

The Grenada

NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED 17TH AUGUST 1973

For the Week Ending 26th November 1983

11th Year of Publication - - - - - 294th Issue

Volume 11

Number 15



ISSUE MAY BE
BORROWED FROM

APR 27 1984

SCOON NAMES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Impeccably dressed in a grey lounge suit, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon stood on the steps of Government House in the rain under a black umbrella on November 9th and disclosed the names of 9 Grenadians he has invited to serve on an advisory council which will help him to run the Government until general elections can be arranged.

Heading the list and designated to be Chairman of the Council is Alister McIntyre, 51, currently Deputy General Secretary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Mr. McIntyre, educated at the Grenada Boys Secondary School (GBSS) worked in the private and public sectors before taking up a 3 year scholarship at the London School of Economics in 1954.

Qualifying with first class honours, he lectured at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in 1960 and 1961, during that period undertaking several United Nations assignments. In 1962, he accepted the post of Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research of UWI, relinquishing that position to become Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in 1977, subsequently moving on to UNCTAD.

Mr. McIntyre will have responsibility for finance, economics, trade, planning, security and electoral matters.

Next on the list is Nicholas Brathwaite, 58, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre with headquarters in Guyana. Mr. Brathwaite's background is education in which he received a diploma from UWI in 1962.

-continued-

Produced & Printed by Alister & Cynthia Hughes
P O Box 65, St. Georges, Grenada, West Indies

He has been Chief Education Officer of Grenada, Principal of the Grenada Teacher Training College, and he served the CARICOM Secretariat in the field of education.

Sir Paul asked Mr. Brathwaite to accept the portfolios of Education, Health, Youth and Community Development, and Sport.

Mr. Arnold Cruickshank, now the senior manager of the Agricultural Division of the Caribbean Development Bank, located in Barbados, was educated at GBSS and qualified in Agriculture at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad.

Mr. Cruickshank, who has been with the CDB since 1972, will handle Agriculture, Natural Resources and Industrial Development.

Construction, Housing, Environmental Matters, Science and Technology have been entrusted to Dr. James De Vere Pitt, 49, director of Grenada's National Science and Technology Council. Mr. Pitt, educated at GBSS, also taught at that institution and, in 1975, obtained his doctorate in Botany at the University of Reading, England.

Dr. Patrick Emmanuel, senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the Cave Hill campus of UWI, Barbados, has been assigned the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Educated at the Presentation College, Grenada and at UWI, Dr. Emmanuel qualified in 1974 at Manchester University, England, for his doctorate in Political Science.

He has lectured at the St. Augustine, Trinidad campus of UWI and at Northwestern University, USA, and, for a short period, was Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

The Civil Service and the Secretariat of the Advisory Council will be the concern of Dr. Allan Kirton, now Permanent Secretary to Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica.

Educated at GBSS, Dr. Kirton studied Natural Sciences at the Mona, Jamaica, campus of UWI on a scholarship awarded in 1952, following which he joined the Jamaica Civil Service and rose to head the Fisheries Department. He returned to UWI first to study and then to lecture on public administration, later returning to the Civil Service to be Permanent Secretary to then Prime Minister Michael Manley.

Mrs. Joan Purcell, local director of the Canadian Save the Children Fund, will have the portfolios of Labour, Employment and Women's Affairs. She holds a degree in Sociology from UWI.

-continued-

Sir Paul assigned no responsibilities to Mr. Christopher Williams who is the former Principal of a Junior Secondary School. Now involved in Community Welfare and Youth work, Mr. Williams is a farmer and a lay preacher in the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Raymond Smith, 53, Consultant in Broadcasting and Telecommunications, has been assigned the portfolios of Telecommunications, Information and Postal Services.

Mr. Smith was educated at GBSS and qualified in Electronics in 1954 at the Radio College of Canada, Toronto, Canada. He returned to Grenada in 1955 to set up the Windward Islands Broadcasting Service (WIBS), holding the post of Chief Engineer until WIBS was closed in 1971, and then assisting the Governments of St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica to set up their own radio stations. Mr. Smith, who was the first President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, has been a consultant to most CARICOM countries, UNESCO and the British Development Division.

Members of the Council resident in Grenada are Dr. Pitt, Mrs. Purcell, Mr. Williams and Mr. Smith. Mr. McIntyre, Dr. Kirton and Mr. Cruikshank paid short visits to Grenada and are expected to return; Mr. Brathwaite and Dr. Emmanuel have returned to the island.

ELECTION POSSIBILITIES

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon has announced that Grenada is to have general elections within a year, and speculation is growing as to the gladiators who will enter the political arena when the doors are opened.

Interest centres on the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of Sir Eric Gairy, 61, who was deposed in the March 13th 1979 revolution of Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM). Sir Eric still exiled in the United States, is handicapped in that he has not had a physical presence in Grenada for the last 4½ years and, he may have to face serious charges in the courts of law. Significantly, however, chalked up signs have appeared in St. George's saying: "Vote Gairy, Russia no".

Facing the Grenada electorate Sir Eric must contend with other handicaps. His opponents will not fail to remind everybody that two commissions of inquiry exposed extremely damaging aspects of his administration.

-continued-

The first, the "Squandermania" inquiry, conducted in 1962 when Grenada was still a colony of Great Britain, exposed much questionable expenditure by Government and resulted in suspension of the island's constitution.

The second, in 1974 after the island became independent, disclosed Sir Eric's employment of a gang of criminals to intimidate his political opponents. A riot, the death of one man, injury to scores of others and the looting of St. George's were the direct result of Sir Eric's use of these criminals against anti-government demonstrations.

In spite of his ugly record, however, Sir Eric is attracting some support because, in comparison with NJM, his party seems desirable. NJM carries the stigma of "Communism" and of the massacre of civilians at Fort George on October 19th and, side by side with this, Sir Eric and his "Mongoose Gang" of criminals rate as angels.

On the other hand, a faction of NJM while unable to escape the accusing finger of violation of Human Rights over the past 4½ years, is not associated with the bloodiness of October 19th. The most visible representative of this faction is Mr. Kendrick Radix, 42, a barrister and PRG Minister of Fisheries and Agro Industries, but he declines to discuss his political future.

"Some elements of the NJM party lost contact with the people" he said, "and I didn't want to fall into that trap. Before I make any decisions, I want to know what the people want".

Mr. Radix has the advantage of some popular support because he led a demonstration demanding Maurice Bishop's release when Mr. Bishop was under house arrest. Because of the way he was executed, Mr. Bishop's already high personal popularity has soared but, even in the unlikely event Mr. Radix can convince the electorate that he will not carry on the evil ways of the NJM, he does not have the charisma to take the place of his slain leader.

In any case, NJM has been strongly against the "Westminster Type" system of elections under which the general elections will be held. Mr. Radix would have to sacrifice his principles to offer himself as a candidate under this system and this will discredit him even further as a person to be trusted.

A third force to be considered is the Grenada National Party (GNP) of Mr. Herbert Blaize, 65. Mr. Blaize is respected in Grenada and regionally as a statesmanlike politician but his party does not have the organisation which was developed by GULP and especially by NJM. Nor does he have the flamboyance of Sir Eric Gairy or the charisma of Mr. Bishop.

-continued-

But, GNP has already thrown its hat into the ring. In a Press Release, the Party pledges to work towards establishment of parliamentary democratic institutions. The General Secretary, Miss Gloria St. Bernard, said on November 9th, GNP is "willing, ready and able to lead Grenada back to good government".

Another political party, minor in comparison with GULP, NJM and GNP, but not to be overlooked, is the Peoples Action Liberation Movement (PALM) of Mr. Winston Whyte. Mr. Whyte has had a varied political career. Originally, he was a member of Sir Eric's GULP but resigned because, it is reported, he was overlooked by Sir Eric in favour of another person as a candidate for a by-election.

Mr. Whyte then joined the United Peoples Party eventually becoming its Political Leader, and under that banner he joined with GNP and NJM to fight the 1976 general elections, winning a seat for himself.

Six months after the revolution of March 1979, he was arrested and detained by the Peoples Revolutionary Government, it being alleged that he was involved in a plot to assassinate the NJM leadership. No charges were laid against him but he was held in prison until he broke out with all the other detainees after the arrival of the U.S. Rescue Mission.

His long detention has brought him public sympathy but his political record has not been distinguished. After his four years of isolation, reorganisation of PALM must be basic and, unless he has some surprises to spring, it is unlikely that he will be a serious threat to other contenders in the elections.

The "dark horse" in this coming race is Mr. Lloyd Noel. Formerly member of the PRG, Mr. Noel, 48, a barrister, held the post of Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions. Because of undisclosed "differences of opinion" with Maurice Bishop, Mr. Noel resigned from the PRG in July 1980. He was arrested and detained in July 1981 because of his association with publication of an independent newspaper, "The Grenadian Voice".

Mr. Noel does not have the charisma of a Maurice Bishop but his popularity, especially in some areas of the island, is high. He is seen as having the potential to be a rallying point for a slightly-left-of-centre grouping, but he will have to build from the ground up.

He has no political party now and, indeed, he has not committed himself to fight the general elections. "Grenadians must understand", he said, "that I must consider my family, if not first, then with equal priority with my obligations to my country".

-continued-

As compared with Mr. Noel, Mr. Blaize (GNP) must be considered right of centre. Mr. White (PALM) will also be right of centre while Mr. Radix (NJM) is far left enough to be Communist. Sir Eric is hard to characterise. His support was based in a Trade Union which fact would suggest a lean to the left, but he led a personal life of a capitalist.

Undoubtedly, there will be other political figures arising in the coming months. There will be new parties formed, new groupings made and new alliances established. And time must be given for this. If elections are held too soon, the older parties will have an unfair advantage. But there is an even greater danger. Without sufficient time for assessing all the leadership offering itself, Grenadians may not pick the best of the crop. Instead, they may find themselves voting for the least unsavoury of a rotten lot.

CCG THANKS GOD

The Council of Churches, Grenada, an ecumenical body representing the principal Christian Churches in the island, has issued a message to the nation expressing thanks to God that Grenadians can now look forward to a life of freedom and peace.

"Our gratitude goes out also to all who made this possible by answering the appeal of the Governor General", the message says, "and particularly to the American and Caribbean forces who responded to the call for help".

The message, which was read in all Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches on November 6th, offers, as the Church's first concern, "sympathy and prayers to the bereaved relatives and to the wounded and suffering".

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

The Governor General has announced we will have elections within a year, the message says, and it is therefore imperative that, as a nation, we prepare ourselves adequately for all that this involves.

The message, which is signed by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Grenada, Sydney Charles, acting Chairman of the Council of Churches, Grenada, declared November 13th to be a national day of prayer to be observed throughout the nation.


CCC CHANGES VIEW OF GRENADA SITUATION

The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) which opposed the United States action in Grenada, has now pledged its support for the Council of Churches, Grenada (CCG), which welcomed the American intervention.

In a cable to Roman Catholic Bishop of Grenada, Sydney Charles, acting Chairman CCG, read in all Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches on November 13th, CCC endorsed the CCG call for reconciliation "at all levels" and indicated it now has a different view of the Grenada situation.

"While we affirm our concern that the Christian's option is for peace and peaceful resolution of human conflict" the cable said, "we have become aware of and fully appreciate the point of view of Christians in Grenada, in common with that of a majority of the people of your fair land, who see the intervention by United States and other friendly forces as a rescue exercise and a liberation process".

The cable which was signed by Roman Catholic Archbishop Kelvin Felix, CCC President, and by Methodist Minister Reverend Allan Kirton, CCC General Secretary, says "CCC, as part of the overall move towards reconciliation, reaches out in love to you, our sisters and brothers, and pledges its resources, human and otherwise in support of your efforts towards fulfilling our common Christian objectives".


SOUR NOTE

The first sour note in Grenada, on the United States rescue mission to the island, was sounded on November 6th.

It came from the Reverend David Hasslam, Methodist Superintendent Minister of the parish of Harlesden, London, who is also vice-chairman of the "War on Want" organisation. Reverend Hasslam, a visitor to the island, was guest preacher at St. George's Methodist Church and he told the congregation that the Americans and British must bear their share of blame for what happened in Grenada over the past few weeks.

"If Britain and America had given Maurice Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government only 5% of the cost of the military operation in Grenada, he said, "the events of the past few weeks would not have happened".

-continued-

The Minister said Cuban aid is the "most principled" in the world, and he did not believe Fidel Castro had any intention of taking over Grenada. When the Cubans help, he said, they do not ask anything in return and, when they are asked to leave, they go home.

Rev. Hasslam asked the congregation to consider his opinions as having a different perspective "from outside", and he said he did not find the Cuban and Russian presence in any part of the world to be any more threatening than the American and British presence.

Throughout Rev. Hasslam's sermon, the congregation (which included British parliamentarians and United States congressmen) became more and more restless. The Superintendent of the Church, Reverend Philip Ponce, also appeared uneasy and, when Rev. Hasslam ended his sermon, Rev. Ponce told the congregation, "I feel like being mischievous but I think I'll leave it there".

After the service, Rev. Ponce told NEWSLETTER, "David Hasslam must be taken for what he is, an outside who does not know the facts about Grenada".

In the courtyard of the Church, Rev. Hasslam faced irate members of the congregation who totally disagreed with his sentiments.

HUSBAND "SHOT IN BACK"

"On the 19th October I saw Grenadians gunning down Grenadians, but I never realised I would live to see the day when another Methodist Minister would stand in my husband's pulpit and shoot him in the back".

According to Methodist Minister Philip Ponce, this is what his wife, Ann, told Methodist minister David Hasslam following Rev. Hasslam's controversial sermon delivered at the St. George's Methodist Church on November 6th.

In that sermon Rev. Hasslam said the United States and Britain must bear their share of blame for the traumatic events which rocked Grenada recently.

"If Britain and America had given Maurice Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government only 5% of the cost of the military operation" he said, "the events of the past few weeks would not have happened".

Rev. Ponce said on November 7th he regretted that, in the Press Report of the Hasslam sermon, mention had not been made of the statement of the Christian Council of Churches, Grenada, which disagreed entirely

-continued-

with Rev. Hasslam's sentiments. The Methodist Church, he said, was a party to and wholly subscribes to that statement.

"In that statement", Rev. Ponce said, "we stated clearly how we felt about the events related to the "Rescue Mission", and we expressed our gratitude to all who made this possible by answering the appeal of the Governor General, and particularly to the American and Caribbean forces who responded to the call for help". Rev. Ponce said Rev. Hasslam is a Methodist Superintendent Minister of the British Conference and, because of their past association, he (Ponce) had offered Rev. Hasslam accommodation at his home when Rev. Hasslam arrived in Grenada a few days before. Rev. Ponce also offered Rev. Hasslam the opportunity to preach at the Sunday morning service.

"That is what I invited him to do", Rev. Ponce said, "preach a sermon, and I would have made that offer to anyone of my Methodist colleagues, but I think it is important for me to state that I am very sorry for what Rev. Hasslam has done because I feel he has abused that privilege".

Rev. Ponce said he would be hesitant to turn his pulpit over to anyone again because he would not know who to trust, "particularly if you ask them to do a sermon and they end up doing a political speech".

Rev. Ponce said Rev. Hasslam had described himself as a "Socialist Minister" and he (Ponce) thought Rev. Hasslam sees the world through "rose coloured spectacles".

"If that is rose colour or red colour", he said, "we are talking about shade only, and I feel he was looking at whatever he said from those spectacles, ignoring the hardships those same colour spectacles would have imposed on Christians living in Grenada". Rev. Ponce said Rev. Hasslam had been given the facts about the situation in Grenada and the way Grenadians welcomed the "Rescue Mission". These facts he had before he delivered his sermon and, if he wished to deliver a minority view, it is his democratic right to do so.

"The only thing I am sorry about is that he used a pulpit entrusted to my pastoral care for that opportunity to exercise that right", he said.



BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS HEAR "SOUR NOTE"

Two British Labour Party Parliamentarians, on a fact finding mission to Grenada, were among those who heard the first sour note sounded here over the United States "Rescue Mission" to the island.

The Parliamentarians, Messrs Nigel Spearing (Newham South) and Ian Evans (Aberdare), attended service at St. George's Methodist Church on November 6th. Guest preacher was Rev. David Haslam, Methodist Superintendent Minister of the Parish of Harlesden, London, and he told the congregation the British and Americans must bear their share of the blame for the traumatic events in Grenada.

"If Britain and America had given Maurice Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government only 5% of the military operation in Grenada" he said, "the events of the past few weeks would not have happened".

Rev. Haslam, who is vice-chairman of the "War on Want" organization, said Cuban aid is the most "principled" in the world and the Cuban and Russian presence in any part of the world is no more threatening than the British and American presence.

After the service, incumbent minister Rev. Philip Ponce said his Church endorsed the stand of the Council of Churches, Grenada, which welcomed the American and Caribbean rescue mission, and he regretted inviting Rev. Haslam to preach.

"That is what I invited him to do", Rev. Ponce said, "preach a sermon, but he abused that privilege".

He said Rev. Haslam described himself as a "Socialist Minister" and he (Ponce) thought Rev. Haslam sees the world through "rose coloured spectacles".

"If that is rose colour or red colour" he said, "we are talking about shade only, and he was looking at whatever he said from those spectacles, ignoring the hardships those same spectacles would have imposed on Christians living in Grenada".

Rev. Ponce would be hesitant to turn his pulpit over to anyone again, he said, because he would not know who to trust, "particularly if you ask them to do a sermon and they end up doing a political speech".

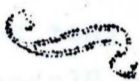


BURNED BODIES FOUND

A spokesman for the United States Mission to Grenada said on November 9th a grave with what appeared to be 4 badly burned bodies had been discovered at the Calivigny camp of the Peoples Revolutionary Army.

A tip from a cook who used to work at the camp led to a spot near to a large warehouse at the camp, the spokesman said, and the remains were unearthed.

No identifications have yet been made.

BISHOP'S IMAGE TARNISHED

Mr. Lloyd Noel, former close associate of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said here on November 7th he has always considered Bishop a brilliant lawyer, a man of high intelligence and, until he realised otherwise, a dedicated Grenadian acting in the interest of Grenadians' social, political and economic advancement.

"I am afraid, to my bitter experience", Mr. Noel said, "that that image has been tarnished by the years after 13th March 1979 and now, in retrospect, I realise he was more committed to an international fraternal movement than to a Grenadian domestic scenario".

Mr. Noel, a member of Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) since the movement was established in 1973, resigned from the NJM central bureau in 1977. Following the revolution of March 1979, he acted as Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions. In 1980 he resigned from the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) because of undisclosed "differences of opinion" with Bishop, and he declined on November 7th to disclose what those differences were.

"I like to feel I kept my side of the bargain which he (Bishop) agreed with me at the time", he said, "and, now he is not there to reply, I am not going to take advantage of that situation. I will say we disagreed ideologically and leave it at that".

Mr. Noel was arrested in July 1981 because of his association with publication of an independent newspaper "The Grenadian Voice". He was held as a detainee until, together with all detainees at Richmond Hill prison, he broke out of jail on October 26th the day after the American rescue mission arrived on the island.

- continued-

Referring to General Hudson Austin, Mr. Noel said he had never seen him as "this hard line military man which seemed to have emerged" from the incident at Fort George on October 19th when the Peoples Revolutionary Army fired on unarmed civilians.

"I always found him (Austin) a likeable, charming chap", Mr. Noel said, "very firm in his convictions for social justice. If, as the situation tends to suggest, he became a hard line Marxist, it must have happened over the years we have been out of association".

Mr. Noel said that, until October 19th, he would have thought that Mr. Austin "worshiped the ground Maurice Bishop walked on". He had always considered Mr. Austin was Bishop's "right hand", but Mr. Noel said he remembered that Strachan Phillip (another prominent NJM member) was also close to Bishop but Phillip "was murdered on 19th June 1980 by the forces of the PRG".

NOEL UNCERTAIN

Mr. Lloyd Noel, former Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions in the Peoples Revolutionary Government, who has spent the last 2½ years in Richmond Hill prisons as a detainee, is uncertain about his political future.

Mr. Noel, who is being mentioned as a strong contender in the promised general elections, said here on November 7th that, until he has assessed "what the interim Government is doing, what foreign Governments are doing and what Grenadians are thinking" he will not decide whether or not he will enter the political arena.

"My options are open", he said, "but they are open to the extent depending on what I hear or read between the lines as the weeks and months develop. That will determine where I go and how I go there".

Mr. Noel said he has been a "political animal" for too long to sit on the side lines when general elections are held and this means that, if he is not involved in the campaign, he will not be in Grenada.

"I would not like to see myself failing to make a contribution" Mr. Noel said, "and, if I can make a contribution for the people of Grenada, for my family, for the friends who suffered with me, then I would certainly want to do it. But I hope Grenadians will understand that I must consider my family and my mother, if not first, then with equal priority with my other commitments and obligations to my country.

-continued-

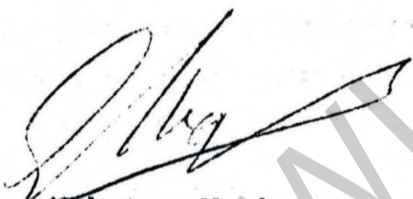
Mr. Noel said, if he contests the general elections it will be on a platform "left to centre" but he rejected the Marxist ideology of the New Jewel Movement from whose Central Bureau he resigned in 1977 and from whose Peoples Revolutionary Government he resigned in 1980.

"I would expect that wherever I put my feet again or lean my head", he said, "we would have to be very clear on a truly democratic institution bringing forth what I would call social justice rather than Marxist socialism".

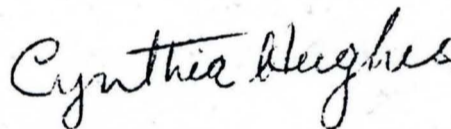
Mr. Noel said if concern for the poor and oppressed is associated with being "left" then he is a "leftist" but he emphasised a difference.

"My base", he said, "comes not because of Marx but because of Christ. I see as the Saviour rather than Marx."

Mr. Noel was arrested and jailed in 1981 because of his association with the publication of an independent newspaper, "The Grenadian Voice".



Alister Hughes



Cynthia Hughes

26th November 1983

October 3rd. It left Czechoslovakia on October 6th to return to Grenada via Berlin and Havana, Cuba.

WHITEMAN ADDRESSES UN

Grenada's Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman has called on multilateral lending agencies to play their part in helping the situation brought about by global recession.

The state owned and managed Radio Free Grenada (RFG) said Mr. Whiteman made the call on October 13th as he addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

The Minister noted the number of countries which have had to re-schedule their foreign debts and said the situation is approaching crisis proportion. In extremely difficult cases, he said, consideration may have to be given to cancellation of the debts.

RFG said Mr. Whiteman, in his address to the U.N., condemned the "shameful acts of aggression" by the United States of America in overt and covert acts against Nicaragua. The Peoples Revolutionary Government supports the Nicaraguan Government he said, as well as the peace efforts of the so-called "Contadora Group", the Governments of Mexico, Panama, Columbia and Venezuela.

BISHOP DEPOSED (?)

An angry crowd of some 300 persons assembled outside the premises of the Government owned "Free West Indian" newspaper on 14th October demanding that Mr. Maurice Bishop be allowed to continue to lead the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

Eye-witness reports say that, sometime after noon on that day Minister of Mobilisation Selwyn Strachan announced to a group of persons outside the newspaper's offices that Mr. Larnard Coard is now Prime Minister. Joint leadership of the Government had been offered to Mr. Bishop, he said, Mr. Coard to be his equal partner, and Mr. Bishop had turned this down. From now on, Mr. Coard, who was deputy Prime Minister, will be the leader.

-continued-

This comes in the wake of reports since last Wednesday that there is a rift between Mr. Coard and Mr. Bishop. It was said that at a Cabinet meeting Mr. Coard demanded Mr. Bishop's resignation.

The crowd outside the "Free West Indian" was strongly in favour of Mr. Bishop and there were shouts of "no Bishop, no revolution".

Nothing was known then of Mr. Bishop's fate but unconfirmed reports said he was under house arrest. The reports said Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman and Minister of Agriculture George Louison were also under house arrest.

There was no announcement from Radio Free Grenada which was carrying its regular programming but one was expected within the next few hours. Later that afternoon Radio Free Grenada announced that Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard had resigned from the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

RFG said this resignation was because of a "vicious rumour" that had been spread that Coard and his Jamaican wife, Phyllis, had planned to kill Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

As a result of this rumour, the station said, a group of certain elements, led by an insurance company owner, tried to seize the arms of a militia station to assassinate Coard and his wife.

Mr. Coard told RFG he had resigned to make it abundantly clear to the public that the rumour was a vicious lie.

RADIX LEADS DEMONSTRATION

Some three hundred young persons led by Minister of Industrialisation and Fisheries in the Peoples Revolutionary Government Kendrick Radix paraded the streets of St. Georges on the morning of Saturday 15th October demanding the release of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The demonstration which started at the Market in the heart of St. Georges moved to the dock area about a mile away where they heard Mr. Radix tell them that since last year, he had warned that Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard was trying to seize power.

Yesterday, Minister of Mobilisation Selwyn Strachan announced that Mr. Bishop had been deposed and Mr. Coard was now Prime Minister, but, a short time later Mr. Coard announced he had resigned from the Government. The reason for this, he said, is a "vicious rumour"

-continued-

that he and his wife were involved in a plot to kill Bishop and he wanted to make it "abundantly clear" this was a lie.

Mr. Radix told the demonstration this day that, in spite of the announcement of Mr. Coard's resignation, the Deputy Prime Minister was "obsessed with power". Mr. Coard, he said, was "brilliant" but had no chance of success because he has no popular support.

The Minister called on Grenadians to show their rejection of Mr. Coard and their support for Mr. Bishop. "If Maurice is not released by Monday 17th", he said, "there must be no work, no school and no play in Grenada".

Mr. Radix told NEWSLETTER that Mr. Bishop was detained since Thursday 13th and was being held at his official residence at Mount Royal.

He told the demonstration not to be surprised if many of them were in prison by that night but he said Coard would not dare to use the Army against them. "I don't have my health", he said, "but I have to pick up my guns again".

Radio Free Grenada announced on that day (15th) that Mr. Victor Nazin Burke, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade had been appointed Minister of Trade, Finance and Planning.

Mr. Radix was arrested and detained on Sunday 16th October.

REPORTER "RESCUED" BY CROWD

A reporter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Dwight Whyllie was "rescued" on October 15th from officials of the Security and Immigration Departments.

Mr. Whyllie was covering a demonstration led by Kendrick Radix which was demanding the release of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop reported to have been detained since October 13th.

Approached by three Security and Immigration officials, Mr. Whyllie was asked to accompany them to the Immigration Department. In reply to his inquiry, he was told "We want to talk to you".

The crowd became aware of this encounter, however, and took the journalist away from the officials. "Come with us" they shouted, "you not going with them".

-continued-

He was taken along with the demonstration for about 500 yards and then put into a car and driven away by Minister of Industrialisation Kendrick Radix.

Mr. Whyllie was in Grenada on a UNESCO assignment training the staff of Radio Free Grenada.

RADIX RESIGNS

On the evening of 14th October, a young girl who refused to identify herself brought a sealed envelope to the offices of the GRENADA NEWSLETTER and said, "Somebody sent that to you, it is very important".

The letter was addressed to:-

Cde. Maurice Bishop
Prime Minister of Grenada
Butler House
St. Georges
Grenada

and inside, in the handwriting of Kendrick Radix was the following signed letter:-

St. Georges
13.10.83

Prime Minister,
Maurice Bishop
Butler House
St Georges

Dear Prime Minister,

I hereby submit my resignation from the Government of Grenada with immediate effect. It has been an honour to have served the country during the long, hard years of struggle under your leadership.

Every wish for your future health and best of luck

Sincerely yours

(sgd) Kendrick Radix

On the morning of Saturday 15th October, during a demonstration led by Mr. Radix, Co-editor Alister sought from Mr. Radix a verification that he had sent the letter to the offices of the GRENADA NEWSLETTER.

Mr. Radix confirmed that he had sent the letter which he said was a copy of what he had sent to Prime Minister Bishop. But Mr. Radix asked then that no publicity be given to the matter.

"Things have moved beyond that", he said.

P.M. UNDER INVESTIGATION

"It must be clearly understood that the Peoples Revolutionary Army and the Armed Forces as a whole will tolerate absolutely no manifestation whatsoever of counter revolution".

This was stated in a release from the Peoples Revolutionary Army read over the state owned Radio Free Grenada (RFG) on October 15 by Major Liam "Bogo" Cornwall, and the statement said any action which aims at disturbing the peace and the normal life of the nation or which threatens the revolution will be firmly and swiftly dealt with.

"The peace and calm which prevails in Grenada shall be maintained", the statement said.

The statement said the armed forces of Grenada recognise that the New Jewel Movement has led the struggles of Grenadians for the past 10½ years and that Maurice Bishop has been the acknowledged leader of the revolution "and has led us thus far".

"Recently", the statement said, "the NJM Central Committee leadership and the entire membership of the NJM took certain firm decisions on internal party changes which were aimed at strengthening the work of the party and revolution. Comrade Maurice Bishop refused to accept and implement these decisions even though he had been present at the party meeting and voted for the decisions".

In response to this, the statement said, the officers and NCOs of the entire armed forces, who are members of the Party, on October 12th passed a resolution demanding that Mr. Bishop accept and implement the decisions of the party.

"We want to state firmly", the statement said, "that in this party, which has led us all these years, there must be equal standards for all and the rules must be applied to all, no matter who they are. No one man can be above the rules, no one man can be above the majority. The Armed Forces note that never in the 10½ years of its existence has the NJM tolerated 'onemanism' in its ranks and, much as we of the PRA love and respect Comrade Maurice Bishop we will definitely not tolerate this development in our country".

The statement said the Armed Forces had noted that "some opportunists" are trying to fool the people that the situation results from a personal power struggle between two persons.

-continued-

"If that is so", the statement asked, "how come then that our entire Armed Forces down to the last private and the entire party are totally united?"

The statement said the Armed Forces are now investigating Bishop's personal involvement in starting the rumour that there was a plot in which Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his Jamaican born wife Phyllis were attempting to assassinate Bishop. Were it not for the swift action of the Armed Forces it "could have led to bloodshed on the streets of Grenada last Wednesday".

"So far", the statement said, "a sworn statement from one of Comrade Bishop's top personal security officers directly implicated Comrade Maurice Bishop with the starting of the rumour".

The Armed Forces, the statement said, will continue their investigations to their conclusion.

JOURNALISTS DEPORTED

The Peoples Revolutionary Government on October 15th put out five journalists some of whom were covering an anti-Government demonstration led by former Minister of Industrialisation and Fisheries in the PRG, Kendrick Radix.

They are Associated Press Caribbean Desk Editor, Nat Carnes, Willie Alleyne Barbadian born and based Associated Press photographer, Charles Hackett, photographer of the Barbados Nation newspaper, Albert Branford of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) based at the CANA Barbados headquarters and a United Press International Photographer, Roso Sabalones.

Those known to have been covering the demonstration are the two AP representatives and the UPI photographer. They were first taken to the Immigration Department where it was explained to them that the demonstration was a "purely internal matter".

"When things have been settled", they were told, "we will invite you back to Grenada again."

The men were then taken to their hotel where they collected their bags and were taken to the airport by Immigration officials.

-continued-

On October 16th another journalist was put out. He is Mr. Andy Johnson of the Trinidad "Express" newspaper. He was visited at his hotel shortly after 8.00 a.m. by two security officials and requested to go to the Immigration Department. It was expected that he was taken from there to the airport because he checked out of the hotel before leaving.

BISHOP TO BE EXPELLED

The Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) is awaiting the result of an investigation by the Security Forces before taking final decision whether Prime Minister Maurice Bishop should be removed from the NJM Central Executive and expelled from the party.

This was stated on October 16th in a statement broadcast by General of the Armed Forces Hudson Austin who is a member of the NJM Central Committee and Political Bureau.

This statement follows 3 days of speculation and apprehension as to who is in charge of the country. On Friday 14th Minister of Mobilisation and Labour Selwyn Strachan announced that Bishop had been deposed and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard ^{Coard} held the reins of Government but, within hours, Coard announced his resignation from the Government.

That move, Mr. Coard said, was to refute a rumour that he and his wife planned to assassinate Bishop. The Armed Forces subsequently charged that Bishop is personally implicated in starting that rumour and it is on the outcome of investigation into this that the Central Committee will make its final decision on Bishop.

On Saturday 15th Minister of Industrialisation and Fisheries Kendrick Radix led a demonstration through the streets of St. Georges. He charged that Bishop was being held under house arrest at his official residence and called for "no work, no school, no play" if Bishop is not released by October 17th.

He charged that Coard's resignation was merely a tactical move and that the Deputy Prime Minister is obsessed with power and wished to take over leadership of the country.

"It is over a year now that I have been telling Comrade Bishop to look behind his shoulder because Coard was planning to betray him" Radix said.

continued-

On October 16th the state owned Radio Free Grenada said Radix had been detained for organising the demonstration and later it was announced there would be an important NJM statement.

Reading that statement on October 16th General Austin said the present situation is the toughest Grenada has faced since the revolution of 13th March 1979 and NJM had decided to give a "frank account" of events which led to this crisis.

"It has always been the policy of our party to be fully truthful to our people on all matters including the policies of the Party, the state of the economy and the strength and weaknesses of our work in our country", he said, "yet, there is one matter which we have never revealed to our people".

That matter, he said, is the serious "internal problems" afflicting NJM, especially over the last year. This has not been made public before, he said, because NJM thought it vital to maintain an appearance of full unity "at all costs".

"The truth is", he said, "that, during the last year, our Party has faced serious problems of the constantly growing desire of Comrade Maurice Bishop to exercise full and exclusive power and authority.

The General said "collective leadership" is one of the main NJM principles. The Central Committee should make all important decisions but, during the 4½ years past, he said, Bishop has shown resentment of this principle.

"At the same time", General Austin said, "he has become increasingly hostile to criticism and increasingly suspicious that other members of the leadership of the Party may be trying to seize power from him".

Matters came to a head a year ago, General Austin said, when, in order to avoid division, Coard resigned from the Central Committee and Political Bureau after Bishop's suspicion centered on him. The Central Committee sanctioned this but now felt it was a mistake. The General said Bishop has become increasingly hostile and suspicious of challenges to his position and the work of the Party and Government suffered.

"The truth is", General Austin said, "that Comrade Maurice's strength has always been his direct links with the masses and his weakness has been that he has never been able to adequately organise, supervise and guide the work of the party".

NJM received complaints about employment discrimination against Party supporters by "elements of the Civil Service hostile to the

-continued-

revolution" he said. "There have also been complaints about the lack of care of agricultural machinery, the worsening state of roads, constant electricity blackouts, the disorganised state of the centre for Popular Education, the Militia, the House Repair Programme, the mass organisations, and the increasing boldness of counter revolutionary elements".

"We are not trying to blame Comrade Bishop for all the problems", the General said, "however, the major problem has been lack of strong leadership from the top and the unwillingness of Comrade Bishop to take firm decisions to solve the problems while, at the same time, trying to concentrate power in his own hands".

Last month, the Central Committee held a meeting and formally established the principle of "joint leadership", General Austin said, "Bishop to direct work among the masses" while Coard would guide and organise "the political work of the party". This, he said, had nothing to do with "who is Prime Minister" and there never was an intention to remove Bishop from that post.

"The problem is that Comrade Bishop had allowed his power and authority to go to his head", Austin said, "and he refused to accept the decision of the Central Committee".

The day before Bishop left on his recent visit to Hungary, a full meeting of the Party unanimously confirmed the principle of joint leadership, General Austin said. Comrade Bishop was at that meeting but, when he returned from Hungary, NJM found he still would not accept the Party decision and intended to take the matter "on to the streets", the General said, and, on October 12th, a rumour that Coard and his wife planned to assassinate Bishop "hit the streets".

"The Central Committee learned that one of Comrade Bishop's security officers had given a sworn statement to the Security Forces stating that Comrade Bishop had given himself and his Chief Personnel Officer, Cletus St. Paul, a list of names that morning," the General said, "Comrade Bishop had instructed them to contact all the names on the list and tell them that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate him".

Last Thursday (13th), a full Party meeting discussed this matter, he continued, and Bishop spoke in his defence but the meeting did not accept the defence.

"The overwhelming sentiment of the hundreds of Party members present at the meeting was that for having disgraced the Party and revolution, Comrade Bishop should be removed from the Central

-continued-

Committee and expelled from the Party", General Austin said.

This decision is to be confirmed after the Armed Forces have completed investigation of the matter.

"The rumour which Comrade Bishop sent out on to the streets tries to make out there is some sort of power struggle going on within our Party", the General said. He pointed out, however, that ^{this cannot be so because 2/3 of the Central Committee and} all except "a handful" of the Party membership support the Central Committee's decision on joint leadership.

General Austin said NJM knows the step it has taken will be unpopular with many sections of the community but the Party stands for principle and "principle for one must be principle for all".

The General assured his listeners that "Comrade Bishop is at home and quite safe". He also gave the assurance that the NJM Central Committee "is in full control of the running of the country just as it has been during the past 4½ years of the revolution.

He called on Grenadians to maintain unity to ensure that "Imperialism" does not take advantage of "this moment of difficulty", and said that "keeping with the overwhelming desire of our people, the NJM is still making every effort to settle this problem within our Party".

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE

A spokesman for LIAT confirmed on October 18th that the Pearls Airport office of the airline had reported to the St. Georges head office that, about mid-morning, a demonstration of "over 500" students had disrupted the airport's operations, swarming through the Administration Building and on to the flight apron.

The demonstration, the spokesman said, was in favour of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, said to be held under house arrest by the Armed Forces, and against Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

According to the spokesman, the demonstrators chanted, "no Bishop, no school", and "'C' for Communism".

The LIAT airport office reported that one flight was delayed for some time because the demonstrators were close to the aircraft and it was dangerous to start the engines.

FOUR PRG MINISTERS RESIGN

Four Ministers have resigned from the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG). They are Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, George Louison Minister of Agriculture, Lyden Ramdhanny, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation and Norris Bain, Minister of Housing.

In a telephone interview on October 18th, Mr. Whiteman told the Montserrat based Radio Antilles the resignations have been made because Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard who, Whiteman said, "is running the Government singlehandedly with his wife", has refused to consider proposals made to resolve the political crisis.

Since Saturday (15th) we have been meeting with him", Mr. Whiteman said, "we have been very patient and reasonable with him, and it was very clear that he was not discussing in good faith".

Mr. Whiteman said Mr. Coard had been dragging out the discussions saying that he had to wait on a decision of the New Jewel Movement Central Committee. The ex-Foreign Minister said Mr. Coard has been saying publicly that the Central Committee is meeting regularly but he told Messrs. Whiteman, Louison, Ramdhanny and Bain that he cannot give a response to their proposals because the Central Committee has not been able to meet.

"Either he is lying to us or he is lying to the people", Mr. Whiteman said.

Radio Antilles spoke to Mrs. Alimenta Bishop, the mother of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and she confirmed that he is under house arrest. She said she had visited him on Saturday (15th) and again on Monday (17th).

The state owned Radio Free Grenada (RFG) said on October 19th that Radio Antilles and the Voice of America had carried news of the resignations of the four Ministers, but the station said it had received no statement from the PRG on the matter.

RFG referred also to the student demonstration at Pearls airport on October 18th and said several persons have been detained by the Security Forces for "inciting unrest". In this connection, the station carried an announcement from the Ministry of Education which said that "certain counter-revolutionary and opportunist elements are taking advantage of the present situation to achieve the effect of turning back the Grenada revolution".

BISHOP FREED

(The following is the verbatim text of newsstory filed before midday on Wednesday 19th October):

At 10.35 a.m. today a crowd of some 3 to 4 thousand persons stormed the official residence of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on the outskirts of St. George's and freed him from the detention where he has been held since October 13th.

The army put up only token resistance.

Bishop and a growing crowd now moving towards the market square at the centre of St. George's where it is expected he will address them.

In the middle of a jumping pressing crowd I asked Bishop for a statement say anything I said.

His reply: "The Masses".

Transcript of Tape Recording made by Co-Editor
Alister Hughes at the Market Square St. Georges
on Wednesday 19th October 1983

Hughes (Against background of crowd noise)

"Large crowd in the Market Square Very difficult to estimate numbers but it must be anything like 7 to 8 thousand people I estimate"

Voice on Public Address System (Indistinct against background noise)

". will be due here . . . "

Hughes "Two guns fired from the Fort at five minutes after one. Unknown what for They were very heavy explosions not like rifles. Sounded more like a heavy piece of artillery."

Voice on Public Address System

(After some indistinct statements with replies from crowd)

"Don't worry!"

Crowd "No!"

Voice "Keep Cool!"

Crowd "Yes!"

Voice "Don't be alarmed!"

Crowd "No!"

Voice "Don't run!"

Crowd "No!"

Voice "Stay right here!"

-continued-

- Crowd "Yes!"
- Voice (indistinct) "I want to bring you .. keep cool keep calm..."
- Hughes "An announcement from the platform by Sydney Ambrose It is now 1.08 asking the crowd to stand firm, keep cool It is quite apparent that he does not know what the guns were about.
- Voice "... keep you up to date There is nothing that will ever happen to anybody here today. (indistinct) ... because we are not here today not to move from here . . . you want to know what has happened tell you don't be afraid, don't run, don't go we want to bring you up to date with what has taken place. this is the most experience in the history of Grenada and we want you to stand We are not here to hurt anybody, we just want to keep you up to date with exactly what is taking place ...
- Hughes "Announcement by Sydney Ambrose, the time is now 1.10.
- Hughes "Now 1.11, I'm hearing small arms fire. Two or three bursts of small arms fire in the distance. A growingly apprehensive crowd.
- Voice "Don't let it put you in fear (indistinct)..do not be afraid. If I am not afraid, you should not be afraid.....keep calm, keep calm!"
- Hughes "Announcement from Sydney Ambrose. The time is now 1.12. He is on the platform of the City Council and it seems obvious that he, too, does not know what the rifle fire and gun fire mean. He asked the crowd not to be afraid and to keep calm".
- Voice "Do not be alarmed. This is just to put you in fear. And there is no reason why you have to be afraid. It is impossible, impracticable and it will never happen that anybody could do you anything. Nobody will trouble you today because we are not here to..... anybody. So you stand firm with us until we present to you your honourable, respectable and dignified Prime Minister".
- Hughes "Another announcement from the platform by Sydney Ambrose. The time is now 1.14.
- Hughes "The crowd is moving. Looks as if there is an army truck approaching. I see the crowd.....there's a crowd going through the Market Square, it's a water truck, it's going in front of the Buy-rite Supermarket, it has a crowd of men on it. The crowd is running, a portion of the people of the crowd is running across. There is an air of apprehension and the Market Square is thinning. That truck has gone out of

sight. I hear on the other side of the shed from me there seems to be something happening. I can't see from where I am. That side has cleared, I hear an engine revving. There is nobody at the microphone now. People are running back in the other direction now, towards where they were leaving just now. From where I am I cannot see what's happening. Another truck is moving out of the Market Square with people on it. The time is now 1.17. There is an air of apprehension. No sign of Maurice Bishop yet. There is nobody on the platform now where the microphones are and there are much less people in the Market Square. There is a little bit of running too and fro over on the Granby Street side but where I am, I'm in the centre here under the District Board and I can't see exactly what's happening over there.

Hughes

Smoke rising from the direction of the Fort. I don't know what's causing that. From here we can't see the actual Fort buildings but it seems to me from somewhere near the Administration buildings. The Market Square has thinned out a fair amount, there are not nearly as many people here now and I'm seeing that thick smoke coming from the Fort area. Thick black smoke. There's no flame but it's billowing up very densely. I'm now standing in the middle of the Market Square looking up in that direction. I can't see any people up there from where I'm standing but there obviously is something on fire in that area.

Hughes

I'm moving in the direction of Granby Street. The crowd is racing away, I nearly got turned over, I don't know what for. There was a great racing away from that corner there. I still don't see what could have caused it but I nearly got overturned. I see some men standing at that corner who seem to be the same people I saw guarding the entrance to the platform where Sydney Ambrose and the others were standing near to the microphone. There is a group of men standing near the policeman by Barclays Bank, another group at the bottom by Royal Bank and, down here, there's another group again close to the Bank of Nova Scotia. But I still don't know what caused that rushing just now. Fifty or sixty people just rushed down towards the Buy-rite area, but I see no reason for it. The Market Square is almost empty now. Another announcement from the platform by Sydney Ambrose saying come back and stand in the Market Square. But, nobody seems to know quite what is happening.

-continued-

Hughes I'm now in Granby Street opposite to Amados. I'm going to see whether I can identify what is burning up at the Fort. I couldn't see from the Market Square area. The trucks from the airport are now parked at the bottom of Granby Street, obviously in an effort to prevent anything from driving in. They are parked blocking the street. I'm now close to the "Children's Shopping Plaza". There's black smoke but I don't know what's on fire. It's heavy black smoke, I can see no flame and it's possible it could be coming from the parking lot in front of the Fort, from what is known as the "parade ground".

Hughes "I'm in the area down towards DeLima and here on the Esplanade people seem to"

Voice ".....people get shot up there....."

Hughes "Really, do you know for sure that they have been shot?"

Voice "Yes!"

Hughes "You saw anybody...."

Voice "I saw they carrying people into the hospital, man".

Hughes "Now, after that shooting?"

Voice "Ah-hah"

Hughes "About how many?"

Voice "About 5 people"

Hughes "So you have any idea where Maurice is now?"

Voice "I haven't got the idea"

Voice 2 "I haven't got an idea but one guy told me they shoot down the building in which he was in. Some armoured cars went up there and they just blast down the building"

Hughes "What building was he in?"

Voice 2 "He was up in a building behind the Fort up there".

Hughes "You mean; at the Citadel, at Fort Rupert?"

Voice 2 "Yes".

Hughes "And they say that they just shot down the building that he was in?"

Voice 2 "Yes, they destroy it".

Hughes "Somebody told you that?!"

Voice 2 "Yes, somebody told me that, I'm not sure".

Hughes "Ah, yes, you will have to get that confirmed".

Hughes "In case I did not get it on the tape, a man just told me he understands that Bishop was in a building up at the Fort, at Fort Rupert and armoured cars just blasted it down. That needs to be confirmed.
The time is 1.24

-continued-

Hughes "It has been said by one other person that the building that Maurice was in up there has been blasted by gun fire. I have not had that confirmed.

Hughes I see a man running down the steps. I see two men running down the steps. That's three people running down the steps.

Hughes "Heavy explosion from the Fort, another heavy explosion. It's now 1.26. There's still smoke rising from the Fort. Just one single rifle. Just on the western side of the Fort, I see a gun just on the western side of the Fort, it's pointing very high, there're soldiers around it, it's pointing in this direction but it's a high elevation, pointing roughly in this direction. The black smoke is still billowing up from what looks like the north-eastern area of Fort George.

Hughes " ...bottom of Granby Street, moving out in this direction, nobody but just the driver. The other one, there's one past. One truck is backing into Granby Street, he appears to be turning in preparation to coming this way. Yes he is, he's coming back this way. These seem to be trucks which came from the airport, 5058 number.

Hughes "Told that wounded people have been taken to the hospital, I have not had that confirmed. I have also been told that Maurice was in a building at Fort George and that it was fired on and it has been suggested to me that that smoke is from that building. I do not have confirmation of this, repeat, I do not have confirmation of this.

Hughes "Where were you?"

Female Voice "At the Fort".

Hughes "And what happened - "

Voice "They just start firing off bullets".

Hughes "Where were you at the Fort, right at the top?"

Voice "Yes, underneath the building".

Hughes "Underneath the building, and you got shot in your back?"

Voice "Yes"

Hughes "Anywhere else?"

Voice "No, only there".

Hughes "Have you been to the hospital?"

Voice "No, not as yet".

Hughes "What is your name?"

-continued-

Voice "Sherril Alexander"

Hughes: "Have you seen anything of the Prime Minister?"

Voice "I don't know"

Hughes "You haven't seen anything. You better go and get some attention".

Hughes "The wound in her left shoulder is not bleeding very much. She does not seem weak in any way but definitely a wound in her left shoulder. The crowd here has decided that they are going to take her to the hospital but it is a risky thing because if she got shot in that area she is likely to be shot again. The bullet wound is at the back of her left shoulder. Quite an ugly looking wound.

Hughes "I'm now standing close to the Police Station on the Esplanade and the time is 1.32."

Confused
Hysterical

Voices "It have somebody what dead? ...Oh God! Oh God!"

Hughes "What happened?"

Confused

Voices "Oh God!If you see people in the hospital !!"
Oh God! Oh God! It have people what dead? Oh God, yes! Girl, come stand up!" "I want to go home!
Oh God! I go bring you up home, what happen? You see a lot of people up there? You got a bullet? No, Oh God!

Hughes "Did you see the dead people?"

Voice "Oh God! Oh God!"

Male

Voice "Alister, I think you should move from there".

Hughes "All right".

Male

Voice "I think you should move from there".

Hughes "OK"

Male

Voice "Definitely, because it's propaganda, propaganda you want to throw out there.

Hughes "Really? "

Male

Voice "You really throw out(loud confused voices)

Voices

(confused)"Give people a chance!"You stay right there!"

"I'm not saying ..." "Let the girl..." "You don't care about the life of the girl!...." "You have to care about the person's life!"

Hughes "Time is now 1.36"

Hughes "Just received another report that Maurice Bishop was at Fort Rupert, or Fort George as the case may be

I have no confirmation of this that he has seen a man
-continued-

shot in the knee, a soldier shot in the knee and a woman shot in the hand and other people with blood stains. These people were taken to the hospital.

Hughes

"Report that Maurice and Jackie Creft and some other persons are being held by the Army up at Fort Rupert and they have them lined up against a wall. But the situation at the moment now is very uncertain and there is nothing confirmed.

Hughes

"Market Square now, very few people here, still a great sense of apprehension. The time is now 20 minutes to 2 and the fate of the Prime Minister is not known. I'm still seeing smoke coming from Fort George or Fort Rupert as it is now called.

INCIDENT AT FORT RUPERT

The following is a verbatim report of a newsstory filed at 2.20 on Wednesday 19th October:-

The two heavy explosions came from Fort Rupert, the headquarters of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, just after 1.00 o'clock. The crowd of some 8 to 10 thousand waiting in the Market Square to hear Prime Minister Maurice Bishop were visibly startled and, when, a minute or two later there was the sound of automatic machine gun fire from Fort Rupert, people started to move away into side streets.

The vigil for Bishop started about 11.00 o'clock after he had been freed by the crowd about half an hour earlier. The sun was hot and snow cone vendors did a brisk trade. There was a glow of happiness and many shouts of "We get we leader back".

Since the gunfire, there is nothing definite to report except that there is something on fire at Fort Rupert. Thick black smoke is billowing up and there are conflicting reports that it is a car on fire and that it is the Administration Building on fire.

I have seen one woman with a bullet wound in her left shoulder and I have seen two men with blood on their clothes. I was able to speak to the wounded woman who said she was at Fort Rupert and had been fired on by the soldiers there. She did not know what had happened to Bishop but she said she had followed him up to Fort Rupert.

I spoke also to a young woman who was in a near hysterical state. She too had been at Fort Rupert and she spoke of people being killed

-continued-

and of others wounded and taken to the General Hospital which is very near to Fort Rupert. I have not had a confirmation of her statements.

There is no longer a crowd at the Market Square. They are scattered to various vantage points where Fort Rupert can be watched and there is general hunger for news of Bishop and of the situation generally.

At this time, there is news of neither. (14.20 local).

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST MADE BY
GENERAL HUDSON AUSTIN
OVER RADIO FREE GRENADA
SHORTLY AFTER 10.30 p.m. ON OCTOBER 19th 1983

Brothers and Sisters,

Last night, a delegation from the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement made a formal offer to Comrade Maurice Bishop for him to continue as Prime Minister, to continue as a member of the Party and to work closely with the NJM Central Committee in running the country.

Comrade Bishop's position was that he would consider the offer but was not willing to talk last night.

This morning, at 9.30 a crowd led by Unison Whiteman, Vincent Noel and two businessmen stormed Maurice Bishop's home. The soldiers, guarding the Mount Weldale road had instructions not to fire on the people, the people therefore broke through the barrier and stormed through the gates of the house. Again, the soldiers were instructed to fire above the people's head, not at the masses.

The crowd, realising that the soldiers had instructions not to fire on the people, burst into the house. Maurice Bishop went with them and then led the crowd of innocent people to seize Fort Rupert, the headquarters of the Armed Forces. Again, the soldiers at Fort Rupert were instructed not to fire on the people who stormed the Fort.

Attempts were made by the Armed Forces to establish communications with Maurice Bishop and Unison Whiteman in order to continue negotiations for a peaceful solution and in order to persuade them to let the civilians leave the Fort. Bishop and Whiteman declared, "No compromise, no negotiations". They then disarmed the officers of the General Staff as well as the rank and file

-continued-

soldiers guarding Fort Rupert and began to arm the crowd.

They declared their intention to arrest and wipe out the entire Central Committee and the senior members of the Party and the entire leadership of the Armed Forces as well as to smash the Revolutionary Armed Forces. At that point the Revolutionary Armed Forces sent a Company of soldiers to reestablish control of Fort Rupert.

Maurice Bishop and his group fired on the soldiers killing two members of the PRA, Sergeant Dorset Peters and Warrant Officer Raphael Mason, and wounding several others. The Revolutionary Armed Forces were forced to storm the Fort and, in the process, the following persons were killed: Maurice Bishop, Unison Whiteman, Vincent Noel, Jacqueline Creft, Norris Bain and Fitzroy Bain, among others.

The Armed Forces then evacuated the wounded and assisted several persons in getting to hospital.

Comrades, the Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces have all along stayed off the streets in the hope that it could be resolved internally by the Party. However, in a situation in which Maurice Bishop had declared his intention to wipe out the entire leadership of the Party and the Army, in a situation in which he had linked up openly with counter-revolutionaries in order to do so, the Revolution itself would have been wiped out.

Our working people have suffered too much for too many years to allow imperialism and counter-revolutionaries to take over our people's revolution.

The People's Revolutionary Armed Forces have, as of 3.00 p.m. today, established a Revolutionary Military Council which will form the Government of the country until normality is restored. Let it be clearly understood that the Revolutionary Armed Forces will govern with absolute strictness. Anyone who seeks to demonstrate or disturb the peace will be shot. An all day and all night curfew will be established for the next four days, from now until next Monday at six o'clock. No one is to leave their house, anyone violating this curfew will be shot on sight. All schools are closed and all work places, except for the essential services, until further notice.


The personal safety and property of all citizens and foreign residents will be guaranteed by the Armed Forces. Let it be clearly understood that the Peoples Revolutionary Army is totally united. We are also clear that our major task at this moment is to protect and defend our country against any attack by imperialism. Our people must be clear that imperialism will seek to take advantage of this situation. We must also realise clearly that a military invasion

-continued--

would bring about the deaths of thousands of our people and that any confusion in Grenada at this time opens the way for such intervention by imperialism.

Whatever each man's personal views on this situation at this time, we must unite to defend our country against any attack by outside force. The Armed Forces, for their part, will defend the revolution with all our might.

Long Live the Revolution! Long Live our people! Long Live Grenada! Forward Ever! Backward Never!



HUGHES DETAINED

At 11.45 p.m. on the night of October 19th 1983, NEWSLETTER's Co-Editor Alister Hughes was arrested and jailed by the Security Forces of the New Jewel Movement's Revolutionary Military Council.

The arrest was carried out by a detachment of three armed men who produced no warrant and gave no reason for the arrest.

Hughes was jailed at the Richmond Hill Prisons together with several other persons arrested that night, including his brother Leonard.



Alister Hughes



Cynthia Hughes
Cynthia Hughes

19th October 1983

Printed & Published by the Proprietors
Alister & Cynthia Hughes, Journalists
Of Scott Street, St Georges, Grenada, Westindies