

Gleaner

August. 1, 1984



GIBBS photo:
MEMENTO OF GRENADA: Mr. Lelon R. Powell, Jamaican-born member of the U.S. Army Airborne Division, who were part of the first group of U.S. troops to see service in Grenada last year in the joint U.S.-Caribbean invasion of the island, is shown at Jamaica House yesterday morning presenting a plaque to the Prime Minister. Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, as a memento of that historic occasion. Mr. Powell, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, came to Jamaica specially to make the presentation.

UWI Library

Gleaner August 2, 1984

Brathwaite denies NJM banned

ST. GEORGES

From Alister Hughes

A statement alleging that the New Jewel Movement (NJM) has been banned by the authorities has been denied by Nicholas Brathwaite, Chairman of Grenada's Interim Government.

The statement alleged to have been made by Mrs. Phyllis Coard who, together with her husband Bernard and 18 other persons, is now on a charge of murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and 7 other people was published in the July 20 issue of the British publication *Caribbean Times*.

The statement is in a letter alleged to have been written last April by Mrs Coard and smuggled out of Richmond Hill Prison to Judith Hart, former member of the British Parliament and then Labour Minister for Overseas Development. Hart is now the President of the United Kingdom Committee for violation of Human Rights in Grenada.

"Neither the NJM nor any other political party has been banned in Grenada," Brathwaite said in an interview recently. "Such an action would be totally contrary to the system of democracy which now prevails in this country."

Brathwaite said the "remnant" of the NJM has regrouped itself into new forms under the names of the "Maurice Bishop and heroes of the 19th October foundation" and the "Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement," and these organisations have as much right and freedom as any other political party in Grenada.

Mrs Coard's letter charged also that the time allowed for barristers representing the accused has been limited to 6 hours per week. This charge has been refuted by Grenada's Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Velma Hilton.

Defence moves motion of unusual design

ST. GEORGES, July 31

Leader of the prosecution, Trinidadian Barrister Karl Hudson-Phillips, was the subject of special 'motion' placed before Chief Magistrate Lyle St. Paul today as the "Maurice Bishop" preliminary inquiry continues.

As he took his place at the prosecution's table today, Hudson-Phillips was very elegantly dressed in an olive-brown suit of unusual design.

Collarless, and worn over a brown, black and grey pin-striped shirt with a maroon tie, the jacket of there suit had four metal buttons running almost up to the neckline, but was worn completely open.

Addressing the court, defence Barrister Earl Witter, requested St. Paul's permission to make a statement before the inquiry began.

One area, he said, in which the prosecution has excelled at the inquiry is the area of "sartorial elegance."

"The attire of the learned leader of the prosecution is, strictly speaking, outside the normal dress of these courts," he said. "But it is deserving of the highest commendation."

Witter said the defence team offered Hudson Phillips "profound congratulations" and hoped to emulate him.

Replying, Hudson Phillips pointed out that Witter, seated at the defence table behind the prosecution table, was limited to the rear view of the suit only.

"The learned Magistrate from a front view", the leader of the prosecution said, "and I want to assure my learned friend Mr. Witter that that view also reflects the competence of my tailor."

Witter thanked Hudson Phillips and said the view of the suit from the defence table was not only rear but rare.

Cleaner Aug. 3 1984

Brathwaite cites dangers of unplanned tourism

ST. GEORGE'S, July 31.
(CANA)

Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of Grenada's interim government, says that while planned tourism brings benefits to a country, unplanned tourism can result in serious, social, cultural and environmental problems.

Brathwaite was, at the time, officially opening an Organisation of American States (OAS) seminar on "Integrated and Physical Planning for Tourism Development in Grenada."

"It is not enough to think of what we can get from tourism in economic terms," he said. "We must consider the various ways in which tourism can have adverse influences on our people, so that we can ensure that in planning for tourism and its development, we do not create serious problems in our society."

The chairman said consideration should be given also to the many linkages which can be established between the tourism sector and other sectors of the economy, and that it was important for as many people as possible to become involved in the tourism development exercise.

"We must not believe," Brathwaite said, "that only a single agency has the responsibility to plan for tourism development. We must appreciate the role which all of us can play in the development of this important industry."

Gleaner Aug. 8 1984

Trinidad told to hold Grenada aid package until after elections

PORT-OF-SPAIN,
Aug. 7, (CANA)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been told to hold an 11 million dollar (1 TT dollar ; 41 cents U.S) aid package to the interim administration in Grenada

until after general elections are held in the spice island.

This advice was contained in a minority report submitted to Prime Minister George Chambers, by Nizam Mohammed, a member of the 14-member

mission which visited Grenada last month.

Mohammed, an opposition Member of Parliament here, said it would be "prudent and in the interest of both peoples if we deferred requests for assistance in certain areas

pending the outcome of the general election and the installation of politically constituted authority with a popular mandate" in Grenada.

The Trinidad mission to Grenada spent eight days in the spice island in June following a Cabinet decision to allow a non-partisan mission from this country to assess ways and means of how the Government in Port-of-Spain could be of assistance to the people of Grenada, in the aftermath of last October's political crisis in the island.

"The other consideration we must be mindful of," Mohammed said, "is the declining economic fortunes of Trinidad and Tobago, and consequently, the capacity of this country to render assistance to (Caribbean Community) CARICOM countries on the scale that it did in the recent past."

UWI Library

I'm innocent says Coard

ST. GEORGE'S, Aug. 8,
(CANA)

Former Grenada Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard told a Magistrate's Court here today that he was innocent of murder charges brought against him in connection with last October's bloody army coup.

Coard was responding to queries from Magistrate Lyle St. Paul on whether he had anything to tell the court after he and 18 other former military and Government officials were committed to stand trial at the next sitting of the high court.

The charges, examined by a preliminary inquiry presided over by St. Paul, arose out of the October 19 slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three Cabinet colleagues and four others at army headquarters during a military coup.

"I am innocent of these charges, and I reserve my defence," the bearded Coard said from the docks of the specially built court.

The burly ex-Deputy Prime Minister appeared composed and well trimmed in size since he was taken into custody shortly after the October 25 U.S.-led invasion which toppled the short-lived military Government.

Most of the other officials charged along with Coard indicated to the Magistrate that they wished to reserve their



BERNARD COARD

right to comment at this stage but others made brief remarks.

UWI Libraries

Cleaner Aug. 9, 1984

19 ordered to stand trial for slaying of Bishop, others

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) A Grenada Magistrate Wednesday ordered 19 former Government and army officials to stand trial in the slayings of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and supporters.

Magistrate Lyle St. Paul, who heard testimony for six weeks in a Preliminary Inquiry, ordered one of 20 defendants set free. That was Ian St. Bernard, former Commissioner of Police and member of the Grenada army.

St. Paul said the trial will begin during the next regular sitting of Grenada's court. The date wasn't immediately available.

If convicted, the defendants, in-

cluding former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis and Gen. Hudson Austin, commander of the People's Revolutionary Army, would face sentences of death by hanging or life imprisonment.

Under the British legal system followed by this former colony, the inquiry testimony couldn't be reported publicly. The inquiry functioned similarly to a U.S. Grand Jury investigation.

The allegations against the defendants stemmed from a "palace coup" within Grenada's Leftist Government last year that led to the slaying of Bishop and resulted Oct. 25 in the U.S.-led invasion of the tiny Eastern Caribbean island.

Other key defendants are former

Mobilization Minister Selwyn Strachan, former Ambassador to Cuba Maj. Leon Cornwall, Maj. Chris Stroude, Lt. Col. Ewart Layne, and Lt. Col. Liam James.

most have been in custody since the first week after the Oct. 25 U.S.-led invasion, in which some 750 armed Cuban workers and the Grenada army were routed by U.S. invaders supported by troops from seven Caribbean nations.

They were detained without charge until their Feb. 22 indictment for murder or conspiracy in the Oct. 19 slayings of Bishop, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Housing Minister Norris Bain, and four other followers of Bishop.

After the February indictment hearing in the court building in downtown St. George's, a mob threw rocks at a bus carrying the defendants. Mrs. Coard, a Vice Minister in the deposed Government, was injured, police said.

Subsequent hearings and the inquiry were held at a makeshift courtroom in a building next to the Richmond Hill Prison.

The inquiry began June 27 after repeated postponements. The postponements stemmed from Myriad defense motions, including challenges to the court's authority. Defense attorneys charged Grenada

(Please turn to Page 3)

19 to stand trial

(Cont'd from Page 1)

doesn't have a legitimate government and that it isn't clear what law governs the island.

Bishop, who died at age 39, led a March 13, 1979, coup d'etat that ousted Sir Eric Gairy as Prime Minister and put his marx-influenced New Jewel Movement in power. He named Coard his deputy and finance minister.

Bishop established close ties with Cuba and had icy relations with the United States. He suspended Grenada's constitution and ruled without elections.

Party meeting records from the months leading to Bishop's death indicate Coard and his followers believed that while Bishop was popular with the masses, he lacked the ideological commitment and "Leninist discipline" the government needed.

On around Oct. 13, 1983, Bishop was placed under house arrest and Strachan later announced that Coard

was the New Prime Minister. Coard resigned from Government Oct. 15, saying he wanted to end vicious rumors being circulated about him and his wife.

The morning of Oct. 19, an estimated 10,000 people marched on Bishop's official residence and freed him. Bishop went to Fort Rupert, the army headquarters, and apparently planned to go on the National radio.

Three armored personnel carriers arrived at the fort and opened fire into the crowd. The death toll still isn't known, but at least ten deaths have been confirmed and dozens more reported.

Survivors who were with Bishop inside the fort say he put up his hands in surrender, and that soldiers led him, the three Cabinet Ministers, and four or five other supporters away, apparently for execution.

The other supporters killed with Bishop were union leaders Fitzroy Bain, Vincent Noel and Keith Hayl-

ing, insurance salesman Winston Bullen, and mechanic Evelyn Maitland. For reasons not explained in the indictment, Noel is not listed among those allegedly killed by the defendants.

The night of Oct. 19, Austin went on the national Radio Free Grenada to announce the slayings and said a revolutionary military council, headed by him and comprised of other army officers, was in charge. A 24-hour, shoot-on-sight curfew was imposed until Oct. 23.

President Reagan announced Oct. 25 that the U.S. military, on the invitation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, had invaded Grenada to safeguard the lives of some 700 American students at an off-shore medical school there and to provide regional security.

Most fighting was over within five days.

Coard, his wife, Strachan and Lt. Col. Liam James were arrested by U.S.

marines inside a house here Oct. 29, while Austin was captured Oct. 30 after he attempted to flee by speedboat to South America.

The prolonged detention of the suspects without charge drew complaints from international human rights groups. The Interim Government put in charge of Grenada until elections can be held defended the detentions as necessary to protect public peace and the suspects themselves.

The suspects, in letters and courtroom statements, alleged they were tortured and fed cockroach-infested food.

There has been little apparent public sympathy in Grenada for the suspects. George Louison, former Agriculture Minister and a leader of the new Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, called their short-lived junta "the most unpopular government in history."

Cleaner Aug. 10 1984

New JEWEL man may face extradition

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

Grenadian police have taken into custody trade unionist Chester Humphrey, a former executive member of the leftwing New Jewel

Movement (NJM) following a United States request for his extradition, high-level Government sources said tonight.

The sources said Humphrey was taken

into custody yesterday for questioning in connection with the alleged illegal shipment of arms into Grenada in the late 1970s.

Police officials could not be reached for comment but the sources said authorities here believe the arms may have been used by the NJM to help seize power from the Sir Eric Gairy Government on March 13, 1979.

Humphrey had been held by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and later placed on bail awaiting trial.

However, just after the NJM seized power, he and another man charged with the offence, Jim Wardally,

(Please turn to Page 3).

New Jewel

(Cont'd from Page 1)

skipped bail and mysteriously arrived here.

Since last October's U.S.-led military intervention, American diplomats on the island have repeatedly stressed they were interested in having Humphrey returned to the U.S. to face the charges.

Government sources said that about two weeks ago the United States through its Embassy here made an official request to Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to hand over Humphrey.

Since then, they said the Governor General has given instructions to the Attorney-General that the necessary steps be taken to arrest Humphrey.

U.S. attorneys are expected to argue their case for extradition before the Magistrate.

Cleaner Aug. 17, 1984

NDP selects eleven candidates for Grenada elections

Aug 17
ST. GEORGE'S,

Aug. 16, (CANA)

The National Democratic Party (NDP), headed by economist George Brizan, today said it had selected candidates for 11 of Grenada's 15 constituencies, as the island prepares for a general election, expected later this year.

The announcement followed Brizan's rejection of a proposed deal with two other centrist groups — the Grenada National Party (GNP) and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) — under which the NDP and the GDM would each have fielded candidates for four constituencies, with the GNP Party putting up seven.

The NDP's candidates and their constituencies were not identified. The NDP had warned the two parties that it would contest all the seats if they refused to allow it to field candidates for five seats in the coalition.

"Time is passing by and our supporters are becoming over-anxious," the Party said in a statement today. "Some are even beginning to lose faith in the idea of coalition."

It continued: "The NDP is still not opposed to the idea of an electoral accommodation, but this waiting and delay has become overbearing and is keeping back progress."

Negotiations on the coalition started last February. The Party leaders agreed that the coalition offered the best chance of stopping

former Prime Minister Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) from winning the election, which the caretaker government says will be held before year-end. But they disagreed on how the constituencies should be divided.

Diplomatic sources here said that the United

States would welcome such a coalition because it did not want to see the eccentric Gairy back in power. At the start of his political career Gairy was a working class hero, but the latter part of his rule was marked by repeated allegations of human rights abuse and corruption.

Gleaner Aug. 19, 1984

Unionist formally accused

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

Grenadian police have laid formal charges against local trade unionist Chester Humphrey who faces possible extradition to the United States to answer the charges.

Attorney Robert Grant told CANA that Humphrey was charged on Wednesday in a Magistrate's court with forging documents in 1978 in the United States.

Grant could not specify the documents but they are believed to be related to papers used in purchasing arms and ammunition which Humphrey allegedly helped ship from the U.S. to Grenada in the 1970s.

According to the lawyer, the Magistrate told Humphrey, a former executive member of the New J.E.W.E.L. Movement which staged a coup here in 1979, that the Americans were applying for a warrant to have him

extradited to face trial in connection with the illegal arms shipment.

The trade unionist fled the United States in 1980 while on bail.

Grant also reported that the United States was making its request under a 1890 law signed between the U.S. and Britain when Grenada was a colony. U.S. diplomats here said that the law is still valid since Grenada agreed to recognize the country became independent in 1974.

"I don't know all the facts yet, so I cannot prepare my case because my client hasn't been handed anything, and the police are extremely unhelpful and very hazy," Grant said to CANA.

Humphrey is now on remand at Richmond Hill Prison.

The U.S. is expected to produce the formal extradition papers shortly to the court which will decide on the matter.

UWI Libraries

GRENADA UPDATE

● All the soldiers get an allowance of US\$5 per day... and with high cost of things in Grenada does not go far..

● Some complain they are not liked and ...people shout JACANS go home..

The role of the J.D.F. in its first overseas deployment is "assisting the police to provide the stability and security that the country requires at this moment so that the Interim Authority can get on with its job," so says Lt-Col Delroy Ormsby, soft-peddalling the fact that our soldiers are the "teeth" of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force and he its Commander-in-Chief.

Currently, with routine security and crime prevention the responsibility of C.P.F. police units and the nascent Royal Grenadian Police Force, the military have assumed a low-key, "watching brief." They conduct constant patrols islandwide. They provide security at the Richmond Hill Prison where the 20 defendants in the Bishop murder inquiry are being held. They provide security for the Governor General, and some security at the power station. They "maintain a presence" in the north of the island at Sauteurs, and on Carriacou island. A small JDF Coastguard unit quartered at the Grenada Yacht Services marina are engaged in training the Grenada Coastguard.

There are approximately 290 JDF soldiers in Grenada, plus a platoon (30 men) from Barbados and a section (9 men) from Antigua. The

Jamaican troops are from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Jamaica Regiment and are rotated every two months. The Commanding Officer stays three months.

How much does this cost the Government of Jamaica? Colonel Ormsby declined to give an estimate. The soldiers' salaries are paid in Jamaica and, yes, all of them from Commanding Officer down to buck private receive an allowance of U.S.\$5 per day. This is paid by the Government of Jamaica and is for incidentals and recreation and with the high cost of things in Grenada does not go far.

Uncomfortable

The army purchases its own food supplies but is quartered, rent free, in an assortment of government buildings. The living conditions, as observed by this reporter are make-shift and uncomfortable. (In contrast the 325 U.S. military police and support units are quartered in relative luxury in two hotels on Grand Anse beach — a sort of military ghetto surrounded by barbed wire and providing 40% of the island's tourism occupancy.) The CPF military headquarters are in the former residence of Premier Bishop. The operations room is in the ex-bedroom where Bishop took the precaution of installing a steel plate in the wooden floor beneath his bed. Presumably to deter assassins.

Soldiers are also quartered next door in the former residence of Deputy Premier Bernard Coard. Nearby, semi-derelict Mount Royal is used as mess hall, kitchens, and store-rooms. (Once Gairy's official residence, it was converted into a radio and TV station by Bishop.)

Frequently bored

The largest J.D.F. unit is quartered above Grand Anse at the Flying Dutchman, formerly the Russian Embassy. A small intelligence unit is quartered in private homes in the town.

With all quiet, and patrols and guard duty their only occupation, the soldiers are frequently bored. For recreation they play football and on the weekends they swim. They are also allowed "walking out" privileges in town. Some complain that they are not liked and people shout "JACANS go home." They have to make a special effort to be conciliatory and friendly towards the Grenadians.

Troop transfers are provided courtesy of the U.S. Airforce and the U.S. also supplies vehicles and equipment. The C.P.F. work closely with the American military contingent. In a crisis, the American Commanding Officer Lt-Colonel Huran would be, effectively, the senior commander on the island.

Our troops give every appearance of performing their duties with efficiency and discipline. A prominent Grenadian told this reporter: "The Jamaican soldiers are gentlemen."

How long will our soldiers be stationed in Grenada? This is a decision for the politicians who committed them to this task — and the politicians who will form the elected government of Grenada. By all indications the Caribbean Peacekeeping

Force will be needed for a long time yet. Which prompts more questions: Is Jamaica really picking up the tab? If so how long can we afford this generosity? And with 60 to 75% of one of our two battalions away at all times can we really spare such a large contingent of our "fighting arm" for an indefinite period?

Gleaner

Aug. 19, 1984

NDP selects eleven candidates

From our correspondent

St. George's, Grenada: August 16

The National Democratic Party (NDP) led by George Brizan, has selected candidates for 11 of Grenada's 15 constituencies to be contested at the forthcoming General Elections this year.

This was disclosed in an NDP press release today, and this action comes as a sequel to a press release issued by the Grenada National Party five days ago.

Disgust

GNP expressed "disgust" than at the "haggling" into which, the Party said, its discussions with NDP had deteriorated. These discussions began last February between GNP, NDP and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) with a view to achieving a common front to fight the elections.

GNP, led by Herbert Blaize, and GDM led by Francis Alexis, seem to have been able to accommodate each other and have published a joint manifesto under the banner of the Team for National Unity (TNU) but there has been no agreement with NDP.

Stumbling block

The NDP press release today said that, in response to the wishes of certain sectors of the electorate, NDP has tried its best to cooperate with GNP and TNU "to ensure success for the moderate cause in the upcoming elections."

"But NDP has had repeated frustrations in that process," the release said. "Much time has passed and progress has been kept back by this state of indecision...."

In its discussions with GNP and TNU, NDP said, it has assured Herbert Blaize, political leader of GNP, that he would be the leader of any grouping the three parties put together and that NDP would support Blaize as Prime Minister.

The stumbling block in the discussions has been the number of seats each of the three parties will contest. The GNP/TNU proposal is that GNP should contest seven seats and the other two parties four seats each, but this is not satisfactory to NDP.

Sacrifice

Today's press release says the NDP proposal is that it be allowed to

contest five seats, St. George's south, St. George's north east, St. Davids, St. Andrews north west and St. Patrick's east.

"This has meant considerable sacrifice on the part of NDP," the release says. "It is a fair and most reasonable compromise to ensure success for the moderate cause."

NDP said a "prominent member of TNU" signed an agreement with NDP on July 28 accommodating NDP to these five constituencies, but TNU subsequently rejected that agreement.

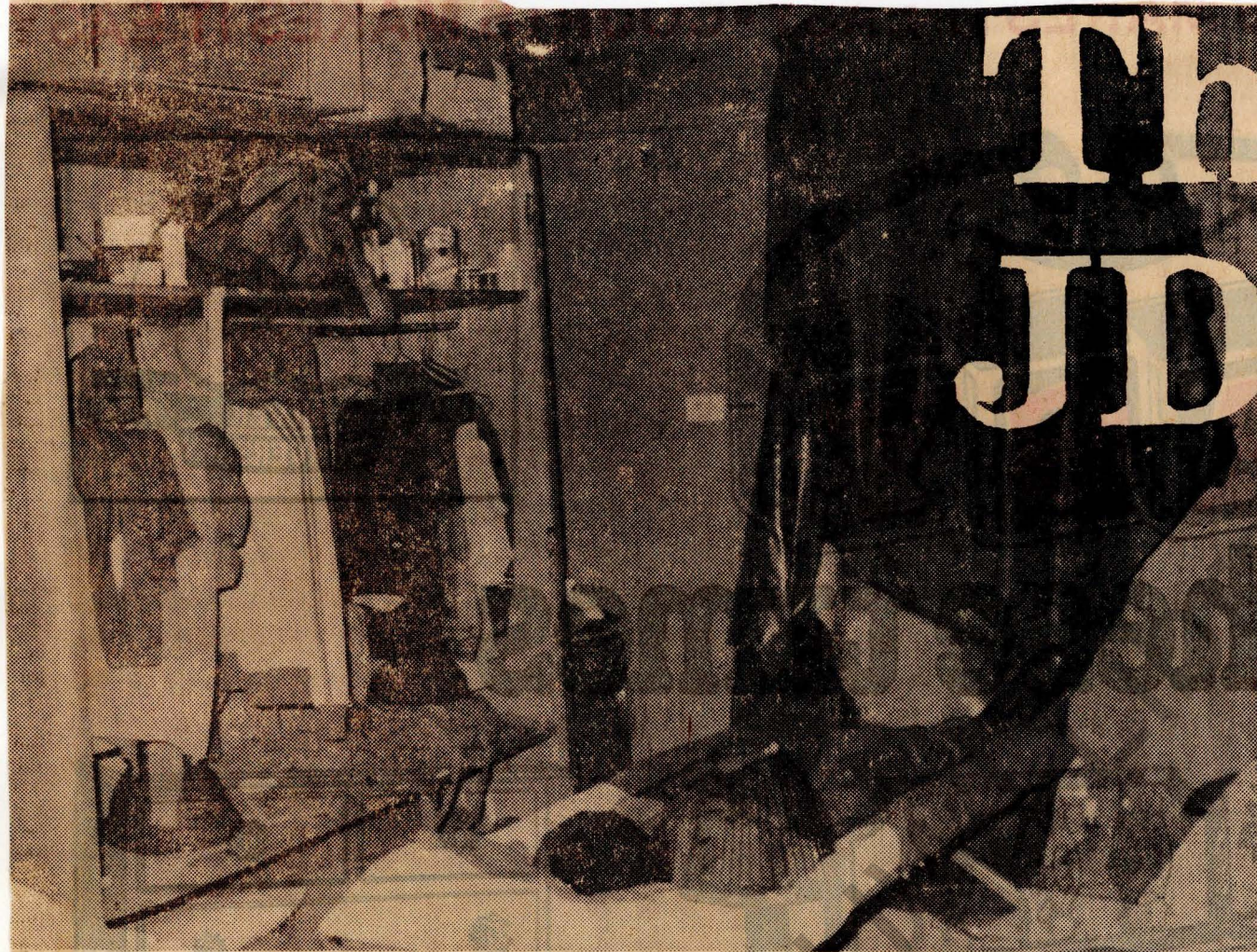
"Time is passing by and our supporters are becoming over anxious," the NDP release says. "Some are even beginning to lose faith in the idea of coalition. NDP is still not opposed to an electoral accommodation, but this waiting and delay has become overbearing and is keeping back progress."

Yesterday, the NDP release said, they Party executive selected candidates for eleven constituencies, and these persons have been instructed to "seriously work their constituencies as official NDP candidates."

An NDP official said today the names of these candidates will be released shortly.

GNP has scheduled a public meeting for Sunday to "explain its position and expound on the national situation."

The JDF

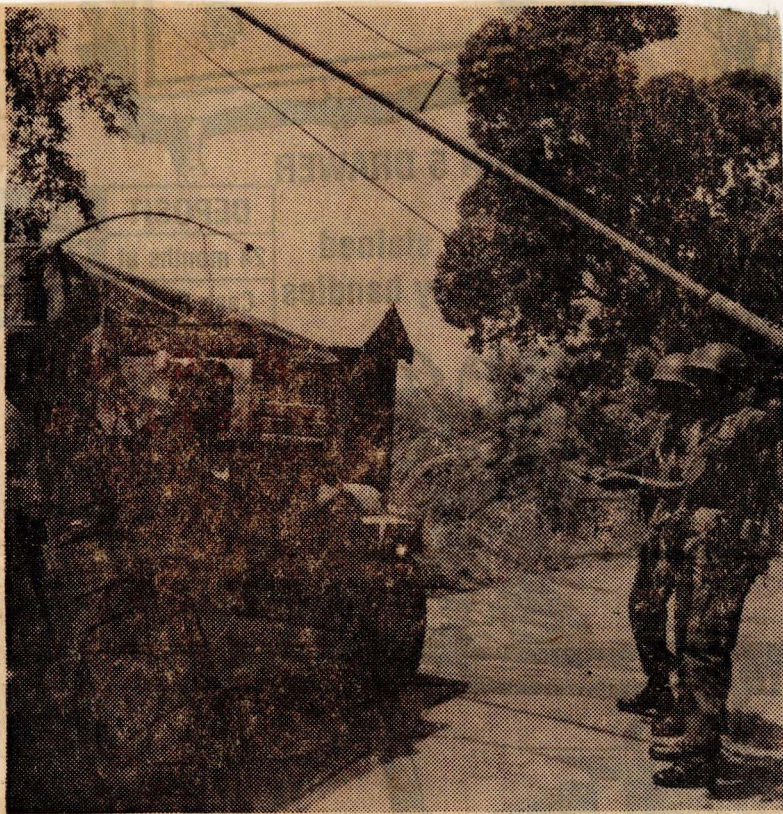


MAKE-SHIFT BARRACKS IN FORMER OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF BERNARD COARD.

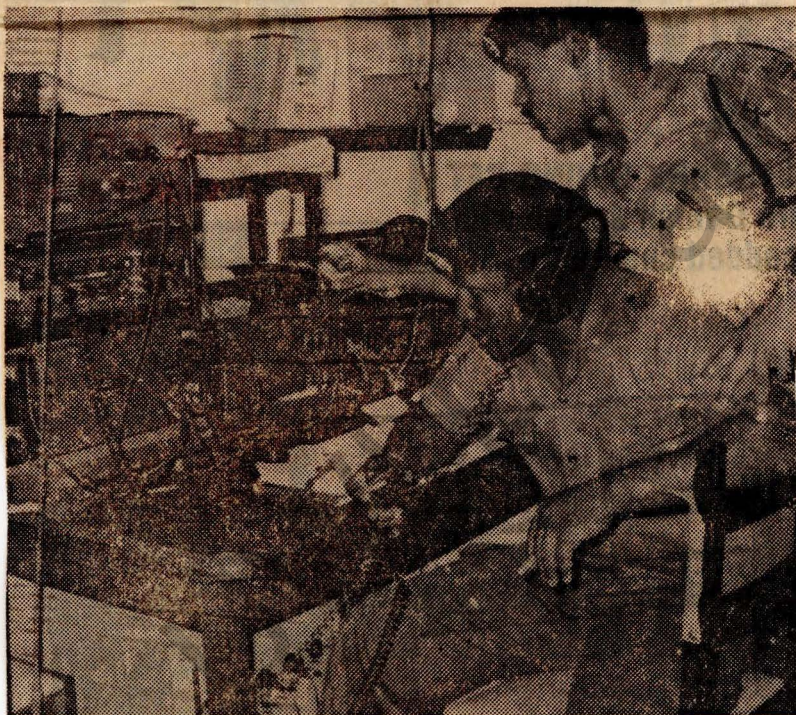


LANCE CPL. DOUGLAS TENDS THE POTS AT MOUNT ROYAL

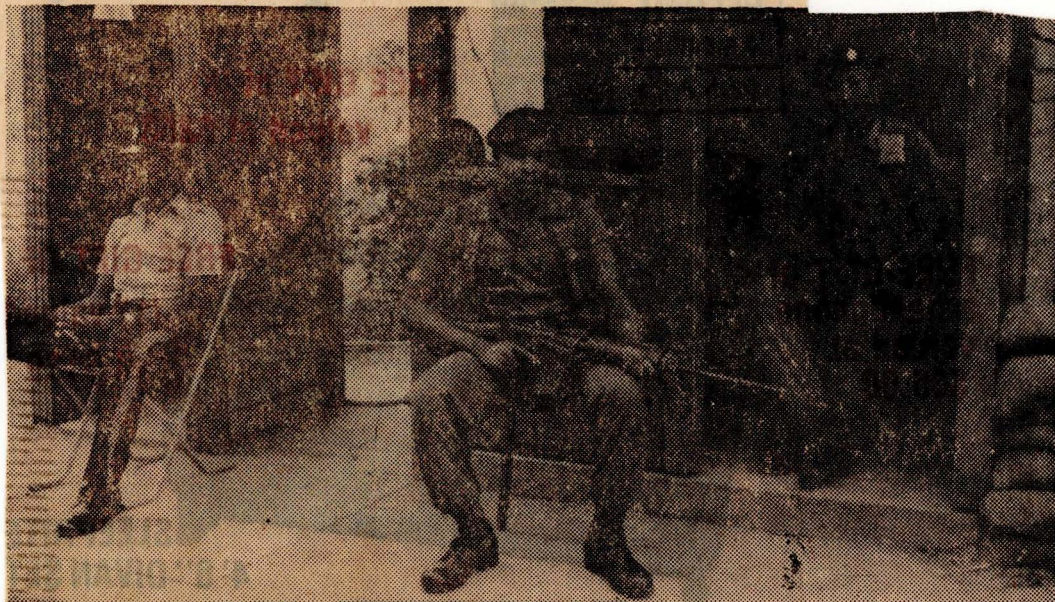
Text and pictures
by Margaret Morris
Third in a series



CHECK POINT AT ENTRANCE TO RICHMOND HILL PRISON.



RADIO ROOM AT THE 'FLYING DUTCHMAN,' FORMER RUSSIAN EMBASSY. AT LEFT CPL. MCGOWAN AND CAPTAIN FOSTER.



GUARD DUTY AT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RESIDENCE



OFF DUTY, AND NOWHERE TO GO...AT THE 'FLYING DUTCHMAN', FORMER RUSSIAN EMBASSY.



LT. COL. DELROY ORMSBY



**PETTY OFFICER PRAWLHELP-
ING TO TRAIN GRENADIAN COAST
GUARD.**

Cleaner Aug. 20, 1984

Gairy's party wants U.S., British military in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Aug. 19, (CANAL)

A Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) Government would press for a continued U.S. military presence here and "respectfully" invite the British to come in and help with the island's defence, says the Party's newspaper.

The 12-page *Grenada Guardian*, in its first issue yesterday, gave insights into policies to be pursued by the GULP if it wins power in the forthcoming general elections.

The Party's manifesto, spelling out these policies in greater detail, will be released next week.

A GULP administration would respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, but at the same time would not hesitate to deal firmly with subversives, the paper said.

"No new subversive activities will be tolerated in any way," it said.

The last elected GULP Government, headed by Sir Eric Gairy, was ousted in a 1979 coup. The successor Government was itself overthrown last October, prompting a U.S.-led intervention.

Grenada Guardian said the GULP was grateful for the "rescue mission" and "sees the need for the help of the American armed forces in Grenada's defence."

The GULP promises that as a Government it would see to it that July 4, America's independence day, is recognised here with "a full scale formal reception" for American citizens living here and visiting dignitaries.

The GULP feels relations with Britain, Grenada's former colonial ruler, must be strengthened and promises unswerving loyalty to the British monarch.

Said the GULP newspaper: "We shall respectfully invite the British authorities to discuss the possibility of establishing a British naval presence in the north of Grenada, extended police assistance and technical co-operation among other things."

"A GULP administration will give full recognition to the importance of the Queen's birthday with all the pomp and formalities of the military parade at Queens Park, followed by a reception with a toast to Her gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, so loved by the people of Grenada."

The GULP says it is committed to freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble and freedom of religious worship.

It also promises no victimisation or revenge.

Gairy says he does not intend to contest the election but is spearheading the Party's campaign.

UWI Library

NDP still open for coalition talks

ST. GEORGE'S, Aug. 19, (CANA)

Leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in Grenada, George Brizan, said today that the door is still open for talks aimed at forging a coalition of three centrist groups for the forthcoming general elections.

Brizan stated that his six-month old Party had decided to leave the door open — despite going ahead with its own campaigning — because certain sections of the Grenadian population would like to see the moderates coming together on a common platform.

"We would like to respect the wishes and aspirations and thinking of certain sectors of the population," he said to CANA.

In a statement here Thursday, the NDP said that because of the stalemate in the coalition discussions it had told candidates in eleven constituencies to begin canvassing.

The coalition talks ran into fresh snags with the NDP failing to accept four of the fifteen constituencies offered by former Chief Minister Herbert Blaize for its candidates in the elections to return Grenada to constitutional rule.

According to Brizan, the NDP would only join the coalition provided its request for five seats for its candidates was agreed to by the two other centrist groups involved in the initiative.

The Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) and the Grenada National Party (GNP) are the two other groups. Both

have formed a Team for National Unity (TNU) with Blaize as the leader.

"We still feel that they would respect that reasonable position because that was arrived at great sacrifice by the National Democratic Party," Brizan said.

"We hope that they would recognize the reasonableness of that particular allocation, and furthermore we have sounded this out among various members of the public, and among the electorates in general, and they themselves said it was reasonable," he added.

Brizan said he had sensed that Grenadians had become frustrated over the state of the indecisive talks among the centrist groups and his Party had no alternative but to organise among the various constituencies to prepare to face the electorate.

Brathwaite: Govt. committed to higher education

ST. GEORGE'S,
Aug. 19, (CANA)

Nicholas Brathwaite chairman of Grenada's interim Government, says his administration is committed to helping young Grenadians further their education

through scholarships at overseas universities.

"As far as the interim Government is concerned, it is committed to doing everything possible to provide as many opportunities as possible for the young people of

Grenada to improve their educational achievement," he said in a radio interview here.

Brathwaite said the interim Government in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other international agencies, had already secured some university places for Grenadian students.

"We have been assured of scholarships for our students to pursue university training abroad, and I think it is true to say that we are going to have many more university training places available to us as

a result of the negotiations which we have had.

Gleaner Aug. 21, 1984

Co-operation with GNP pact deadline noon tomorrow

By Alister Hughes

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, August 19:

The Grenada National Party (GNP) has set noon of next Wednesday (22nd) as the deadline for the formation of any co-operation agreement to be made with other political parties relative to contesting the general elections scheduled to be held here before the end of this year.

This was disclosed today by Herbert Blaize, GNP political leader, as he addressed a public meeting in St. Georges market square.

Blaize said the business of putting together people who can operate under one banner is so critical and important that it must be done right.

"We want to make damned sure", he said, "that when we do put something together, it is a team of genuine unity and we keep out those who are trying with invective, intrigue and otherwise to spoil the situation."

The GNP political leader said this is the aim but it will have to be achieved by next Wednesday. He said he will invite those with

whom he has been holding discussions to finalise an agreement indicating that they consider that unity is the only way to go forward to solve the country's difficulties.

"If by Wednesday, midday, please God," Blaize said, "I cannot get a definite answer that this package of genuine unity will be put together, (I will accept nothing that is unity in name but not unity in fact), it has to be genuine purposeful, effective unity, or else the Grenada National Party moves along on its own."

Since last February, GNP has been holding 'unity' discussions with the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) led by Francis Alexis and with National Democratic Party (NDP) led by George Brizan.

GNP and GDM have worked out an agreement and have published a joint manifesto under the banner of the Team for National Unity (TNU), but no agreement has been reached with NDP. The apparent stumbling block to agreement with

NDP is the number of seats that party will contest, the GNP/GDM grouping allocating 4 seats to NDP while that party wants 3.

Only members of the GNP were on the platform at today's public meeting although Alexis (GDM) said in an interview yesterday that he would be on that platform. Alexis was in the market square among the crowd wearing a TNU T-shirt, and political observers are uncertain whether his absence from the platform is significant.

In his 36-minute address, Blaize did not mention his party's alliance with GDM under the TNU banner, and this also has been cause for comment.

St. Georges market square is considered the principal political platform in Grenada and today's GNP meeting was the first to be held there by any political party since the overthrow of the Peoples Revolutionary Government by the Peoples Revolutionary Army last October. It was attended by a small crowd of some 250 to 300 persons.

Aug 21

Gleaner August 21 1984

Sir Eric Gairy on the 'Mongoose Gang' Helen

ST. GEORGES,
August 19 (From
Alister Hughes)

The Grenada Guardian, newspaper of Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), in its first issue, has given an explanation of 'the Mongoose Gang', the gang of roughnecks employed during the 1970s by the Gairy Administration to intimidate opponents.

The World Health Organisation, the newspaper says, launched a programme in Grenada aimed at stamping out rebies by poisoning the mongoose. Gairy's trade union, the Grenada Manual, Maritime and Intellectual Workers Union, supplied the labour force for this project, and some of the people employed were in the habit of fighting in the streets and market places ...

"The journalist, Alister Hughes, labelled these street fighters 'Gairy's Union Mongoose Gang,' the newspaper says. "When the kick of that name was wearing thin, he dropped the word 'union' and designated them "Gairy's Mongoose Gang."

According to the Grenada Guardian, when Maurice Bishop (of the New Jewel Movement) came on the scene "with his propaganda experts", they changed this designation and called them 'Gairy's Mongoose Secret Police', and told a lot of lies about these men and their association with Gairy.

Throughout the 1970s, and until it was deposed in 1979, the Gairy administration has been associated with of-

ficial violence meted out by criminals in the employ of the state. This was first evident on May 3, 1970 when Gairy, as Premier of Grenada, called attention to the fact:

Black power manifestations in Trinidad spilled over into Grenada and there was a series of fires. Reacting to this, Gairy, as Premier, stated publicly that he would 'fight fire with fire'.

"I am proud of the response to my call for men, whatever their record, to come to the defence of Grenada", he said, "and some of the roughest and toughest of roughnecks have been recruited".

These 'roughest and toughest of roughnecks', dubbed the 'mongoose gang' by the Grenada public because of their 'rabid' behaviour, were the subject of scrutiny by the Duffus Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into the breakdown of law and order in Grenada during Gairy's administration.

Officially called the 'police aids' or 'special reserve police', Gairy referred to the 'mongoose gang' also at various times as 'The Voluntary Intelligence Unit for Protection of Property', 'Volunteer Special Guards', 'The Night Ambush Squad', and 'Volunteers for the protection of human rights.'

The Duffus Commission found that this gang, however called, was 'an unlawfully constituted body of men ... whose qualifications for service, in many cases, ... was their know disposition for violence and lawlessness'.

The responsibility for their establishment, recruitment and control was Gairy's, in his per-

sonal capacity, the Duffus Commissioners said, and 'from their inception and throughout the time of their existence, (they) inflicted unspeakable atrocities upon many citizens of Grenada'

According to the GULP's 'Grenada Guardian', however, Gairy was not, in any way, associated with the 'Mongoose Gang'

"These men were not connected to Sir Eric in any way except that Sir Eric was president of their union", the newspaper says, 'But most of the time and energy was devoted to his role as Prime Minister. He hardly saw them.'

August 22, 1984

THE DAILY GLEANER, WEDNESDAY

Blaize to fight election alone if no unity agreement by today

ST. GEORGE'S,
Aug. 21, (CANA)

The Grenada National Party (GNP) leader Herbert Blaize, who is trying to put together a coalition of three centrist groups for the forthcoming general elec-

tions, says if an agreement is not reached by Wednesday his group will be going to the polls alone.

"If by Wednesday mid-day I cannot get a definite answer that this package of genuine unity

would be put together, I would accept nothing which is unity in name but not unity in fact," the former Chief Minister said.

Addressing supporters of his Party at a public meeting here on Sunday, Blaize said he would be inviting the leaders of two other centrist groups to meet with him on Wednesday in the final round of discussions.

"I would invite those with whom I have been talking to finalize an arrangement where we consider that this would be the only way to go forward to solve the country's difficulties and to follow the path of the People's Charter," he remarked.

The People's Charter emerged in Grenada in 1973 when various interest groups in the country including the trade unions, the private sec-

tor, religious bodies and women's organisations, met to consider the move by then Prime Minister Eric Gairy to take the country into independence.

These groups formulated the People's Charter, which called for the independence constitution to have as its main thrust the placing of power into the hands of the people through the setting up of relevant mechanisms.

The veteran politician stressed that putting together this coalition for the elections has to be done in such a manner that there is no repetition of the 1976 effort by three opposition groups to form an alliance to contest the elections.

This is reference to the ill-fated agreement

reached by the GNP, the left-wing New Jewel Movement, and the United Labour Party to select candidates from among the three groups to face the then ruling Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of Sir Eric.

"We want to make damn sure that when we do put something together that it's a team of genuine unity, and we would keep out those bastards who are trying to inject it with intrigue and otherwise to spoil the situation," Blaize said.

"It has to be genuine, purposeful, effective unity or else the Grenada National Party moves along on its own and you would be advised on Thursday please God in our press conference," he said.

Scoon confirms Grenada polls before year-end

ST. GEORGE'S,
August 20
(From Alister Hughes)

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon confirmed today that Grenada will have general elections before the end of this year.

The confirmation came in the course of an address as Sir Paul Scoon officially opened the 14th annual conference of the Caribbean Public Services Association.

"Preparations are proceeding apace for fair and free elections before the end of this calendar year", he said, "let there be no doubt about it."

The Governor General asked conference delegates to banish any "residual fears" with which they have come to the island. Grenada's streets and beaches are perfectly safe, he said, Grenadians are friendly and are willing and ready to converse without let or hindrance.

"The freedom of the

individual has been fully restored in our country", Sir Paul said, "and you should feel no inhibitions to voice your own opinion on any matter. You are even free to criticise me and to criticise any actions I have taken in recent months."

Referring to the events in Grenada last October, the Governor General said he had no option but to adopt the course of action he did at that time.

"Let it be clearly understood", he said, "that there was no logical alternative to the actions that I and others took last October, and this is the view of the majority of Grenadians".

Gleaner Aug. 22, 1984

Gairy: Americans must stay

ST. GEORGES,
August 18 From Alister Hughes

The first highlight of the manifesto of Sir Eric Gairy, Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) is "Americans must stay." This is disclosed on the front page of the **Grenada Guardian** which was sold on the streets of St. Georges today under the date of August 17. The **Grenada Guardian** says the GULP manifesto will be published next week, and the paper quotes this document relative to the GULP attitude to the United States.

"We shall remain ever grateful to President Reagan," the manifesto says, "and (to) the armed forces and all the people of America for the rescue mission."

The **Grenada Guardian** says that, since 1946 Gairy has been constantly asking the United States for an American presence in Grenada and the GULP manifesto points out that that party sees the need for the help of the American armed forces in Grenada's defence.

The newspaper says the manifesto declares also that "British ties must be strengthened".

"We shall respectfully invite the British authorities to discuss the possibility of establishing a British naval presence in the north of Grenada", the newspaper says, "extended police assistance and technical cooperation among other

things."

According to the **Grenada Guardian**, other highlights of the GULP manifesto are, "Grenada Electricity Service Ltd — urgent public inquiry", "Fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed, no victimisation: no revenge", and "National Insurance Scheme — immediate investigation".

Under the head of

"No Victimisation: No Revenge", the manifesto says, "at the same time, no new subversive activities will be tolerated in any way".

AUGUST 22, 1984

PAGE SEVEN

Civil servants group urged to guard against political intervention

ST. GEORGE'S, Aug. 21 (CANA)

Grenada's Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon has urged delegates attending the 14th annual conference of the Caribbean Public Service Association (CPSA) here to jealously guard their organisation against attempts at interference by politicians and "subversives".

Delivering the opening address at the week-long conference, Sir Paul, a former civil servant, called on the delegates to protect the independence of the individual associations.

The Governor-General also spoke of having a vision of Caribbean governments rapidly reduc-

ing their political rhetoric, intimidation and threats to hard-working civil servants, and moving to greater administrative efficiency.

"You as public servants must help to build this efficiency. You owe this duty to the public you serve," he said.

Delegates attending the conference are drawn from countries including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

Cleaner Aug. 23, 1984

Gairy threatens to deal with hoteliers after polls

Sir Eric Gairy, political leader of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), has allegedly threatened members of the Grenada Hotel Association that he will deal with them in three months time after the elections.

According to The **Grenada Newsletter**, this information came from an informed source. The Newsletter stated that the threats came at a meeting on July 13 of this year, when at the hoteliers request, GHA met with Mr. Gairy at his home to discuss "Tourism Policy Guidelines."

The Newsletter stated that the source said Mr. Gairy accused Mr. Andre Cherman, GHA President and Manager of Grenada Beach Hotel, of keeping him (Gairy) out of the hotel when he wanted to address workers there. Grenada Beach Hotel is now headquarters of United States forces in Grenada, and it is reported that Sir Eric was told the decision to block his entry had been taken by the American Military.

The source told **Newsletter** that Sir Eric told the GHA representatives that there were a number of hotel managers, owners and directors who had "undermined" him, and who had told "vicious lies" about him in an attempt to prevent him from winning the elections, but he would "deal with them" when his party got into office.

Englishman Mr. Richard Gray, manager of the Cinnamon Hill Hotel, was another hotelier directly attacked by Mr. Gairy. Sir Eric was reported to have said that Mr. Gray was in the island for too long, and that he was "coniving" and a "communist", and that he would deal with him after his victory in the elections.

Gleaner Aug. 23 1984

One charge dropped another laid against accused in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S,
Grenada, Aug. 21
(CANA):

Former soldier Ian St Bernard had a second charge related to the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop dropped today but prosecutors immediately laid a further charge in connection with last October's military coup. St Bernard, an ex-Commissioner of Police, was on August 8 freed for lack of evidence of the murder of Bishop.

Director of Public Prosecutions Velma Hylton told a magistrate's court today that a charge against St Bernard of conspiracy to commit murder under a controversial 1980 anti-terrorism law would be withdrawn.

Hylton said the one-time army Major has now been charged with others she did not name with "preparing by the show of armed forces to procure an alteration" in the government of this Caribbean island last October.

She was referring to the bloody overthrow of

the leftwing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) by a radical faction. Bishop and more than 100 others were killed.

St Bernard was a member of the 12-man ruling junta headed by ex-Army Commander General Hudson Austin that ruled Grenada for six days before a U.S.-led invasion toppled the military government.

He was subsequently charged, along with 19 others, with the murder of Bishop and seven others but was freed by Magistrate Lyle St. Paul after a preliminary inquiry on whether the new charge would succeed. St. Paul today cast doubt. He indicated he did not wish to preside over a new inquiry due to start on October 1.

The magistrate said although he did not have time to study the charge he felt that the prosecution would definitely come up with the same evidence presented in the previous inquiry.

"I cannot now see the difference between that charge and the conspiracy charge. I believe in justice. I would die for justice," St. Paul said.

Hylton told the court she could not indicate whether the police

would withdraw conspiracy to murder charges also laid against nine others.

These are ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, former Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, ex-Junior Ministers Dave Bartholomew and Colville McBarnette, Major Leon Cornwall, the former Ambassador to Cuba, Lieutenant-Colonels Lam James and Ewart Layne, and Austin.

They, along with ten other soldiers of the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), have already been committed to stand trial for the murder of Bishop, three Cabinet colleagues and four others at the October sitting of the High Court.

St. Paul agreed with a request made by St Bernard's Jamaican lawyer Delano Harrison to grant bail which he set in the sum of 5,000 E.C. dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) plus the conditions laid down by the prosecution, including the surrendering of his passport to the Supreme Court Registry.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail.

Grenada parties in final bid to form alliance

ST. GEORGES, August 22 (CANA)

The leaders of three moderate political parties in Grenada were meeting today in what former Chief Minister Herbert Blaize has billed as the final bid to form an alliance to contest the next general election.

The talks, which started last December, ran into snags when one group — the National Democratic Party (NDP) of economist George

Brizan — insisted on having five rather than the four constituencies suggested by the others.

Blaize's 33-year-old Party, the Grenada National Party (GNP), and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) of law lecturer Francis Alexis were in agreement on one recommendation — that the GNP be allowed to contest seven of the 15 seats at stake in the election, with the other parties fielding four candidates each.

However, in a recent address to Party supporters, Blaize hinted that there were other snags — such as the sources of Party funds and the personalities of some top party officials.

"Ask them who gave them their mon-

ies, why and what they expect," Blaize remarked.

There are grave doubts whether today's talks will end with any positive agreement because of the parties' failure in recent months to resolve their differences.

"We have been talking about this thing since December, and if it could not have been worked out all this time I doubt whether we can go there... and do anything concrete to help out the situation facing us," one of the leaders said.

Blaize has said that the talks will have to result in genuine, purposeful and effective unity or else his group will face the elections on its own.

A date is still to be set for the poll, expected before year-end.

UWI Libraries

Gleaner Aug. 27, 1987

Interim govt. said trying to block party

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Aug 25 (CANAL): The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), a left wing political party named after the slain Prime Minister, accused the interim government and 'its foreign backers' of trying to prevent the party from taking part in the next general elections.

The MBPM issued a statement condemning Thursday's police search of the home of Chairman Kendrick Radix, Industrialisation Minister in the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Radix said the search was for arms and ammunition but none was found.

The party described the police action as the start of a new round of harassment reminiscent of the day of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy 'when illegal searches and political victimisation reigned supreme.'

Sir Eric, who was ousted by Bishop in 1979, was regarded by his opponents as a repressive ruler. Bishop led the PRG but was ousted and killed in a military coup last October.

The statement added: 'It is clear that the interim council and its foreign backers are trying to frighten our leader and supporters from participating in the coming general elections as is our right.'

The statement said it was significant that the search took place one day after Radix filed a petition in the High Court which seeks to compel the government to register as a Grenadian Shahiba Strong whom the ex-Minister said he married in her home-

land, Guyana, last June.

Strong has denied entry here the same month. She worked under the PRG as chief protocol officer but was deemed an 'undesirable element' and asked to leave the country after last October's U.S.-led invasion which toppled the short-lived military regime.

The MBPM says it intends to contest General Elections which the interim government has promised to hold by the end of the year to restore the island's parliamentary system.

aug 27

LAW EDITOR ON VISIT TO GRENADA

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Aug 24 (CANAL):

Former Clerk of the British House of Commons and editor of Erskine May's treatise on the Law, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament, Sir Charles Gordon, is now in Grenada on a two-week visit.

A Government Information Service (GIS)

statement said that Sir Charles will hold discussions with the Clerk of Parliament, Curtis Strachan, who is also the current Secretary to the Interim Government.

The visit is a follow-up to an earlier one made by Strachan in April to the British House of Commons.

Sir Charles is also expected to hold talks with Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, and head of the Interim Government, Nicholas Braithwaite.