

She chose death over life without him

By a former detainee
writing from Grenada

WHEN Jackie Creft turned down an offer to join Eric Gairy's Government as a senator, in 1973 she had taken a decision that would lead in the end to her own brutal death, in St. Georges on October 19, ten years later.

But at that time there was no way she could foresee the dreadful violence that would shake the beautiful island where she had been born and grew up on Lucas Street and to which she had returned from studying sociology in Canada.

She was young, (about 26) bright and idealistic, a writer of poetry, convent educated with grassroots connections, and just the sort of woman Gairy was always on the look out for.

SCOUTING

Traditionally Gairy had always enjoyed support from the women of Grenada, and his acknowledgment of this was evident in his choice of a woman, Dr. Hilda Bynoe, as the first local Governor of Grenada.

But in 1973, Gairy was not the only politician scouting for feminine talent. A group of young university educated men had formed themselves an organisation with the main purpose of removing Gairy from the scene.

This was the New Jewel Movement, whose leaders did everything to persuade Jackie Creft not to accept Gairy's offer which undoubtedly was an attractive one, and which she was actually considering.

She was urged not to "sully" herself with involvement in the Gairy

regime. It was not an easy decision to make for in those days one did not lightly reject a man like Gairy.

In the end, however, the NJM won out and Creft said no to Gairy, changing for ever the course of her life.

She began working in Trinidad with CADEC, the Caribbean Conference of Churches and in 1975 returned to Grenada to begin political activities with the NJM.

UPPER CLASS

It was not long before Jackie fell totally under the spell of Maurice Bishop, and decided to devote her life to this man and his work. Bishop was married to the former Angela Redhead, a member of one of Grenada's "upper class" families.

During the bitter period of Bishop's persecution at the hand of Gairy's Mongoose Gang, Mrs Bishop and her children left Grenada for their own safety. Creft stayed with him and eventually bore him a son in 1978. He was given a Russian name Vladimir.

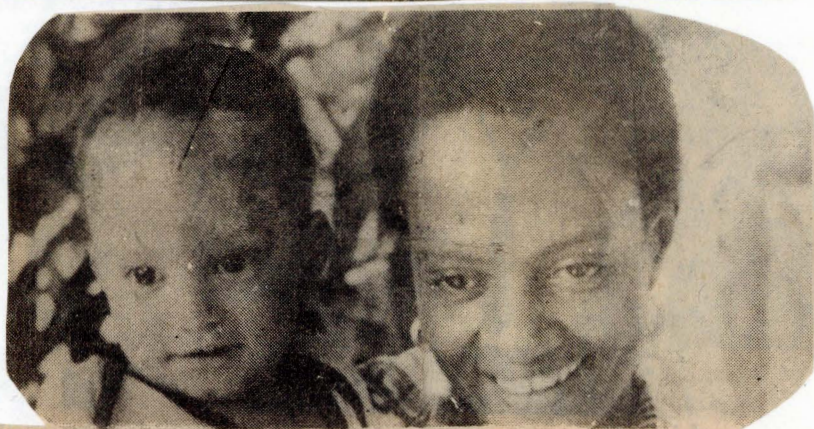
Those close to Bishop said that Bishop's so-called upper class marriage became an embarrassment in his own struggle for a classless society.

Ironically, however, Angela Bishop was extremely popular with the people in Grenada who described her as an understanding woman, who following the Revolution of 1979 tried to fit in with the Government and even took a position as Secretary for Tourism.

DETENTIONS

But, according to reports she became utterly disillusioned as much with the initial wave of arrests and detentions as with her own domestic life.

She again left Grenada with her children to take up residence in Canada. There was no divorce, but according to reports Creft was not the only woman in Bishop's life.



A BEAMING Jackie Creft shows off her son Vladimir then three years old.

Many women found him irresistible, but he was Jackie Creft's whole life, and clearly Bishop had faith in her because he made her Minister of Education and Culture.

She had served NJM well in the early days of their campaign, when as a teacher at the Grenada Secondary School she helped to mobilise the children.

She was neither dogmatic nor arrogant, just persuasive and this was her main political value.

Indeed Jackie Creft was regarded as a political gift: impeccable university background, link with grassroots.

DEMOBLISED

Ironically towards the end she too grew disillusioned as Russian and East German teachers imported by the revolution began the reverse process of demobilising the students, because it did not serve their purpose to have too heavily politicised young people.

The country was to be demoblised, the people's political consciousness put on permanent "hold".

It is known that Creft was resist-

ing this approach. She was also acutely conscious of the fact that Bishop was losing status in the Central Executive and was in fact in great danger.

Did she warn him? If so did he take her advice? The answers to these questions are not known, but people close to Jackie Creft knew that she was deeply worried it was not for herself, but for him.

Creft was in St. George's when Bishop returned from his last overseas trip in early October. He found the gates of his house locked and had to go over to his mother's house.

Creft saw in this an ominous sign.

A few days later he was placed under house arrest. Jackie Creft left her home and her son and asked to be allowed to go to him. She was told that once she went inside, she would not be allowed to leave.

She went in and joined Maurice Bishop in what was to be the last days of their life.

For the next eight days they lived under the shadow of guards. Bishop had been betrayed by his friends and colleagues and feared even to eat the meals prepared by his maid.

Then came the fateful day of Wednesday October 19 when crowds

of people, again led by women and children, defied guards at Bishop's house and set him free.

Jackie Creft followed Bishop as he made his way to Fort Rupert hoping to regain the Revolution that was slipping from him.

When the Revolutionary Army attacked, Creft was with Bishop as they surrendered to the soldiers with their hands in the air.

She was again with Bishop when they and other ministers and labour leaders were ordered back inside the Fort, and she died with him as the soldiers lined them up and shot them. The bodies were then burnt and buried in a garbage pit.

Many who knew Jackie Creft have said that she would have preferred death to life without Maurice Bishop.



JACKIE'S mother Lynn Creft with Vladimir.

1st part missing

There was deafening silence on the issue after that.

In relation to the number of Cubans on the island, no one was in a position to give a proper estimate. After hearing Grenadians explain, one would realise why it was difficult to have a proper count.

"Mistah, dem Cubans used to come and go as they please. Once a Cuban boat come in, no Immigration or Customs people could ask them anything. You would see maybe 150 to 200 come off de boat."

"By the time the boat is ready to leave some will return to the boat, so you could never tell how many stayed off, or how many went back," declared James Thompson.

"In fact, we who is Grenadian used to be stopped by the Immigration and Customs from going into the area," he added.

Grenadians also expressed their displeasure over the number of Cubans and Guyanese who were posted to high-paying jobs with cars, and sometimes houses, while Grenadians who did the actual work were lowly paid.

Places like the Ministry of Trade became a nest of Cubans and Russians. That department posed an everyday headache to the Grenadian business sector. For every commodity they wanted to import in Grenada, they had to obtain a licence from the Ministry of Trade.

Businessmen like Trinidadian, Cyril Sammy and others would tell you this posed no end of worry for them and the business they transacted with the banks.

However, Sammy and the rest of the business sector breathed a deep

Ministry of Trade a nest of Cubans and Russians

JOHN BABB concludes his look at Grenada after the short-lived war on the Spice Island. The first part was carried yesterday.

'That department posed an everyday headache to Grenadian businessmen'

sign of relief last week when the Interim Government announced that the import licensing system instituted by the Bishop regime on April 1, 1982, had been discontinued.

A release from the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Trade listed only 48 items for which an import licence is necessary.

First items on the list is arms and ammunition. Others include television sets, Christmas trees, chicken, onions, rice, sugar, flour, cement, pyjamas, shirt-jacks, ground spice, canned beans, apples, pears, grapes, pepper sauce, seasoning, grapefruit and orange juices, etc.

It was in the aftermath of the October 25 invasion, with the capture of certain documents that Grenadians really learned what was in store for them had the invasion not taken place.

They learned that November 26, 1983, was designated "Ration Card Day" — that was the date on which the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) would have started distribu-

tion of ration cards among the populace.

Not only that. There was not only the proposal to institute forced labour, but there was already in stock, farm equipment, field boots and uniforms.

Some people alleged that this was the scheme in the light of Bishop,

having signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for the export of bananas. The idea was to have thousands of acres of land cultivated in bananas.

Even a banana spray 'plane was brought in, or at least so Grenadians believed. But the U.S.-led invasion uncovered the true

"identity" of the aircraft that had been parked at Pearls Airport.

With the permission of the military we inspected it. On the outside, the aircraft looks all banged up as it bore the startling resemblance to a plane for spraying crops. But once you got inside, that thought was dispelled. You saw really what it was.

On the inside, you are confronted with a brand-new, dust-free instrument panelling — Russian labelled — plus equipment, making it a complete paratroopers aircraft, fitted with even gun-turrets at the under-front of the aircraft.

Up until when we left, the aircraft was still heavily guarded, parked at Pearls Airport.

Among the captured documents was also a "hit list" that contained numerous names of people in the community, many of them representatives of big business.

Grenadians also related about the amount of private property acquired by the PRG without pay-

ment, particularly property left behind by wealthy Grenadians who ran from the PRG.

But they are beginning to return home already. While there I met former Trinidad journalist, Lennox King, now a New York banker. He was scouting around, seeking to buy what was the "Free West Indian" newspaper.

He was also looking into other businesses on behalf of his friend, Ken Milne, who he said was due back in Grenada shortly.

Everybody seemed wanting to cash in on Grenada now, where good housing land is sold at (EC) 50 cents a square foot.

I even ran into the internationally famous Trinidad-born writer, Vidia Naipaul, at the Governor General's House, during the swearing-in ceremony of five Interim Government members. I was certain of his plans to write yet another book — this time on Grenada.

During the week we spent in Grenada, the residents were quick to point out to us the deteriorating condition of the roads, the utilities and communications.

"The PRG posted their own people, which included Cubans, Russians and Guyanese, to top jobs in the various departments, and that was all," said Mr. Sonny Alfred. "All they seemed concerned with was guns and more guns and ammunition," he added.

"Everything they put their hands on has been rundown," said Mr. Alfred, citing the road from St. George's — the capital — to Pearls Airport.

Invasion took three levels

From page 12

"Mistah, ah don't even know where to drive again, is only holes ah seeing," said our taxi-driver, known as "Boom Drakes" as he chauffeured us to Pearls. The drive took almost an hour and a half.

Maybe the condition of the roads even had an impact on the Americans. The first post-invasion aid they gave — some (US) \$90,000, is being spent on road repairs — from Calivigny to St. George's.

Grenadians are happy about that. Not only because their roads are being repaired, but they are getting jobs on the projects, at a handsome Grenadian pay of \$12 (EC) per day for male, and \$10 per day for female workers.

But while the rehabilitation work goes on, there is still a smattering of resistance to the U.S. troops on the mountain ridge that runs right through the island. The U.S. military claim the resisters number about a dozen or just over that.

The U.S.-led invasion took the form of three levels of operation over the past weeks.

Firstly, there was the violent side of it — the guns, the bombings, and what not.

Secondly, there was the collection and checking of the dead and wound-

ed, as well as attempts to get life back to normal.

When we left, the third stage was still in progress — heavy intelligence work, involving interrogation and searches.

But despite all this, Grenadians are extremely happy about the Americans in their midst.

"They could stay as long as they want to," said Sonny Alfred and his friends. "They liberated us, and we welcome them," he added.

Americans, meantime, apparently bored with their war rations, were doing some heavy shopping by the end of the first week. The cashiers at the various grocery stores were smiling. "The difference is that the Americans are buying," said one cashier. "The PRA used to take," she added.

Not only in Grenada were the Americans winning friends. Over in Carriacou they had their fill of home-cooked fish broth and green fig.

It was not until one week after their landing in Grenada that the Americans apparently realised there was an island called Carriacou. When the Marines landed there one week later, they met no resistance.

In fact, it was recalled by politician solicitor Herbert Blaize and others that only one shot was fired.

A PRA soldier had fired on a helicopter but missed.

But if the people of Grenada looked on Bernard Coard and Hudson Austin as their "devils," the people of Carriacou also had their own in a PRG cohort known as "Bully" Sylvestre, who resided in the village of Bogles.

According to the residents "Bully" was a one-man army, and seemed fiercer than other members of the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC).

On the Monday — the day prior to the invasion — when the RMC permitted people in Grenada four hours to do their shopping, "Bully" in Carriacou allotted the residents of Bogles, two hours to shop.

BROAD-CHESTED

It was no wonder that he was the first man the residents complained about to the U.S. military.

They immediately despatched three burly, broad-chested Marines to bring in "Bully." And bring him in they did, hands tied behind his back. He was as meek as a lamb.

"But you should have heard what the Marines said about him," recalled Elaine Baly, a former reporters out of New York, now residing in Carriacou.

"Man, he had the people of that little village so terrorised, they were real scared of him," Ms. Baly reported one Marine as saying.

The Marines later moved out and were replaced by the 82nd Airborne troops, some of whom quickly settled in to some home life with Grenadians and Carriacouan girls, thus lending credence to the saying that's all fair in love and war.

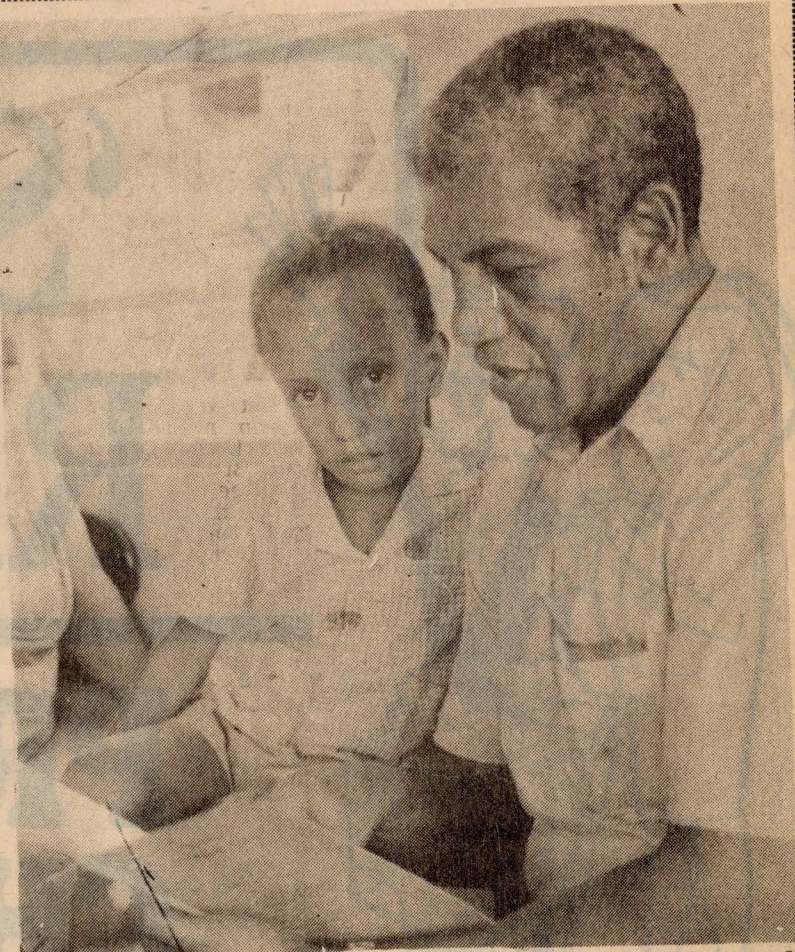
Even the church leaders had much to say. Archdeacon Hodson Huggins, head of the Anglican Church in Grenada, recalled that it was "a terrifying experience" for the people.

It was small wonder then that Roman Catholic Bishop Sydney Charles said in his sermon at the National Thanksgiving service at St. George's Cathedral, that when you're in trouble and ask God for help, if he cannot come he usually sends someone.

This was in obvious reference to the U.S. and Caribbean forces "liberating" the island on October 25.

In his sermon Bishop Charles confirmed the view of several Grenadians, when he told the packed congregation, including the military:

"The challenges that face us as Grenadians are immense. Under God we must make our country a place of peace, based on justice, truth, love and freedom."



REPORTER JOHN BABB and Vladimir Bishop, son of Maurice Bishop.

MEMORIES OF TRAGIC GRENADA

— ILLUSTRIOUS, POOR

THE EDITOR: Please publish my poem on the late Maurice Bishop.

When I was born a veil was on my eyes,
And I saw visions.
When my grandmother died three times they crossed
Me over the raised coffin,
Under the breadfruit tree, like a pagoda,
Pyramiding.

A La Grenada, illustrious, though poor,
She was descended from Fedon.
I hear the gravel grating as we walked

To see her pirogue part the waves of earth.

I was a child searching for shells and almonds,
Picking wild grapes from vines,
Burying myself in sand, leaving the head a

Sphinx, pondering the sea's riddle.
Schooners were anchored at the pier.

Loading bananas. On the horizon.
The sails of ships were distant diamond tips,

Cutting huge panes of glass.

That azure scene was shattered by the plot

To kill the leader — rivalry for power.

Slaughter, curfew and terror gave pretext

For the U.S. invasion long since planned.

The airport at Pt. Salines was struck

By air and sea. Marines, troopers were shot

By Cuban and Grenadian patriots,
Defending years of work,
Symbol of revolution and hope.

I will not add to grief
Or burst the gall to increase bitterness.

Or choke the gulping mouth with tongue of love.

The dam is burst; no condolence can baulk the
Sorrowful flow.

From a shallow dump for grave,
The invader's guns scraped the charr'd bones.

Burnt to erase the mutilating scars,

Of fascist execution,
Yet the shells riveted in stone,

Inscribe the treacherous episode in steel;

Maurice is dead; Night falls,
And all the foliage red on the hill
Blush for the last before the terrible dark.

Machine gun fire sprayed the splendid crop —

Jackie and Unison and the two Bains,

Bullen of the militia, and all the beautiful

Who sprang the wall in anger
When they heard that Coard and Strachan had done.

O, what a sovereign act on people's part.

Rushing like rivers excavating stone,

Where washer-women beat and bleach the clothes,

The banks were inundated with the flood,

And those who countered scampered in its path.

Suddenly came the tanks, booming their rockets.

Bursting some craniums like calabashes

And then the sound of anguish.

Many leapt to their deaths

Like the resistance, natives of Sauteurs.

Be witness to the fact,

You doubting Tom,

Whose ostracism helped inflict

The wound that mangles the New Jewel,

And will live to stain your reputation.

The masses freed Maurice, from house arrest.

And lifted him in triumph to the Fort,

Named after his own father who fell there.

Victim of Gairy's murder.

Caesar or Czar, Rome or Bysantium,
Whether in St. Domingue, Cuba, Guyana,

The imperialist eagle's mission is the same:

To swoop on fledgling nations and patrol.

The ideologue Coard, nicknamed Suslov,

Who threw Lenin at Maurice, shouting "read".

Must know conflict breeds chaos.

Dionysius cannot dance

When discord jars the Appollonian strings.

Take tension from the bow.

Let it caress the arrow

With lyric sound reverberating vigour and delight.

And you, my friend,

Who saw his lightening at the dome

Or heard him thundering at Sea-Moon

Know what promethean fire burned our hearts.

Throughout the storm that night

we braced each other,

Drenched with salt sweat like foam dripping

From rock after the swell's climax.

SYL LOWHAR.
Port-of-Spain.



NICHOLAS BRATHWAITE

CDB drawing up 2-year plan for Spice Island

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana): THE BARBADOS-BASED Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is preparing a broad two-year economic development programme for Grenada's new caretaker government and the final draft of the plan should be ready shortly after Christmas, the head of the interim administration said today.

Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the nine-member advisory council, said the programme will focus on all the projects the new authorities

see as essential to Grenada's economic development over the next 24 months.

These include the completion of the Point Salines International Airport, road reconstruction, the development and building of new hotels, and upgrading of water and electricity services.

"It is hoped that this particular programme will be put to a donors conference and we are going to seek assistance from all countries friendly to Grenada and international agencies with a view to funding those programmes," Brathwaite told the Caribbean News Agency (Cana).

CDB President, William Demas, is serving for three months as economic consultant to the interim government which will rule Grenada pending establishment of a new administration following general elections next year.

FAR AND WIDE

Brathwaite said the proposed donors conference would take place around February next year and the CDB would be co-ordinating it.

The advisory council chairman said Grenada had not asked the United States for assistance in completing the airport but the Americans are expected to attend the conference.

"We are going to seek funds from far and wide. It may well be that most of the funds for the airport may come from America but I'm not in a position at this time to say from which source the funds will actually come," Brathwaite said.

"Of course, since the international airport is a necessity as far as the interim administration is concerned, we are going to welcome assistance from any source to complete it," he added.

The international airport project was started by the former People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) with massive financial and manpower assistance from Cuba. It was originally scheduled to be completed by March next year.

With the bloody overthrow of the PRG and the subsequent U.S.-led military intervention on October 25, work on the project has come to a halt.

Grenada has downgraded diplomatic relations with Cuba and all the Cuban workers employed on the project have since returned to Havana.

Elections before Christmas 1984

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana): THE ADVISORY Council of Grenada has not yet fixed the date for general elections but, according to the council's Chairman, Nicholas Brathwaite, it will be before Christmas 1984.

"Before the council was appointed," he said, "an earlier forecast was for six months, but most people soon realised that that was too short a period."

"Eventually, it was adjusted to one year and, as of now, the advisory council is doing everything possible to meet that general deadline."

Brathwaite said the Supervisor of Elections will soon be appointed and enumeration of electors, with the help of the Government of Barbados, will take place between March and May 1984. After that, he continued, the important thing will be for the political parties to make sure that the action is speeded up and public interest heightened.

GRENADA MISSION FOR TT

Request to remove visa requirement

ST. GEORGE'S Sun., (Cana):

CHAIRMAN of Grenada's recently installed interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, has announced plans by the new authorities to send a delegation to Trinidad and Tobago for talks with government leaders there.

Mr Brathwaite told the Caribbean News Agency (Cana) discussions between the two governments are going ahead on the proposed meeting, expected to take place within the next two weeks.

Mr Brathwaite said the Grenada delegation would be raising the possibility of Port of Spain lifting its requirement that Grenadians wishing to travel to the country obtain visas first.

The visa requirement was imposed by the George Chambers Government in a protest against

the short-lived military junta which seized power in an October 19 coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others were killed.

A U.S.-led invasion later toppled the junta, but Trinidad and Tobago, which did not back the invasion, maintained the visa requirement.

Trinidad and Tobago is Grenada's largest trading partner in the English-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) of which the two countries are members.

According to Mr Brathwaite, the question of the visa requirement was important because for "various reasons" Grenadians must travel to Trinidad. The relationship between the two countries has always been close, he added.

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN DEC. 12 1983

RED CROSS SENDS FOOD TO GRENADA

JUST ONE week after the intervention in Grenada of a multinational force the International Committee of the Red Cross, acting as neutral intermediary, evacuated wounded Cubans and military personnel, also Cubans, from the island.

The ICRC began to take action on October 25 when it made approaches to the governments concerned — the United States, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent. ICRC reminded these countries of their humanitarian obligations towards the people affected by the intervention and asked permission to visit all prisoners.

This offer was accepted by the Governments involved on October 28.

On October 30, a DC-8 airliner, chartered from the Swiss company, Balair, left Geneva for Barbados. It reached Barbados in the early hours of October 31 and the evacuation of the Cubans was carried out from November 2.

In all 57 wounded persons and ten doctors and nurses were flown home to Havana on the Red Cross aircraft.

FROM TRINIDAD

The transportation of the remaining Cuban prisoners began on November 4 and was completed five days later. The ICRC remained in Grenada to visit detained Grenadians.

In the wake of the invasion, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society also pitched in to aid Grenadians. More than five truck-loads of food and other supplies were flown to Grenada by ICRC. A schooner load of biscuits was also sent.

Mr. Daniel Samaroo, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, said his association was asked to "stay its hand" on the question of supplies, until further notice.

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN DEC. 12, 1983

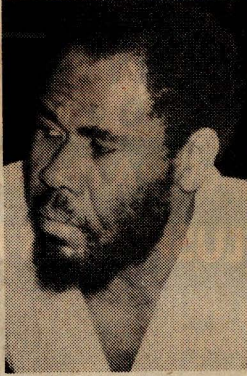
Guilty in Grenada must be unmasked

SAN FERNANDO:

MR RICHARD SMALL, president of the Jamaica Branch of the Association of Jurists, has spoken out about the attempts of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada to protect the "genuine human rights" of the people of that country.

Speaking at a Press conference held on Saturday at the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union in San Fernando, Mr Small said that there were areas in which the opponents of the Revolution had tried to make out that in fact there were fundamental violations of human rights.

He said there was not a single person in custody that was detained and who died over the four year period. "And I challenge all of these governments who claimed that they came to power by legitimate means to beat that record."



ESUI KWAYANA

DECEIT

Mr Eusi Kwayana, leader of the Working People's Association of Guyana, said that they shared the horror, condemnation of the step by step brutality which marked the process by which Brother (Maurice) Bishop and his five colleagues were destroyed physically.

"What we want to condemn most emphatically is the extent to which the so-called revolutionary military council went to deceive the region after the killings," he said.

He stated that "their fascist-like propaganda deceived many including some in our own ranks — the slanders against Maurice Bishop, the whole attempt to accuse

him of suicide rather than admit that he had been assassinated reminded us very strikingly of the action of the Guyana regime following the assassination of Walter Rodney."

He said that the attempts after the killing of Bishop to blame him and his colleagues for their own deaths without having eye witnesses "is something which we condemn out of hand."

REGIONAL EFFORT

Mr Kwayana emphasised that there should be a regional effort to unmask the guilty in whatever position they found themselves because if the attempt was not made to unmask those guilty and reveal them to the world, "I think that the Caribbean is accepting a cultural political brutality."

Others who spoke at the conference called by the OWTU were Mr Gus John and Mr Linton Quassie Johnson, and Mr Darcus Howe, all from London, who came to attend the Memorial Service and cultural show in memory of Mr Bishop and Mr. Walter Rodney of Guyana.

Mr George Weekes, President General of OWTU, said that the Grenada Revolution started by Mr Bishop was something which continued from the 1937 revolution at Fyzabad by the late Tubal Uriah Butler.

Trinidad Guardian DEC. 12, 1983

Committee looking at public sector viability

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana):

GRENADA'S interim Government has announced plans to set up a committee to look at the viability of all public sector corporations run by the previous administration of executed Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop.

According to the Chairman of the new Grenada Government, Nicholas Brathwaite, the committee is expected to make recommendations on those public sector corporations which should be handed over to the private sector.

Mr. Brathwaite told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) that the new authorities, who took office on November 15, could not afford to

have corporations that were not viable, and would return to the private sector those corporations which were not profitable.

However, he said the Government had no immediate plans to put into the hands of the business community the State-owned Marketing and National Importing Board, which has a monopoly in the sugar, rice, cement and milk trades.

The Marketing Board, which was used by Bishop as a major thrust for greater State control of basic items, had as one of its primary objectives the reduction of prices to consumers.

"If it is found that the Marketing Board is not satisfying these objectives, then we would have to take a second look", Mr. Brathwaite said.

Trinidad Guardian
Tues. Feb., 23, 1984.



NICHOLAS BRATHWAITE

Grenada gets aid pledges to complete airport

ST. GEORGE'S, Mon., (AP):

GRENADA has received pledges of \$24 million (U.S.) to complete the controversial international airport begun in 1980 with Cuban funds and labour, according to interim Government Chairman, Nicholas Brathwaite. Brathwaite returned here last night from a meeting sponsored by the World Bank between donor countries and recipient countries in the Caribbean.

He refused to identify the countries pledging the \$24 million to complete the airport. He said simultaneous announcements would be made in the next few weeks in St. George's and in the capitals of those countries.

Work on the \$71 million airport project, at Point Salines, was interrupted when US and Caribbean troops invaded Grenada, last October 25, six days after leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was executed in a radical military coup.

The Cuban-built airport was a major factor in the deterioration of Bishop's relations with Washington. Months before the invasion, President Ronald Reagan charged, in a

national television broadcast, that the 10,000-foot runway would be used by Cuban and Soviet military aircraft.

As it happened, US military aircraft inaugurated the unfinished airstrip during the October invasion. Bishop insisted that the airport was vital to the growth of tourism, Grenada's chief source of foreign revenue.

The civilian interim Government installed here after the invasion made completion of the airport its



CARIBBEAN HIGHLIGHTS

top priority as well, and has tried unsuccessfully to convince the United States to complete the project.

Club was to contribute \$33.6 million and most of the labour for the airport at Point Salines. The Bishop Government borrowed \$5 million for the project from Iraq.

Another \$14.2 million was to come from Grenada's Treasury, and various pledges were received from the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the European Economic Community (EEC) Venezuela, Algeria, Syria, Libya and other sources, according to Government figures.

Trinidad Guardian Feb. 28, 1984

Grenada joins security group

KINGSTON, Wed., (AP): STILL OCCUPIED by foreign troops and with its own army disbanded since its 1983 crisis, Grenada has joined a three-year-old Eastern Caribbean security system. Prime Minister Herbert A. Blaize made his nation the seventh member of the security group yesterday.

Leaders of the small islands met after a summit meeting between new Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and leaders of 11 English-speaking Caribbean nations and five remaining British dependencies in the region.

Goals of the Eastern Caribbean security system have never been clearly defined in the region. It has mainly dealt with cooperation on such matters as coast guard rescue missions, but the members have also indicated the desire to use it to combat the threat of foreign-inspired insurrection or incursions by mercenaries.

LITTLE DISCLOSED

However, the leaders disclosed little about their meeting yesterday other than to announce Grenada's membership.

Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams said the leaders also discussed the security situation in Grenada, where about 300 Caribbean soldiers and about 300 U.S. military personnel remain as the island rebuilds its police force, in the aftermath of the 1983 fall of its leftist Government and the subsequent U.S. invasion.

Adams said the leaders agreed on a timetable for withdrawal, but did not want to publicise it, for security reasons.

He said the U.S. and Caribbean withdrawals would not necessarily be joint, and added that despite contradictory announcements from different U.S. officials, the final decision was up to the Grenada Govern-

ment which is still reviewing its security situation.

U.S. officials have indicated that all U.S. military will be out of Grenada within nine months, and possibly several months sooner.

Grenada is training a police force of about 500 to replace the 2,000-man army that was disbanded after the October 25, 1983, U.S. invasion.

Before the meeting, Adams indicated plans for an agreement concerning joint negotiations by the Eastern Caribbean nations with the United States, Canada and other powers for more security assistance, but he said the leaders decided not to make any mention of that topic in their post-meeting communique.

STATE OF FLUX

He also said his 1984 proposal for a centrally-headquartered regional standing army was in a state of flux and was not discussed yesterday. Jamaica, the other nation participating in the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force on Grenada, was not involved in the meeting, because it doesn't belong to the Eastern Caribbean security pact.

Before heading back to Grenada, Mulroney said his Government received no specific requests for security aid, other than training Canada might bring to local constabularies, but added that Canada would be willing to listen to future requests.

Search for Carib lawyers to defend Grenada detainees

SARAH BURTON, one of the British lawyers who was refused admittance to the Grenada High Court last week, said over the weekend that the Grenadian authorities hired a British Queen's Counsel to prosecute 18 detainees charged with murder and conspiracy to murder.

Ms. Burton, who was in Trinidad for 24 hours, said that although the law in Grenada stated that only Caribbean-trained lawyers would be allowed to practise, the authorities hires a British Q.C. to prosecute the detainees.

She said that the prisoners and their relatives were planning to approach several of the leading Caribbean lawyers (including Trinidad and Tobago lawyers) to help take the pressure off Jamaican lawyer Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, who was representing them last week.

"Attempting to appear for 18 persons on charges such as these would require a lot of ground work. Jackie cannot do this work all by herself. As a result, it was decided to approach lawyers from the Caribbean who would be allowed to practise in Grenada."

PLEA TO TRIBUNAL

"We would not only be concentrating on appearing for the 18 charged but the other detainees who are in prison without charges preferred against them. There are detainees who applied to the Review Tribunal to appeal against detention," Ms. Burton said.

The British-trained lawyer said that Lord Anthony Gifford and herself made strong representation to the Grenadian authorities to proclaim the law to allow British lawyers to practise in the island.

"I don't think it is possible or highly impracticable to have a defence team of 18 lawyers. The detainees have the right to have counsel of their choice and I understand that most of them have asked for British lawyers to defend them."

Ms. Burton said that Lord Gifford sent letters to the Advisory Committee, the Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to change the law so the defence work could start immediately.

A lawyer with five years experience, Ms. Burton said that should the law be changed, Lord Gifford and herself could be back in Grenada "sooner that they think."

"I would like to come back to help with the work that is still to be done. I will do whatever I could when I return to London...legal work could be done in an office or law library," she said.

WARM RECEPTION

Ms. Burton said that the Grenadian lawyers were very supportive of the attempt by Lord Gifford to be admitted to the Bar. "We got a warm reception in Grenada, although we did not announce who we were. But within a few days, everybody knew."

Ms. Burton said that Jacqueline Samuels-Brown was first asked by Bernard and Phyllis Coard and their family in the United States to represent them.

As a result, the London-based Committee for Human Rights in Grenada was formed to seek the welfare of the detainees. President of the committee is Dame Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development in the last Labour Government.

"There is also Jeremy Corbin, MP, Chairman of Islington Borough, which is twinned to St. George's.

Within four days, the committee got 20 sponsors. The committee also included academics, lawyers, trade unionists and leaders of the black community."

Ms. Burton said she was disappointed when she was not allowed to practise. "We were also denied access to the prison. I told them that even the clients in my office in London could gain access to clients in the Brixton prison."

She said that the committee realised that the Commissioner of Prisons had complete control of the prisons and decided who must enter the prison. "When we filed for habeas corpus for the detainees, the Commissioner of Prisons took it personally and cut Jackie's visits to the prison from five hours for six days a week to absolutely none."

Trinidad Guardian
March 1, 1984

No other choice in Grenada

THE EDITOR: The recent invasion of Grenada by Caribbean and American forces is in my opinion bad in principle yet good in essence. My reasons for coming at those decisions are:

Firstly, the sovereignty of a country or state should be respected and in that regard the invasion can be considered wrong.

However, considering the crisis situation which existed in Grenada with the arrest and consequent execution of Prime Minister Bishop, some ministers and citizens, too, by the Cuban-backed PRA army officers, there was no other choice.

The situation in Grenada had not only gotten serious but out of hand when some soldiers directed by Cuban and Russian intelligence, went about destroying the Grenadian government and brutalising and oppressing the Grenadian people.

HIS LOVE

It is in this regard why I think the invasion was very good, again it was not an invasion to dominate but to free the people from oppression and brutality.

Brother Maurice Bishop was trying to develop Grenada and the Grenadian people.

He was not going to let anyone use him or tell him who his friends were, and because of his love for his people and the Grenada revolution, when his friends chose to get rid of him.

I have been to Grenada very often and I know the Grenadian people are happy to have those Cubans out.

TRINIDAD-BORN GRENADIAN

Trinidad Guardian
Fri. March 2, 1984

Reagan pledges completion of Grenada airport

ST. GEORGE'S, Thurs., (AP): PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN has given Grenada his personal assurance that the United States will complete the controversial international airport under construction by Cuba at the time of the October 25, U.S.-led invasion, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon said last night.

In a national radio broadcast, Sir Paul said Reagan made the commitment in a letter received yesterday.

"President Reagan fully supports our aim to have this facility operational as quickly as possible, so that the Grenadian people can benefit from its commercial availability," Sir Paul said.

He added that the President had directed the Charge D'Affaires at the US Embassy here to stay in close consultation with the Chairman of the interim Government, so that work could proceed as quickly as practicable.

MAJOR FACTOR

The Chairman, Nicholas Brathwaite, said on Sunday night that he had received pledges of \$24 million needed to complete the airport, during a meeting, last week, with donor countries. He declined to identify the countries pledging the funds, but sources in Washington confirmed that the United States and Canada were involved.

The \$71 million project was under construction by Cuban workers when the US-led troops landed, six days after leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was murdered in a radical military coup.

The 10,000-foot airstrip had been a major factor in the deterioration

of Bishop's relations with Washington.

Months before the invasion, Reagan said on a nation-wide TV broadcast that the facility would be used by Cuban and Soviet military aircraft. As US emergency aid flowed into Grenada after the invasion, American officials resisted pressure by Grenada's civilian interim Government to commit funds to the airport's completion.

Both the Bishop Government and the current interim Government maintained that the new airport, at Point Salines, just outside the capital of St. George's, was vital to the development of tourism.

The existing commercial airport, Pearl's, is about 20 miles from the capital. It has no lighting for night flights, and can accommodate only small aircraft.

Runcie: Church has special role in G'da

ST. GEORGE'S, Tues., (Cana):

ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, reflecting on last October's bloody political disturbances in Grenada, said last night that the Christian Church had "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 St. George's Church here. His visit was 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,



CARIBBEAN HIGHLIGHTS

but come where something that has gone wrong..." he said.

Dr. Runcie, who has already visited Belize, the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, Antigua, St. Kitts, Barbados, St. Vincent and Saint Lucia, was expected to leave this morning for Trinidad and Tobago.

Last October's political crisis had its roots in a leadership squabble within the ousted left-wing Government.

Dr. Runcie said he wanted to come to Grenada more than anywhere else during his month-long trip, his first to the region since his enthronement, four years ago, as the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury.

"...I come in order to encourage you and to support you, because so many of your fellow Christians prayed for you and have great hopes for you," he told the congregation, estimated at close to 2,000.

Caricom will survive says Seaga

By DAN SEWELL

KINGSTON, (AP):

JAMAICAN Prime Minister Edward Seaga says the Caribbean community will survive the bitter rifts of the Grenada crisis and probably will expand.

We won't know until we get together. But I think time is certainly dissipating a lot of that (bad feelings), Seaga said in a recent interview.

Seaga said the 13-member treaty organisation and Common market of the English-speaking Caribbean will meet as planned in The Bahamas this July. Caricom was split last October when Jamaica, Barbados and five Eastern Caribbean islands sent troops in the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada that toppled a radical military junta.

Guyana's socialist President Forbes Burnham blasted the participants as puppets of imperialism and Trinidad and Tobago's Government claimed it wasn't informed of the invasion, which it opposed. The Bahamas and Belize also opposed the intervention.

Seaga predicted Caricom will stay together, but with some changes. He said the Grenada crisis by accident solved two of the organisations major problems — a unanimity rule and the inability to expand.

At an emergency meeting in Trinidad after the October 19 military takeover in Grenada, there was consensus

to create a Caricom II treaty which would be the same as the current treaty but would allow for majority rule by eliminating the unanimity rule.

At the last regular summit on July 1983, Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop blocked Seaga's effort to gain admission of the Dominican Republic to Caricom. Seaga said Bishop insisted Suriname be admitted, but that other Caricom members opposed admitting the former Dutch colony, ruled by a left-leaning military regime.

TOTAL

He said after majority rule is structured, Caricom would probably expand.

Besides the Dominican Republic, which Seaga favours because it is a democracy and its 5.5 million people would double the common market's current population, Haiti and Suriname have sought also to join Caricom.

The present regional market is too small, not a viable market.

The Grenada crisis removed the main base of the Soviet-Cuban axis in the Caribbean, Seaga added. He said most



MR SEAGA

Caribbean leaders felt Grenada was a stepping-stone in a series of events in the Caribbean that could have wiped out the pro-West democratic governments through subversion.

Now, the Soviet-Cuban position in the Caribbean is the lowest of the last decade. He said Caribbean nations have been watching for

CARIBBEAN

a sign from Cuba that it might change its policy of trying to export revolution in the region, but they have not indicated they're willing to make any changes at all.

SNAP ELECTIONS

Seaga said his election in Jamaica in 1980 was the first in a series of blows to Cuba in the region, and probably averted a Marxist takeover of his island. Seaga defeated socialist Michael Manley, Jamaica's Prime Minister the eight previous years.

Seaga said the overthrow of Bishop by more-radical elements in Grenada could have happened in Jamaica.

Either he (Manley) would have gone with them or they would have gotten rid of

them. My view is that we would have simply gone the route that Bernard Coard (leader of the coup against Bishop) took, converting into a Marxist-Leninist state. That was the finale that

wasn't played out.

Seaga, whose popularity increased here after the invasion, called snap elections in December and won the right to five more years in Government after Manley's party boycotted.

The Prime Minister, who at the time of the invasion said the Caribbean leaders didn't want to trade an Austin (General Hudson) for a Gairy (Sir Eric), said he's hoping that a party of the middle ground will emerge in Grenada before elections.

There are several splinter groups. We're hoping they'll come together, he said.

Fact finding mission to Grenada proposed

Trinidad Guardian April 5, 1984

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers and Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday have held discussions on the possibility of sending a non-partisan fact-finding mission to Grenada.

This was confirmed by Mr. Panday yesterday. He explained that the mission would go to Grenada to find out exactly what was taking place there and to see "what can be done to assist the Grenada people."

Mr. Panday said the Prime Minister discussed the matter with him one week ago and as far as he was aware, no decision was taken regarding the composition of the mission or the date of departure.

The Opposition Leader said he wanted to make it clear that the matter was "merely discussed."

He said he agreed to participate but he himself would not be a member of the mission and he hoped Mr. Chambers would also not be included in such a non-partisan team.

He said: "We agreed that the fact-finding mission will be a truly non-partisan one made up of members of both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and should include non-politicians led by an impartial person who will be willing to participate."

Mr. Panday said they believed they had a moral duty "to do all in our power to assist our brothers and sisters in Grenada to recover from the tragedy that has befallen them and this is our reason for participating."

Members of the Grenada Interim Government have held talks with the Trinidad and Tobago Government on various forms of assistance to Grenada.

Grenada murder cases adjourned

Trinidad Guardian April 5, 1984

ST. GEORGE'S, Wed., (Can): PRELIMINARY enquiry into murder charges brought against 20 former Grenada government and military officials as a result of last October's bloody army coup here, was adjourned today to April 25.

Magistrate Lyle St Paul granted the adjournment after defence lawyers asked for more time to take instructions from their clients.

Magistrate St Paul formally announced that all 13 persons, initially charged with conspiracy to commit murder under a 1980 Terrorism Prevention Law, were now charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and seven others.

The accused include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, ex-Army Commander General Hudson, ex-Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, and former Ambassador to Cuba and Army Major Leon Cornwall.

OF PAPERS STUDIED

DR. LEDEEN: The American and Caribbean armed forces that liberated Grenada last fall brought all documentation regarding the ruling party, the New Jewel Movement, to the United States for analysis. There is an unbelievable quantity: we have been through about 25,000 pounds of documents so far, and we have another huge shipment that has just come in.

It's mostly government material, although there are also some private diaries. There is also a substantial amount of documentation in Spanish that was in the possession of the Cubans on the island.

IRD: What is the special significance of these documents?

DR. LEDEEN: They comprise the first full documentary record of a country that was taken over by the Soviet Union and its proxy forces. Consequently, the Grenada archive constitutes a historical source of enormous and quite unique importance.

Moreover, I would wager that if we could lay hands on the Nicaraguan archive, we would find a replication of what we have found in Grenada. So I think it is a real case study of Soviet and Cuban behaviour in this hemisphere.

INTEREST

IRD: What is there of special interest to church-goers in the United States?

DR. LEDEEN: The first thing is that, contrary to what some sophisticated people contend, Communists really do believe in Communism. It may sound simple-minded to say that. But I, along with lots of other presumably well-informed people, had come to believe that the Russians and the Cubans really didn't believe in Communism anymore.

To be sure, they paid lip service to the ideology, and invoked Marx and Engels and Lenin and Stalin, but they didn't really believe in it. Therefore, you could deal with them like anybody else.

Well, once you start reading these documents you see that a great deal of very scarce money and manpower was invested in the indoctrination of the people of the island. Ideology meant a lot.

Secondly, religious ideas were clearly viewed as an obstacle

to the process of political indoctrination. There was one secret agreement between the Cuban Communist Party and the New Jewel Movement which arranged for exchanges

a funeral service for a Communist was simply thrown out of the country.

But their longer run plan is set forth in a memorandum drafted by the chief of their in-

primary schools and the secondary schools. The document called for eliminating the Mass from Sunday morning radio programmes.

IRD: That sounds

part of New Jewel leaders?

DR. LEDEEN: No, they were Marxist-Leninists; they were not Christians. In the final analysis they were aiming at raising a new generation of Grenadians who were atheistic.

IRD: Is their interest in radically-inclined Christians were just a tactic for them?

DR. LEDEEN: When you go through these documents, it is clear that the whole treatment of the churches is a tactical question. They are not interested in religious or theological issues at

The Grenada documents — an archive of church subversion ...

of personnel: Grenadians going to Cuba to be trained and Cubans coming to Grenada to train other Grenadians there.

The agreement quite explicitly provides for sending people to Cuba to be trained in dealing with the churches while Cubans skilled in handling churches would take up assignments in Grenada.

CAMPAIGN

The purpose of this exchange was to strengthen a campaign of unrelenting hostility and suspicion by the Government against the churches. This campaign was carried out in a variety of ways. Given a pretext, the Government would simply get rid of the religious leaders who were explicitly anti-Communist.

On one occasion a Methodist minister who refused to perform

terrestrial security structure, Major Keith Roberts. It is dated July 12, 1983, and called "Analysis of the Church in Grenada."

The last two pages comprise a series of recommendations which begin by saying the party must infiltrate the churches and watch them all very carefully and that they must build up the Communist mass organisations, the national youth organisation, the national women's organisation, the pioneers and so forth, as alternatives to the churches.

Point seven says they should remove from primary schools all deeply religious head teachers by whatever means most suitable, replacing them with more "progressive elements."

Political education was to be introduced into all the social studies curricula down to the

like what happening in Nicaragua.

DR. LEDEEN: Overall, the plan was very much like the Nicaraguan model. The Grenadians speak of trying to substitute clergy and lay people from other Communist regimes for the traditional religious authorities on the island.

MODEL

They talk of bringing in people from Nicaragua and other Latin American countries linked, as Major Roberts puts it, to the theology of liberation and to the idea of a church committed to revolutionary positions.

IRD: Do you find in these documents any sign that this support for liberation theology and the "people's church" derived from any genuine Christian commitments on the

all. And, in fact, they frequently complain that religious leaders seem really to believe in religion, and that they actually want to Christianise the inhabitants of Grenada.

IRD: One of these documents refers rather favourably to the Caribbean Conference of Churches, which denounced the joint U.S.-Caribbean action almost immediately after it began.

But we later learned that the Grenada Christian Council itself was a very strong supporter of the action.

How do you explain the statement of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, and the apparent assumption of the New Jewel Movement that it was an ally?

DR. LEDEEN: It looks like the New Jewel Movement was right. The Caribbean Conference of Churches certainly wasn't representing the interests or the views of the churches on Grenada. The New Jewel Movement considered the churches on Grenada to be enemies.

And, as the accounts of the Government's internal espionage organisation make clear, the Grenadian churches did not like Communism.

IRD: Immediately after the invasion, something in this country called the Committee in Solidarity with Free Grenada issued a Press release under the headline "Religious and community leaders condemn U.S. invasion of Grenada."

MELTING TRIALS

This release came out of the office of the Caribbean and Latin American affairs staff person at the United Methodist Church's Office on the United Nations.

And among the signers of the release were a number of officials of the U.S. National Council of Churches. Is there evidence in the records of the New Jewel Movement that it worked to cultivate allies in church bodies here?

DR. LEDEEN: Yes, in fact it had lots of allies of all sorts in the United States. They periodically travelled around this country, touching base with their supporters here. We have found the references on documents to what they have called their U.S. Front Group, which consisted

of a variety of people: some people in the mass media; some in the universities; a substantial number from Communist Party, USA.

IRD: These documents refer to a number of conflicts the Government had with the churches in Grenada. They seem to

have been particularly concerned that Bishop Sidney Clark, a Roman Catholic, was organising a youth movement. In another passage they're concerned that boxes of the Jerusalem Bible had been sent in.

DR. LEDEEN: Yes, they were terrified by the fact that over 4,000 Bibles arrived on this

island. This appears in several of their documents.

Churches brought in 4,365 copies of the Jerusalem Bible, and the Government was concerned that because this Bible was written in a very readable style it would influence the masses.

8,612 medals for US troops in Grenada fighting

WASHINGTON, Sun., (AP):

THE ARMY showered 8,612 medals rewarding individual performance in the brief Grenada invasion campaign although it never had more than about 7,000 officers and enlisted soldiers on the island, the Service acknowledged.

About 50 of the achievement medals went to personnel who got no closer to the fighting than the Pentagon, according to army officials.

Other awards were given to staff and rear-area support troops at Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the 82nd Airborne Division; Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Lewis, Wash., bases for Army Rangers; and the headquarters of the Armed Forces Command in Atlanta.

Asked for an explanation, the Army defended its awards system as a valuable and effective leadership tool to build unit morale and esprit.

The other services, which had many fewer men on or over the Caribbean island last fall, have granted only a handful of individual medals.

Some additional awards may be granted but nowhere as lavishly as the Army, according to indications from the Marines, Navy and Air force.

The U.S. invasion of Grenada began October 25 following a bloody coup and the fighting ended on November 2. Eighteen American servicemen were killed.

FOR VALOUR

The United States quickly began withdrawing its troops, getting down to about 300 by mid-December. Currently, the Pentagon said, approximately 225 American military personnel are performing civic action and similar chores on the island.

In response to questions, the Army said it awarded 275 decorations for valour, for combat deaths or wounds.

Beyond that, it said, it gave out a total of 8,337 medals for individual performance. These included 4,581 commendation medals, 2,495 achievement medals, 681 bronze stars and a variety of other decorations for meritorious service.

Many support and staff personnel received these awards for their support of the Grenada operation outside of the actual combat zone or for service in Grenada after hostilities had ceased, the Army said.

It indicated that the decisions on awards were made by unit commanders. The 82nd Airborne Division led with 6,708 individual awards.

The Marine Corps reported granting 10 purple heart medals for combat deaths and wounds, with an additional 100 recommendations for bravery being studied. The Marines had about 1,000 men ashore in Grenada during the battle. However, the corps has approved a unit commendation for the full 22nd Marine amphibious unit, including about 1,800 men who apparently remained on ships offshore.



CARIBBEAN HIGHLIGHTS

Enumeration starts today in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana):

ABOUT 266 enumerators and photographers will begin visiting households in Grenada tomorrow, to register persons eligible to vote in the next general elections, planned for later in the year.

Those persons charged with carrying out the enumeration exercise, to run until May 12, were trained for two weeks by experts from Barbados and Jamaica.

"We have got our enumerators and photographers and equipment all on spot, to have our men and women take off on Monday morning, from about eight o'clock, and going right through the day," Supervisor of Elections, Roy Chasteau, remarked.

Grenada has 15 constituencies, and Chasteau said the enumeration exercise would be through. For the first time, potential voters are being provided with an identification card — a

move aimed at reducing the incidence of fraud.

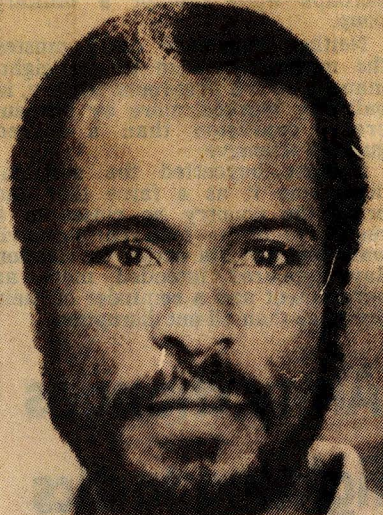
Chasteau also said he expected there would be "a few snags and rough edges to be ironed out" during the early states of the enumeration process, but noted that the electoral experts from Barbados and Jamaica would be out in the field to take care of these problems.

QUICKLY UNSEATED

Grenada's last election was in 1976, when Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) won nine of the 15 seats at stake. The GULP, a right-wing party, was ousted by the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) of Maurice Bishop, in a March, 1979, coup.

During feuding between moderates, including Bishop, and Marxist hardliners in the NJM, the Army took power last October, but the junta was quickly unseated in a U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported, invasion.

Last November, a caretaker Government was set up to take the island into general elections, a date for which is yet to be set.



MR. VICTOR...
detained by PRG

Servol-type Grenada group to help the ex-soldiers

Trinidad
Guardian -
April 2

By VASHTY MAHARAJ

A GRENADIAN who was detained by the Grenada People's Revolutionary Government, has now set up an organisation to assist the soldiers of that ousted Government.

In October of 1979, Mr. Teddy Victor was detained.

After four years in prison, he has emerged to form the New Life Organisation (NLO) a Servol-type operation, which, ironically, will be used to help some of the soldiers who ensured his stay in prison.

Mr. Victor was in Trinidad last month learning about the operations of Servol, which he sees as a success story worthy of being copied.

The work of Servol's Rev. Fr. Gerard Pantin inspired him to form the same type of organisation in Grenada of which he is the Executive Director, he said.

The NLO, he said, would help the hundreds of Grenada youths who were trained as soldiers during the regime of the New Jewel Movement and its People's Revolutionary Army.

ONLY ONE THING

According to Mr. Victor, there are 600-plus youths in the country who were trained for only one thing and they are now finding it difficult to fit into the society. They are being treated as social outcasts, and the NLO's intention is to rehabilitate these youths for re-employment.

Mr. Victor has appealed to the people of Trinidad for any type of assistance, private or Government. "We are taking a step in the dark," he said.

He was one of the original members of the New Jewel Movement. At the time, he said, it was not a hardline Marxist-type group, but after a time it lost direction and became more involved in agitation.

In 1976 he split from the NJM when he saw the direction in which it was going, and opened his own marketing outlet in St. George's. He took part in the 1979 coup that ousted Sir Eric Gairy. "Everybody took part in some way," he said.

He was picked up by the PRA. The warrant for his arrest was signed by Bernard Coard. It was an order which Maurice Bishop, even in those early days, could not countermand.

He described Bishop as simply a "figurehead" of the party, the man with the charisma, the image to appeal to the people. Bishop was never a hardline Marxist, he said, but was more involved with the "African struggle." He was a "weak" person who sat back and allowed Coard to take over. And he was further weakened by the manner in which all his supporters were branded as CIA spies by Coard and gotten rid of, while Coard succeeded in gathering his own little clique around him.

In search of a Caribbean way of life

FROM NORA PEACOCKE — in Kingstown

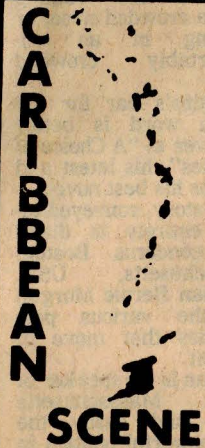
I MUST thank Peggy Antrobus for the re-assurance to write this article. I have often indicated my personal feeling that our ideologies should not be involved with the super powers. But since I belong to a generation that is on its way out, and the younger ones seem convinced that small nations must of necessity "pick a side," I have desisted from making a song and dance about the matter.

The terms "white hair" and "old woman" have both been used with reference to me in a belittling sense. But neither applies to Peggy, so it is encouraging to hear the same views from her. I will quote three brief passages from her poem, which appeared in the "Caribbean Contact" of March 19, 1984:

"America, Europe,
Africa, Asia
Every continent con-
tributed
But we are none of
them.
We are ourselves.
Caribbean people."

"We must return to
ourselves
Rejecting East and
West, and North and
South
We belong to none."

"We Caribbean people
Will find the truths and
strengths
To forge our own
ideology...."



*'Much of the mess in
the world is due to
the interference of
the super powers'*

I don't have to look over my shoulder to see who is listening any more!" It is a great pity that things could not stay that way.

PROBLEMS

Much of the mess in the world is due to the interference of the super powers with the weaker nations. They won't leave them to sort out their own internal problems and so find the only path to unity.

In the Caribbean itself it is a great pity that Cuba could not have been permitted its revolution without the kind assistance of the Soviets, that

There can be no doubt left that allegiance of another country to an ideology that is linked per se with the interests of a super power is automatically subversive, when it comes to the interests of the people of that country and humanity in general.

THREAT

When Prime Ministers Tom Adams of Barbados and Eddie Seaga of Jamaica invited the Americans into Grenada, were they thinking of the Grenadian people or of the preservation of the American ideology against some Russian ideological threat?

The sixty-four million dollar question is why should we have either?

Our resources are inadequate for the resources necessary for the adoption of the American economic way of life, unless there is as the Soviet system goes, the subjugation of

the individual to the state (party elite might be more appropriate) is something foreign to West Indians.

Perhaps the repercussions from 300 years of slavery subconsciously require us to prefer to feast sometimes even if we hunger occasionally, rather than never hunger but eat only to be healthy.

For Caribbean people to be happy they must be associated with a way of life that permits them trial and error without dooming them to eternal damnation because a mistake has been made. That is why it is so important that elections are maintained in our systems of government.

If this is done and a way can be found to ensure that those elections are honest, a true Caribbean man will emerge, for there will be no need to fear permanent domination from any ideology and

so they could all be tried out and a choice made on merit.

The other two things that Caricom governments should make incumbent on their members are a legal process, to protect the individual's rights; and freedom of the Press, to ensure the flow of information. In other words, the things Bishop promised when he started his revolution.

ENEMY

It is not true that you can't have socialism if you have these things. The worst enemy of Michael Manley will have to admit that he never tampered with any of the three. The people of Jamaica had the means to throw him out when they tired of his experiments in socialism. The opposition point of view had free access to channels of communication. The courts functioned according to law.

I cannot believe that the Russians pose a military threat to the Caribbean, which sits more or less on the US doorstep. Just like the Americans are powerless regarding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the crushing of the trade union Solidarity in Poland.

The only valid reason for inviting American troops into Grenada was to stop a blood-bath. It is because so many feared Hudson Austin and Bernard Coard that we supported the thought of intervention. They should have left completely by now in the opinion of those of us who felt that way.

The people of Grenada need to be in a position to judge between election candidates on their own merits, and not on the basis of who is backing what alien ideology, and the temporary material benefits likely to accrue from support.

Trinidad Guardian
May 3, 1984



CARIBBEAN
HIGHLIGHTS

Coverage of Grenada crisis under study

KINGSTON, Wed., (Cana):

HOW Caribbean journalists and their counterparts from Europe and North America covered last October's political crisis in Grenada is coming under scrutiny, in a comparative study being sponsored by the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) and Radio Jamaica (RJR).

The study is being co-ordinated by University of the West Indies (UWI) media researcher, Dr. Marlene Cuthbert, who is being assisted by other communications researchers from the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, the University of Windsor in Ontario and the University of Florida in Gainesville.

THREE LEVELS

According to the PAJ, the study is being carried out at three levels: a local aspect, comparing print and broadcast aspects; regionally, comparing the coverage by dailies in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and internationally, comparing the reporting by papers in the region and those of North America.

The Grenada crisis was precipitated by a power struggle within the New Jewel Movement (NJM) culminating in a US-led invasion to topple a left-wing military junta that had seized power last October 19, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three Cabinet colleagues.

20, not 400, Grenadian immigrants were in prison

THE Ministry of National Security said in a release yesterday

that the average number of prohibited immigrants detained at any given time at the State's Prison is 80 and seldom ever exceeds 100.

The Ministry advised further that on March 26 when it was alleged in a daily newspaper (not the Guardian) that there were 400 illegal Grenadian immigrants in the prisons of Trinidad and Tobago being subjected to "very inhumane conditions", there was actually a total, from all countries, of 80 persons of whom 16 males and four females were Grenadians.

And now the Maurice Bishop Award

Cubans honour slain P.M.

HAVANA, Sun.,
(Cana)—

BY RICKEY SINGH

THE HAVANA-BASED Publishing House, Casa de Las Americas, has just marked a 25-year contribution to literature and education in the Caribbean and the Americas, announcing a new award in honour of slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The award is to be presented every three years on May 29, Bishop's Birthday. The first award will be made next year.

The Marxist Bishop, fond admirer of Cuba's Fidel Castro, was slain last October 19 during an Army Coup, leaders of which were toppled during a U.S.-led invasion the same month.

The Publishing House said it wanted to "pay permanent tribute to the spirit and contribution of Maurice Bishop as a man of the Carib-

bean and the American Hemisphere."

The announcement of the Award was made during a ceremony addressed by Barbadian novelist George Lamming, who described the Publishing House as a "unique integrating force."

"Casa contradicts all our traditional notions of a normal Publishing House. Its singular purpose is to help us achieve the spiritual integration and the cultural sovereignty of all the peoples of our Americas," Lamming said.

REVOLUTION

Casa de Las Americas was established on April 28, 1959, within four months of the Cuban revolution. Over the years it has hosted numerous conferences for writers, artists, critics and theoreticians of culture, and published books for several writers in the region, among them Jamaicans, Barbadians, Guyanese, Haitians, Trinidadians and Guadeloupeans.

Between 1976 to 1984 Casa's publication of Caribbean literature included at least 14 works of writers of this region, among these were Edward Kamau Brathwaite's "Black and Blues"; Andrew Salkey's "In The Hills where her Dreams Live"; Austin Clarke's "Growing up Stupid Under the Union Jack"; Angus Richmond's "A Kind of Living"; John Agard's "Man to Pan"; and David Lewis "Reform and Revolution in Grenada (1950-1981)."

One of the outstanding symbols of the Cuban revolution, Casa perceives Latin American and Caribbean culture as being "inseparable from the processes of the struggles for independence, for national identity and peoples development."

Casa says the creations of this culture are valuable components in the formation of a progressive social consciousness, a consciousness of democratic and anti-imperialist convictions...

Turning his attention

to the Grenadian crisis of last October and the significance of Casa's decision to honour the memory of Bishop, Lamming told his audience: "Today the aggressors prepare for a temporary feast over the corpse of the Grenada revolution. But it is a certainty they will not succeed in cannibalising the spirit and tradition which created Maurice Bishop..."

dimension it had never known before. His genius for popular communication and his deep humanity transformed this small island into one of the most critical and audacious political centres in the hemisphere."

Lamming said that during four short years of revolutionary struggle, "Grenada became a name inseparable from Nicaragua, as Nicaragua is inseparable from Cuba."

CULTURE

"For" he added, "Bishop was the product of a certain political culture which had known slavery and the history of slave rebellions: A culture which has consistently fought to break the chain of colonial oppression and cultural insult, and which has given to its neighbouring territories some of their most memorable leaders in music and politics: Marryshow, Butler and the world's most famous calypsonian, Sparrow.

"But Maurice Bishop," said Lamming, "gave Grenada a



MAURICE BISHOP



FIDEL CASTRO



MIGHTY SPARROW

USAID chief optimistic over Grenada's recovery

ST GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana):
THE ADMINISTRATOR of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Peter Mc Pherson, left Grenada today for Barbados after completing a three-day visit to the "Spice

Isle" to look at some of the projects funded here by Washington.

Mc Pherson told reporters shortly before departing that he was optimistic about the future economic viability of Grenada which was trying to restore constitutional government after nearly five years of

leftwing revolution.

He said there was good potential in Grenada, particularly in the areas of tourism, agriculture and light industries, and that the country stood to benefit from the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which is an aid and trade incentive package devised by Washington from regional countries.

He disclosed that only \$30 million of the \$114.4 million which the Reagan Administration had approached congress to approve in new aid for Grenada during the 1984 fiscal year from economic rehabilitation was still to be approved.

Most of this money would be used to help the island have its half-built international airport at Point Salines functional by the end of October, as well as to rebuild a mental hospital bombed by U.S. forces during last October's military intervention, to repair roads and to compensate those commercial enterprises damaged in the intervention.

The \$30 million still to be approved, is intended to be used by Washington to cover the cost of other economic programmes in agriculture, health and some projects still being discussed, he said.

Mc Pherson was cautious when answering reporters queries as to how soon Washington would like to see Grenada become economically viable in the face of large sums of money being poured into the economy by the United States.

He said the hope is that the island which is getting more financial assistance than all of the regional states put together in 1984 would be economically viable within a matter

of months and not years.

"I don't want to put an exact figure or time on it because that's not practicable... but we should be talking about months and not years. It is my feeling that in months as opposed to years there would be some real economic pick up here in this country," he added.

The senior U.S. Government official described Grenada as a country which did not need any enormous infusion of technical assistance but rather immediate help particularly in the creation of employment opportunities.

The last time I saw Maurice Bishop

THE LAST time I saw Maurice Bishop he was dancing the ska in the tilting, heaving ballroom of a ship of the Spanish Line, a night's sail east of the Caribbean.

That is a good, garish opening for a B-magazine-type memoir; it is also, more or less, true.

And since the name Maurice Bishop must already be attracting a bevy of would-be biographers, and since I am one of three people who can fill in — albeit vaguely — a brief but not necessarily insignificant fortnight of his life, I think I had better set it down here and now and be done with it.

The subtitle of this piece is "March 1970: Maurice Bishop Sails for Home." The bracketed question marks which occur in the following paragraphs mean that the biographer would be unwise to trust my memory in those places, and should seek independent verification.

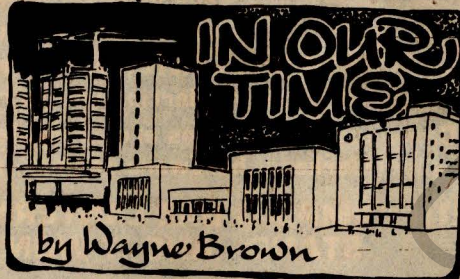
COLD

March 4, 1970, in Southampton (?) England, was a bitterly cold, dark, winter's day, with a slicing wind that made desolate the dirty grey waves in the harbour and pierced whatever you wore.

On the dock there was the same air of tossing uncertainly which Naipaul has described near the start of *The Middle Passage*: The West Indian immigrants were heading for home.

I have forgotten the name of the ship, but once on board we went down and down. Tourist Class, it seemed, lay in the very bowels of that ship: on a par, if that were possible, with the engine room.

When my wife (who was English) bitterly complained about the dirtiness, dinginess and darkness of our cabin, some shaken stew-



ard or purser placatingly offered us a cabin on the promenade deck; but Megan unexpectedly refused.

Cold, rattled and depressed, with the ship still berthed and "the immigrants" still coming aboard, we sought refuge in the promenade deck lounge. It was empty but for the bartender — and Maurice Bishop. He and I fell on each other like old friends.

In fact we had met for the first time two months earlier—at the West Indian Students Centre in London, after a talk there by CLR James. The Old Man had been his usual self, part-radical historian, part-Romantic.

REVOLUTIONARY

(All I really remember of his talk that night was his recipe for dislodging an occupying army: Poison the water supply).

It sounded revolutionary enough, but his audience, mainly a bunch of black and very bitter ghetto youths, roughed him up pretty badly in question time ("Yah! Uncle Tom!", that sort of thing) and so I went over afterwards to commiserate.

A young man of about my age (it turned out we were both 25), tall, brown-skinned, and obviously impelled by the same motive,

came to us, partly because we were angry, and partly as a way of cheering up James (who by now was sitting rather disconsolately in an easy chair, exchanging muted greetings with the odd passerby), we told each other at some length, in James' hearing, of the ingratitude, ignorance, and irresponsibility of the young.

At some point in that encounter I learned his name, Maurice Bishop, and that he had recently become a lawyer, would soon be returning home to Grenada—and that, yes, he knew two old ladies there whom I named, the spinster sisters of Pat MacLash (of whom the biographer will of course have heard), and would tell them "hi" for me when he got home.

FIRST NIGHT

I remember him, from that meeting, as pleasant; serious, though within the limits imposed by the West Indian notion of what constitutes a "regular" guy, thoughtful, and a little bit diffident: someone who would absorb a fatigue and roll with it, grinning ruefully, rather than flash back or deflect it.

I got no impression of charisma, nor of deep anger, nor of ideological propriety. If anything, there was something careful about him.

He weighed what you said and, if he disagreed, seemed content to shake his head thoughtfully and leave it at that.

I soon forgot that he was, like me, heading home, and was surprised and pleased to find him on the ship.

The first night out, at the dinner table, he introduced us to his wife Angela, a tall, big-boned, graceful girl with a kind of small-island simplicity, sunniness and gentleness



MAURICE BISHOP

which after five months in England, we both basked in.

There are women whose vivacity is bodied forth by vanity or by a kind of chronic petulance—but there was no petulance in Angela.

She was sunny, simple and gentle, and I think we both loved her a little bit by the end of the voyage. (I know that when we heard, in 1977 (?), that they had separated, our first and main pang was for her, and I remember thinking that Maurice's life must have gone quite drastically off the rails).

We sat together that first night, and became a foursome for the rest of the voyage, drawn together partly by the fact that, alone of the West Indian passengers, we shared the same upbringing and background (educated, middle class), but partly also, I think, by mutual liking.

We got on well together. Megan remembers us playing All Fours and Rummy 500

"endlessly;" I, the rounds of Scrabble.

We seldom parted for the night without arranging on what deck, and when, we would meet the following morning. I suspect now that we were more uneasy about our destinations, and the lives that awaited us there, than we were aware of then.

At this point, with the ship drumming south-east towards its first port of call, La Coruna on the north-west coast of Spain, I think I should perhaps put the would-be biographer out of his/her agony by getting rid of some Important Questions.

1) Was Maurice at that time a Marxist?

No. If anything, he seemed to me a model Manchester Guardian reader; just to the left of centre.

2) What was his attitude to Gairy?

He disapproved of him—but without any hint that he was thinking of personally and actively trying to oust him.

3) Did he have a sense of humour?

Of humour, yes. Of irony, no. I remember he distanced himself from me over that, saying half-jokingly that I was "too Trinidadian" in that way.

In this he was more like a Jamaican than like us. He had an unobtrusive but sharp sense of justice, and was capable of indignation.

4) What topic do you remember most clearly talking about?

Along with two-thirds of America we "despised" Nixon, and didn't for a moment believe he intended to disengage the U.S. from Viet Nam.

5) How did he see his future in Grenada?

I'm not sure he saw it very clearly. But he was "serious" about going home. I remember feeling sure that he would find himself out of place: A big fish in a small pond.

Remaining US troops to quit Grenada March next year

THE UNITED STATES Government intends to withdraw the remaining 300 troops it has in Grenada at the end of March next year.

Plans of the US Government are contained in the April issue of the Caribbean "Insight", quoting a "highly-placed Grenadian Government official".

The "Insight" report states in part:

"A small military mission will remain attached to the US Embassy to maintain liaison both with the remainder of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force and the future Regional Defence Force, the framework of which is currently under discussion.

It is expected that the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force in Grenada will be finally wound up in early 1986, by which time, the newly trained and equipped Grenada Police Force will be ready to assume

all remaining security duties.

Discussions on the future deployment of the US coastguard service in Grenada are also underway and it may be withdrawn sooner than the US troops as it is proving very expensive to maintain. One option under discussion is that Grenadian waters would be patrolled by the Barbados Coastguard as and when required in conjunction with a better equipped Grenadian service.

The decision to withdraw in March is in line with the desire in Washington to remove its military presence from Grenada at the earliest possible date. Initially, the US had wished to totally withdraw its forces by October/November 1984 to coincide with the arrival of an elected Government. However, under pressure from Jamaica, Barbados and certain East Caribbean Governments, the US agreed to delay until the Regional Security System (RSS) was es-

tablished.

Aspects of the RSS itself are still under discussion and in particular the question of funding has yet to be resolved. The participating Caribbean governments have asked the US, along with Britain and Canada to provide funding for a unified rapid deployment force based on Barbados. However, the US has been noticeably reticent in a Presidential election year to provide funding — said to be in the region of US\$100m

PREFERENCE

Britain and Canada are also understood to have indicated a preference for training and possibly for assisting in developing the coastguard service which has a strong residual defence capacity.

All three nations are understood to be keen to see Trinidad enter into the RSS. Inconclusive discussions took place with the US on the subject during

March, with Trinidad apparently indicating it was happy to con-

sider solutions to Grenada's immediate security problems through the supply of policemen but preferring to wait for the Commonwealth Secretariat's study on the security of small states to be published before considering the question of regional security.

Meanwhile, it is expected that aspects of the collective security mechanism of the Organisation of East Caribbean States treaty will be revised so as to make any action taken in future unchallengeable in international law.

US setting up claims office in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana):
THE United States is setting up a claims office here to facilitate those Grenadians seeking compensation for alleged damage suffered during last October's U.S.-led invasion.

According to a release from the U.S. Embassy in Grenada the office would receive and consider claims for property loss or damage and for personal death and injury arising out of the combat activities of American troops during the intervention.

The release said the U.S. Government considers the period of combat in Grenada to have ended by November 3 1983 and for a claim to be considered it must be shown that the loss resulted directly from the combat activities of the United States

Armed Forces.

"No payments can be made if the loss was sustained by persons while they were resisting the U.S. Armed Forces. Also no payment can be made for losses resulting from the activities of persons other than U.S. Armed Forces in Grenada during the period of combat, such as looting of premises by persons unknown," it said.

U.S. troops led a multinational forces invasion of Grenada on October 25 following a bloody coup six days earlier in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, half his cabinet and more than 100 people were killed.

U.S. figures show 45 Grenadians died during the U.S.-intervention — officials here say the total may be higher. Grenadians have submitted claims for compensation totalling \$240 million for damage done to property and lives lost.

According to the release persons wishing to present claims for process by office will be given a 60-day period in which to do so from June 4 to August 2.

Lord Gifford to appeal

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana):

BRITISH lawyer Lord Gifford says he will appeal to Grenada's six-month-old Interim Government for passage of legislation allowing lawyers trained outside the West Indies to practise here and represent 20 people charged with murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The Grenada Court of Appeal last week upheld a high court decision in

February preventing the British lawyer from being admitted to the local bar.

Lord Gifford told Cana he was seeking a meeting with the head of the Interim Government Nicholas Brathwaite to renew an earlier appeal for passage of the relevant legislation to allow him to represent some of the former military and political leaders charged with murder following last October's military coup.

Trinidad Guardian Dec. 6, 1984

Jagan: It's another sad day for Grenada

GEORGETOWN, Wed.,
(Cana-Reuter):

GUYANA'S Opposition Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan has described the results of Monday's General Elections in Grenada as another sad day in the history of Grenada and for the Caribbean people in general.

The pro-Washington New National Party (NNP) led by Herbert Blaize beat back all opposition, including the right wing Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and the leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) to capture 14 of the 15 parliamentary seats at stake. The remaining seat went to the GULP.

Said Dr Jagan: "one year ago, the United States marines won the first round. Now US dollars have won the second round, but experience, as in Guyana, Chile and Jamaica teaches, in the end democracy imposed, at the point of imperialist bayonet and manipulation, has no answers for the people's problems."

The leftists in the Grenada campaign had alleged that the NNP, whose formation was actively encouraged by the US and its Caribbean allies, was being funded by the American Central Intelligence Agency - a charge vigorously denied by the party.

Jagan, a forthright critic of the US-led invasion of Grenada in October last year to rout a bloody Marxist military junta that had seized power killing Prime Minister Bishop and half his cabinet, predicted a return of the left in St George's.

NO COMMENT

Inevitably what Maurice Bisop and the Grenada revolution stood for, will rise again, the Marxist virus cannot be destroyed, the leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) declared.

The Guyana Government made no comment on the Grenada poll result,

but a spokesman for the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) said the outcome was expected after the vast sums of money spent by the United States in aiding the New National Party.

The small right wing United Force said of the result: "It was an indication of what the people of Grenada wanted and they wanted democracy, to be allowed to choose for themselves and that is important at this time. It was Grenada's first general elections since Bishop's New Jewel Movement seized the government in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first coup in 1979. The last poll was held in December 1976."

UWI Libraries

March 14, 1985

GRENADA WANTS U.S. TROOPS TO STAY ON

ST. GEORGE'S, Wed., (Cana): THE GRENADA Government plans to tell U.S. Vice-President George Bush tomorrow that Grenadians are against the planned pull-out of the remaining 250 American military personnel here and will seek a possible extension to their stay, well placed Government sources said today.

The sources said another key issue the Government will raise will be continued U.S. economic aid and officials plan to show Bush areas where aid is critically needed.

Bush is the highest American official ever to come here and one of several Reagan Administration representatives to visit the island since the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion. He will make a nine-hour stop-over en route to Brazil for Friday's inauguration of President-elect Tancredo Neves.

The withdrawal of the American soldiers, stationed here since the invasion that paved the way for Grenada's return to democratic rule, is scheduled to begin around mid-April and end by June.

DISCUSSED BY CABINET

The sources said Cabinet discussed the issue this week and decided to petition Washington to allow the soldiers to remain a bit longer in view of the concern of many residents who fear leftwing activists may try to regain power.

Bush, expected here just after 8 a.m. local time, will hold talks with Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, and other Government officials.

The clamouring of the whole country is that they want the U.S. military forces to stay, and they are right now panicking. The people are definitely not ready to have the forces get out of the country, the sources claimed.

The American soldiers work along with soldiers and policemen from seven Caribbean islands in supporting the Grenada Police in the maintenance of law and order.

Bush will be taken on a helicopter tour of the island on which Agriculture Minister George Brizan will show him the agricultural belt.

The American Vice-President will also read a message from President

Reagan during a welcome ceremony at a playing field outside St George's.

Asked how the Government was viewing the visit, the sources said it would clearly send a message to the leftists here that the United States was firmly behind Grenada.

Leftists were in power from 1979 until the invasion which was prompted by a bloody military coup staged by hardliners to unseat Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who was killed during the take-over.

The visit has overshadowed attempts by Bishop's heirs to mark today's sixth anniversary of his rise to power in the 1979 coup.

The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, made up of Bishop supporters, has advertised a rally for the Market Square and announced it was launching a youth organisation with the aim of rallying the youth for progressive programmes under the banner of the ideals that Bishop stood for.

The New Jewel Movement, leaders of which are now awaiting trial for Bishop's murder, said that on this historic day it is reiterating its call for an end to foreign occupation of the island.

March 14, 1985
T. G. ...