

WORLD REPORT

Gairy's return adds to island fears

from HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY
in St Georges, Grenada

THE abrupt departure from Grenada last week of Tony Rushford, the retired Foreign Office constitutional adviser, is the latest in a series of tragicomedies that threaten to engulf Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon and his advisory council.

They have been struggling against increasing problems to govern the ungovernable since the American invasion on 24 October.

Rushford and his wife left the island after claiming to have been subjected to gross discourtesy by officials. Rushford himself is said by Grenadians to have been involved in furious rows with Jamaican soldiers and hotel staff.

The impending arrival of Sir Eric Gairy, the strange, eccentric and brutal former Prime Minister deposed by the British for fiddling the island's finances in colonial times and overthrow in 1979 by revolutionaries led by the late Maurice Bishop, threatens to make the confusion worse. In the National Museum are relics of his rule—animal skulls used for his magical practices and a yellow mortarboard and academic gown given him by a South-Korean university. Grenadians remember the efforts he made to have the United Nations set up a permanent commission to study



RANDY TAYLOR/SYGMA

'Now, hear this': American paratroop instructor trains assorted elements of the Caribbean force on Grenada.

flying saucers and the time when a Grenadian became Miss World while he was on the jury in London.

Everyone is convinced he will get a big share of the vote in the elections Scoon has promised for next year, and some forecast he will return from his exile in the United States and win them outright. Gairy's United Labour Party is likely to make mincemeat of the ailing former Premier Herbert Blaize, whose Grenada National Party has thrown its hat into the electoral ring.

The former supporters of Maurice Bishop are arguing over the strategy they should adopt towards the elections. Anyone who can convincingly put himself forward as Bishop's political heir is certain to get a big share of the votes, and there

are several candidates for the task.

The loss of Rushford has put back the schedule of getting constitutional order into an administration whose powers and prerogatives raise legal questions which are the answer to a hungry lawyer's prayer.

It also puts off the day when Scoon and his council can decide the fate of the detainees in Richmond Hill prison, who include Bernard Coard, Bishop's ideological rival, and General Hudson Austin, leader of the ephemeral Revolutionary Military Council.

The question of a trial for Coard and his supporters is such a legal and political hot potato that Scoon and his advisers are reluctant to take hold of it. Under which laws will they be tried? Where will a jury be

found? Where will the judge come from?

The affair is complicated by Scoon's wish to have an inquiry into the massacre of Bishop and his companions on 19 October. If the inquiry were held before the trial, that would complicate matters even further.

If Coard, Austin and the rest are kept locked up without trial they will start to gain the aura of martyrdom which their murderous conduct has denied them so far.

Resentment is building up in some quarters against US and other foreign troops. Scoon abruptly cancelled permission for a 'Committee of Thankful Grenadians' to hold a 'demonstration of thanks to the US and Caribbean Liberation Forces' last Wednesday.

The dangers of allowing a

pro-Western demonstration which might have brought out only a fraction of those who demonstrated in favour of Bishop on the day of his murder were obvious. Also obvious were the demands from other political groups for permission to hold similar demonstrations.

Yesterday's edition of the weekly *Grenadian Voice* printed a letter in which a reader criticised the foreign forces for unnecessary interference and commented: 'My people was glad when we were rescue, but if things continue as it is going, Grenadian people are going to get acid again and hit the streets once more.'

Scoon and the US forces face a problem in trying to weed out former left-wingers from public life without bringing the Administration, very short of

skilled personnel, to a halt.

Mike Donovan, regional representative of the American Institute for Free Labour Development, a branch of the US trades union organisation, works closely with the US Government in seeking information on Bishop's supporters in the trade unions and co-operatives. US forces have continued interrogation of suspects.

Less publicised is the arrival in Grenada of the corpses of 13 Grenadians killed in the fighting which US forces sent to Cuba, but which the Cubans returned on 15 November after according them full military honours. A US spokesman said yesterday he had no information about the corpses, apart from the fact that they had been received at the US camp at Point Salines airport.

Grenadians have second thoughts about 'rescuers'

from HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY in St George's

'MANY Grenadians welcomed the US troops when they arrived in October as they were coming to defend democracy. Now we are wondering when they are going to do something about democracy in Central America and South Africa.'

Thompson Cadore, 19 and vice-president of the students' council of the Grenada Boys Secondary school here, is just about to sit his GCEs and feels slightly bitter. On 19 October he helped to organise the schoolchildren's demonstration that led to the release of Maurice Bishop from the bed his captors had strapped him to.

Two hours later Bishop was dead, executed at Port Rupert by his Stalinist rivals in the People's Revolutionary Government.

As the child of a poor family, Thompson is fearful for the future under the provisional Government of Sir Paul Scoon, the governor-general. He sees the social programmes that the Bishop Government put in place being discontinued by Scoon. No more free milk for schoolchildren, day-care centres closing their doors, youth programme suspended, free education under threat.

Thousands of the volatile Grenadians who cheered the US troops and talked of the 'rescue mission' are having second thoughts.

Bishop supporters who want to preserve the best of the schemes launched by Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government are carefully monitoring the public mood and they are laying their plans accordingly.

Last Tuesday the first badges commemorating Bishop appeared in the lapels of Grenadians and in the next few weeks the Maurice Bishop memorial will be launched in St George's. It will take the form of a museum and library.

Secrecy

Bishop supporters are already pressing for the Point Salines airport, vital for the island tourist industry, to be completed quickly and named after the late Prime Minister. Half-a-dozen parties have begun to form in anticipation of next year's elections and the battle for the hearts and minds of Grenadians is likely to be a bitter one.

Last week the US Army lifted the blanket of secrecy hitherto surrounding its own propaganda effort and revealed some of the activities of the Psychological Operations Battalion whose men were among the first to come ashore during the invasion.

Earnest and meticulous, Captain Charlie Borchini told how up to 60 men, of the unique 150-man battalion from Fort Bragg, came to the island well prepared for winning the important propaganda battle.

His battalion, which contains experts on Central and South America, Africa and Asia, and which can count on the help of academics and other experts throughout the United States, came with leaflets and posters prepared at the Army's printing works.

The printed matter, prepared by the US Army in collaboration with the State Department, was flown in with the assault troops. Preparations did not start until two days before the invasion, the US chief military spokesman Major Douglas Frey quickly interjected, although the material gave the impression of having been carefully thought out.

Captain Borchini's unit also produced the tapes of broadcasts, which were beamed to Grenadians in English and to Cubans on Grenada in Spanish, on the morning of the invasion. Major Frey said the broadcasts were transmitted from Barbados but other reliable sources said they came from the US Forces transmitter on Antigua which is used by the Voice of America.

The Psychological Operation Battalion also devised the reward system under which money was offered for weapons handed in and for information about the whereabouts of Cubans on the island. Major Frey confessed that note of the 345 rewards offered for the capture of a Cuban was ever paid out.