution.

This section stipulates among other things that persons should not be deprived of their liberty except in cases where there is reasonable suspicion of the state by them having committed or being about to commit a criminal offence under the law of Grenada.

The Jamaican lawyer also contends in the writ filed against the commissioner of prisons that the continued detention of her clients violates section 13 of the constitution which deals with protection from discrimination on the grounds of race and other related subjects.

She said that "by ordering their detention and or by failing to order their release, the Advisory Council (Interim Government) of Grena-

da has treated them (detainees) in a discriminatory manner by reason of their political opinions."

Mrs. Samuels-Brown says in support of her argument that all 14 detainees are considered by the Grenadian authorities to have been associates of the left-wing New Jewel Movement or the deposed Peoples Revolutionary Government or the Peoples Revolutionary Army.

Additionally, she said their continued communications with the outside world have been "censored on political grounds" and that no allegations have been made against any of these detainees that they "have been party to any criminal activity."

eighteen of the detainees, said to number about 39, have so far been charged with murder or conspiracy to murder Bishop and seven others.

Cleaner

MARCH 20 1984

Enumeration of voters in Grenada to begin soon

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 19 (CANA)

Grenada Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon today signed the ordinance to guide the conduct of general elections later this year, government sources said.

The sources said that Sir Paul will tomorrow night tell Grenadians in a nationwide address that enumeration of voters will start on April 2 and run until May 12 - with a cut off date of August 31, 1984.

Grenadians have not voted since 1976. Elected government was torpedoed by two coups in March 1979 and October 1983, the last of which triggered a U.S. led invasion.

The interim administration installed after the military intervention has promised elections by the end of the year.

The polling ordinance makes provision for the appointment of enumerators, registration officers and two assistant supervisors of elections, as well as the registration of electors.

The newly opened electoral office headed by supervisor of elections Roy Chasteau was today with the assistance of two technicians from Jamaica carrying out a training programme for about 133 persons expected to be hired as photographers.

Jamaica has loaned to Grenada some 133 cameras to be used in preparing voter identification cards.

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Steaner march 22 1984

Editorials

MR. THOMPSON AND GRENADA

We see nothing wrong in Mr. Dudley Thompson, eminent Jamaican Queen's Counsel, going to Grenada to assist a fellow attorney, Mrs. Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, in making arrangements for the defence of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Coard and other detainees who are alleged to have conspired in the murder of Maurice Bishop, and who are to be tried in the Grenadian courts; because we believe Mr. Thompson's involvement to be at a professional level and should by no means indicate whether he supported any alleged actions by the Coards or by those who masterminded the murder of Maurice Bishop.

But we must endorse the views of our columnist, Dr. Carl Stone, who has strongly criticised those whom he calls the hypocritical bleeding hearts who are now shedding tears over the human rights of the detainees in Grenada while they were most silent over the detainees under Mr. Bishop's government. For it must be pointed out that whereas these detainees are to be offered a trial, those under Mr. Bishop, except for three alleged to be involved in a bombing incident,

were never tried and never charged. In fact, in the case of some detainees they were there simply because they dared to publish a cyclo-styled newspaper which was seized and which, by edict of Mr. Bishop, became illegal.

Human rights concerns cannot be looked at in the context of an eye for an eye, and therefore those in detention are entitled to a fair trial, even though if they had succeeded in remaining in power, if there had been no invasion by USA and Caribbean troops they would have denied any fair trial to the detainees. Yet those of us who believe in human rights cannot say that they should not be accorded all human rights possible, as fair a trial as possible in the circumstances of Grenada. It is, after all, their human right to be so tried.

What our columnist is calling for, and we support him, is for our human rights activists who are prepared to organise and to agitate for support for the detainees now in the Grenadian prisons to be consistent, a policy which so many have failed to adhere to.

Cleaner March 28 1984

Runcie visits Grenada

ST GEORGE'S, March 27, (CANA):

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Robert Runcie, reflecting on last October's bloody political disturbances in Grenada, said last night the Christian church has "a special role" to play here in building confidence and hope in the island's citizens.

Dr. Runcie, spiritual leader of the world Anglican communion, was delivering a sermon at the St. George's church here. His visit is part of a tour of Dioceses in the West Indies Anglican Province.

The Archbishop told the congregation he hoped that out of the upheaval would come "a new determination" in Grenadians to build a more united and stronger nation based on reconciliation, peace and justice.

"...As Christians and followers of the cross, we believe that some of the richest experiences of human living come not out of easy harmony but come where something that has gone wrong," he said.

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MARCH 30, 1984

Neal & Massy

Neal & Massy, Trinidad's largest conglomerate, is opening a soft drink factory in Grenada in a joint venture with the Grenadian firm McIntyre Brothers. The TT\$3.5 million (J\$5.15 million) project is the first private sector investment in Grenada since the invasion by U.S. and Caribbean forces last October.

According to a CANA report the soft drink plant, to be run by a new company called Consolidated Industries Ltd., is being erected at Tempe on the outskirts of St. Georges the Grenadian capital, and will employ 30 Grenadians.

During the initial stages of production Cannings, a Trinidadian soft drinks firm which is a part of the Neal & Massy conglomerate, will provide

technical and marketing assistance and bottles and plastic crates will also come from Port of Spain in Trinidad.

According to Neal & Massy, the plant will produce sufficient quantities to satisfy the entire Grenadian market, and the joint venture was a statement of faith in Grenada's economic future.

In commending Neal & Massy on this development we hope that this will be an invitation to other Caribbean firms including Jamaican firms to engage in joint ventures in Grenada as a sign of comradeship and friendship with that country struggling to recover its democracy after the ravages of a Gairy, and the dictatorship of a Bishop.

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

Cleaner March 31 1984

Media course opens in Grenada capital

ST. GEORGE'S, March 30, (CANA):

A five-week training course for Government media and public relations employees has opened here.

The course is conducted by Don Diment of Britain's Central Office of Information, one of the co-sponsors.

In declaring the course open, Nicholas Brathwaite, head of the Interim Advisory Council said his

four-month old administration would refrain from interfering in the free flow of information emanating from Government.

He promised an end to what he referred to as the type of propaganda used by the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and promised greater scope for Government media people to use their own initiative.

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