

# In Nobody's Backyard

ON GRENADA

- No. 1      In Nobody's Backyard: The Grenada Revolution  
in its Own Words. Vol I: the Revolution at Home
- No. 2      In Nobody's Backyard: The Grenada Revolution  
in its Own Words. Vol. II: Facing the World
- No. 3      The Invasion of Grenada: Caribbean and World  
Responses

*The Grenada Revolution  
in its Own Words*

*Volume I: the Revolution at Home*

*Edited by*  
**TONY MARTIN**

*With the assistance of* DESSIMA WILLIAMS

*On Grenada, No. 1*



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*To Maurice Bishop, Unison Whiteman, Jacqueline Creft,  
Norris Bain, Fitzroy Bain, Vincent Noel and all the  
heroes and martyrs of October 19, 1983.*

*Poor rags and all tatters  
My portion might be,  
And yet robbed in Manhood  
No slave dwells in me;  
The world's dearest mantle  
Is true liberty!*

*—T.A. Marryshow*

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Prime Minister Maurice Bishop (clapping), President Samora Machel of Mozambique and Cuban construction workers at Point Salines airport site. *Free West Indian*



## Preface

On March 13, 1979 a group of young people made a revolution. The place was Grenada, one of the smallest countries in the world. In an armed but near bloodless move the revolutionaries, organized in the New Jewel Movement (NJM), seized power from incumbent Prime Minister Sir Eric Matthew Gairy. Gairy had dominated politics in Grenada for a generation but in recent years had grown arrogant and repressive.

The manner of seizing power and the leftward leanings of much of the NJM leadership brought the new regime into almost instant collision with many of its Caribbean neighbours. More ominously, the ancient Colossus of the North, the mighty United States of America, displayed instant and hostile interest in the new developments. For four and a half years the revolution struggled doggedly on in the face of near implacable opposition from these sources, to which were added unreconciled internal elements of the old regime. To counter the opposition, the revolution found new friends—in Cuba, in Eastern Europe, in the non-aligned world, in a myriad progressive organizations from many countries.

The young revolutionaries moved with the lightning speed of profound commitment to transform a society and consolidate a victory. Infrastructural development was undertaken—a new airport, agricultural and industrial cooperatives, new industries, job training for the unemployed. Material, technical and financial assistance was forthcoming from friendly nations and international agencies. The media, the educational process and forms of cultural expression were to varying degrees brought into harmony with the new reality. A new democracy was attempted, wherein a vanguard party sought to relate to the populace through mass organizations.

Small country though it was, the new revolution nevertheless adopted an attitude of defiance towards its powerful and threatening northern neighbour. "We are not in anybody's back-

yard," it said, "we will choose our own friends and follow our own path to development." Meanwhile the revolution mobilized its people, built its armed forces and braced itself for the invasion which it feared would come.

The uneasy standoff continued for four and a half years. The northern neighbour grew ever more threatening. The defiant little revolution consolidated apace, hopeful that its internal strength and furious diplomatic initiatives would somehow save the day.

And then it happened, the one scenario that few could have foreseen. The revolution collapsed internally. Not from counter-coup, not from external invasion, but internally. With bewildering speed an ultraleft palace coup seized control of the central committee. The prime minister, a man of immeasurable popularity at home and abroad, the very embodiment of the revolution in the eyes of multitudes, suddenly found himself under house arrest. A shocked world looked on in utter and helpless disbelief. Everyone knew that the revolution could not possibly survive such an amazing turn of events. But the ultraleftists, having tasted power, seemed bereft of reason. "Will they kill him?" This was the question on the lips of an anxious world in the days after October 12, 1983. Some thought they would, for men made drunk with new found power know no reason. Others thought they would not, could not. For had they not been part of the revolution for four and a half years? And did they not know that such a move would bring their revolution crashing down upon their heads? The ultraleftists sought to justify their actions in a flurry of half-digested socialist gobbledegook. The prime minister had departed from correct Leninist principles; he had failed to be self-critical; he had practised "one-manism;" he had rejected a decision for joint leadership. But no such childish phrasemongering could cover the enormity of what they had done.

On October 19, 1983 thousands of unarmed Grenadians—the prime minister's beloved masses—defied the soldiers guarding their leader and rescued him from house arrest. They took him to a nearby fort. Then the unthinkable happened once more. Soldiers dispatched by the ultraleftists fired heavy weapons into the crowd of men, women and children, killing a large and still

undetermined number. They summarily executed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop along with some of his cabinet and other colleagues. An eyewitness reported the last known words of the people's prime minister to be, "Oh my God, they have turned their guns on the masses."

Draconian measures followed, including a four day curfew with instant death promised to curfew violators this in a country where a large proportion of dwelling houses did not have indoor toilets, running water or food to last beyond one day.

Whether the ultraleft regime could have survived this carnage and the ostracism which seemed to be taking shape from most of the international community is doubtful. But the United States, sensing the chance for which it had waited so impatiently and so long, finally launched its invasion on October 25, 1983.

Before it was destroyed by these actions of seeming internal madness, the Grenadian revolution appeared on its way to teaching some novel lessons. It seemed to demonstrate that the English-speaking Caribbean is not necessarily exempt from political currents sweeping the rest of the world. It demonstrated that a revolution can be made in a poor and tiny country, even one on the doorstep of the most powerful neighbour on the face of the earth.

The purpose of this book is simply to trace the development of the revolution in its own words. The documents reproduced here are all from the public record, especially as contained in the *Free West Indian*, official newspaper of the revolution. The events of October 1983 and after are beyond the scope of this compilation. The purpose of this work is rather to present some insights into the development of the revolution during the years of its success.

Some editing has been necessary, but this has mostly been of a grammatical and stylistic character. A few article headings have been changed in the interest of clarity. The vast majority are exactly as they appeared in the *Free West Indian* and other sources. Both British and United States spellings occur, depending on usage in the original documents.

This is an appropriate place to pay tribute to the editors, journalists and photographers of the *Free West Indian* who left an enduring record of a noble experiment. Prime Minister Bishop

paid such a tribute in the course of an interview with the Cuban paper *Granma* in 1981. "The *Free West Indian*," he said, "... does offer at this point one of the best ways of receiving regular information on our country."

Tony Martin  
August 28, 1984  
Wellesley, Massachusetts

## Grenada Basic Facts, 1982

<u>AREA</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>DENSITY</u>	
344 km <sup>2</sup>	110,700	322 per km <sup>2</sup>	
<i>Main Towns (population)</i>			
St. George's (capital)	– 7,500		
Gouyave	– 2,980		
Grenville	– 2,100		
Victoria	– 2,000		
<i>Population characteristics</i>			
Crude Birth rate (per 1,000)	– 22.8		
Crude Death rate (per 1,000)	– 6.9		
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	– 23.7		
Life expectancy	– 67		
Literacy rate		90 percent	
<u>Education</u>	<u>Day-care centers and pre-primary</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Number of schools	68	65	16
Number of teachers	110	776	218
Number of students	2,750	22,220	5,324
Teacher/ student ratio	1 : 25	1 : 29	1 : 24
<u>Health</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Population ratios</u>	
Hospitals (general)	3		
Hospital beds (general)	320	1 : 346	
Doctors	40	1 : 2,767	
Dentists	6	1 : 18,450	
Registered nurses	116	1 : 954	
Public Health Officers	14	1 : 7,907	
Community Health Aides	44	1 : 2,516	
Pharmacists	14	1 : 7,907	

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and pupils of the St. Paul's Model School.



Free West Indians

# I

## Manifesto of the New Jewel Movement for Power to the People and for Achieving Real Independence for Grenada, Carriacou, Petit Martinique and the Grenadian Grenadines (1973)

### Introduction

The New Jewel Movement (NJM) was founded in March 1973 with Maurice Bishop and Unison Whiteman as joint coordinating secretaries. The movement represented a coming together of two organizations founded in 1972. These were the Movement for Assemblies of the People (MAP) founded by Maurice Bishop and Kenrick Radix and JEWEL (Joint Endeavor for Welfare, Education and Liberation) founded by Unison Whiteman. Both of these had in turn grown out of the Black Power struggles of the late 1960's and early 1970's. The quick appearance of the NJM's manifesto, in the very year of the movement's founding, therefore had its roots in an experience older than the NJM itself.

Viewed now with the benefit of an unfortunate hindsight, the manifesto is an immensely moving document, and not a little chilling besides. The youthful enthusiasm of the Black

Power era shines through its pages. It is a heartfelt cry against injustice. Its call for self-reliance, a new society and support for Black and Third World struggles calls to mind the writings of Frantz Fanon, Che Guevara, Malcolm X and other activists and thinkers who helped shape the outlook of the 60's generation. There is also, in this manifesto, a quiet promise to rid Grenada of Gairyism "by any means necessary" and a sense of resoluteness which was confirmed by subsequent events. The young drafters of this document had, by 1973, clearly made up their minds that they would do or they would die.

Their ideas were humanistic and mildly socialistic after the fashion of the era. The major ultraleftist ideologues who were eventually to deliver up the people's revolution to the willing arms of Uncle Sam had not, in 1973, returned to Grenada. In the absence of this element, the revolution would doubtless have assumed a socialist character anyway, but at its own pace and in harmony with its environment.

It is important to stress that the manifesto, coming as it did six years before the overthrow of the Gairy regime, was not and could not have been a final, irrevocable document. Its drafters were careful to note that it was not "a final blueprint." Yet it stood the test of time very well. Only a manifesto born of deep commitment, long struggle and serious study could have held up so well after ten years of changing circumstances. Much of the manifesto was put into effect during the period of NJM government (1979-1983).

According to the manifesto any NJM government would be a "provisional" one that would have as major tasks the setting up of people's assemblies and the ultimate introduction of a new constitution. The former was well underway and the latter process had begun at the time of the ultraleft coup and United States invasion in October 1983.

The foreign policy of the NJM in power remained faithful to the broad outlines drawn in the manifesto. Caribbean integration, anti-imperialism, close ties with the non-aligned movement and strong support for liberation movements all figured as promised. In the arena of domestic social and economic policies the

promises of 1973 and the practice of 1979-83 coincide very closely. Low cost housing was implemented as promised, as were voluntary community work ("maroons"), free secondary education, local school textbooks, freedom schools (renamed the Centre for Popular Education), low cost health care, national insurance, agricultural and other cooperatives, an expanded and modernized fishing industry and agro-industries. There was an effective assault on unemployment and the New Tourism of 1973 did indeed become a reality. The flowering of sports and the arts, promised in 1973, had already begun by 1979-83.

Inevitably, some of the promises of 1973 had not yet been implemented at the time of the revolution's untimely demise. The nationalization of foreign owned banks and hotels turned out to be less sweeping than suggested in 1973. Where nationalization did take place, as in the cases of the Holiday Inn and the Royal Bank of Canada, it was only after cordial negotiations and purchase.

In four years the NJM government apparently did not get around to demanding reparations from Britain for three hundred odd years of slavery and colonialism. As the first Black Power era movement to assume state power, the NJM could have taken this popular demand of the 1960's to new heights of respectability and seriousness. Of a similar kind was the manifesto's threat to deny "free, open and unrestricted entry" to "nationals of countries with racist laws designed to keep out Black people, such as the United Kingdom or the U.S.A. . . ." Certainly the race question in both these countries remained an important concern for the NJM government.

In view of the revolutionary government's active and effective role within the Organization of American States (OAS), it seems strange now to read the manifesto's intention to remain aloof from this body as then constituted. (This was presumably a reference to the body's rejection of Cuba). By 1979, however, Grenada was already a member of the OAS, and the NJM government was able to use this to its advantage.

The 1973 manifesto spoke of collective leadership with rotating chairmen and no prime minister (premier). The world is yet

to see a successful experiment in collective leadership. A single figure always emerges as, at the very least, a "first among equals." Work had begun on a new constitution as of October 1983. This may have provided answers to the difficulty of making collective leadership work in practice. The ultraleft coup which destroyed the revolution was ostensibly staged under the banner of collective leadership. What evidence is available suggests that collective leadership for the ultraleftists was a euphemism for an old-fashioned power play.

The most important change in thinking between the 1973 manifesto and the 1979 seizure of power involved the question of an international airport. In 1973 it was assumed that a strengthened Caribbean regional airline would make a new airport unnecessary "at this time." By 1979, however, the desirability of direct connections to major countries and the limitations on expansion of the existing facilities at Pearl's Airport had caused a change in thinking. The construction of a new airport quickly became the symbol par excellence of the young revolution. It became a symbol of economic growth, of defiance of United States' pressure, of freedom to choose the revolution's own friends, of Cuban friendship and of revolutionary Grenada's refusal to be in anybody's backyard. It also became the symbol par excellence of United States antagonism.

All things considered, the NJM manifesto of 1973 must take its place among the important political documents of our time. The era of Black Power married the struggle for decolonization and together they found a voice in this document. The hopes and aspirations and the sacrifices and struggles of a whole generation are here.

## ALL THIS HAS GOT TO STOP

### Introduction

The people are being cheated and have been cheated for too long—cheated by both parties, for over twenty years. Nobody is asking what the people want. We suffer low wages and higher cost of living while the politicians get richer, live in bigger

houses and drive around in even bigger cars. The government has done nothing to help people build decent houses; most people still have to walk miles to get water to drink after 22 years of politicians. If we fall sick we catch hell to get quick and cheap medical treatment. Half of us can't find steady work. The place is getting from bad to worse every day—except for the politicians (just look at how they dress and how they move around). The police are being used in politics these days and people are getting more and more blows from them. Government workers who don't toe the Gairy line are getting fired left and right. Even the magistrates better look out!

The government has no idea how to improve agriculture, how to set up industries, and how to improve the housing, health, education and general well-being of the people. They have no ideas for helping the people. All they know is how to thief the people's money for themselves, while the people scrape and scrunt for a living.

## THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

### Food

The present problem is that we import most of our food from abroad and have to pay very high prices for it. Very little land is being used for the production of local food. Most of the cultivated land is taken up with producing cocoa, nutmegs and bananas for the export market.

We need a *National Food Strategy* which would be linked with our Agricultural plan to provide all our local food consumption. Right now we import more than half the food we eat, and we call ourselves an agricultural country!

This plan must provide a regular supply of meats, vegetables, provisions, and milk products. Here, we must stress the increased production of tomatoes, eggplants, hot and sweet pepper, lettuce, parsley, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, snap beans, lima beans, black eye peas, pigeon peas, soya beans, cucumber, melons, musk melons, pumpkins, beetroot, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes, yams, okra and corn.



People who grow local food do so only for their own needs rather than producing it in large quantities for local consumption out of which they can make a good living. They feel bound to do so as there are only very poor facilities or arrangements for selling these goods. The problem is not that there is no market, otherwise half of our food would not be imported. The problem must be that there are no proper local marketing facilities.

### *Housing*

It costs too much to build a house because we do not use local materials. We have to borrow money from foreign banks at high interest rates to buy cement made outside of Grenada and to buy foreign-made furniture. Then, we must face the high cost of buying or renting a spot and the high cost of sand and gravel and of carrying it to the site.

What is needed is the creation of a *National low-cost Housing Plan* which would use local materials like wood, high-quality clay for bricks, and river sand. *These houses must be built co-operatively*, like in the old days when maroons were the order of the day, and with government-assisted finance.

There has never been a proper survey made of the natural resources/raw materials available for the construction of houses, schools, hospitals, churches (and so on), and this must be done now.

We are in favour of immediately giving title deeds to persons who have been in possession, whether as tenants or squatters, of lands owned by the Government.

### *Clothing*

The problem here is that we import most of the clothing and the materials from abroad and then are made to buy them at high prices. On top of this, frequently this clothing is unsuitable for our climate.

What is required is the revival of the cotton industry in Carriacou to provide the basic raw materials for a local textile and garment industry to supply all of the clothing needs of the State.

We are not talking about simply exporting the cotton abroad as in the past where they made clothes out of it and sent it back to us at three times the price. Instead, we will keep all this money here. We will grow the cotton, make cloth out of it ourselves, and then make the shirts, dresses, pants, etc., ourselves in our own garment factories out of that same cloth. We will use our own local designs and styles in our factories in place of the imported colonial jacket and tie. This will create a major outlet for many of our young and talented people, most of whom already have the required skills.

Our plan will at the same time provide more work for our people in Carriacou, Grenada and Petit Martinique.

The skins which we could get from the large scale production of rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs, and so on, could be used to make the belts and handbags which we now import in large quantities from abroad.

### *Education*

A plan for the economic development of Grenada consists of four basic sectors, (1) Agriculture, (2) Fisheries, (3) Agro-industries and (4) New Tourism. None of these is being taught in any systematic way in any of our Primary or Secondary schools. If we are serious about having an educational system that serves the needs of the people for a better standard of life, then the curriculum (what is taught) of both Primary and Secondary schools must centre around the teaching of these subjects in an organised, regular, imaginative and practical way. Our school-leavers must be equipped with the basic skills required for the expanding agricultural and fisheries sectors; for the running of factories producing goods coming from these sectors; and for running the hotels, restaurants and other facilities of an expanding locally-owned and controlled tourist industry.

High-quality education at the Primary and Secondary levels should not be the privilege of the middle classes and the few others lucky enough to get scholarships. We propose a carefully-worked out plan of *Free Secondary Education* throughout the island. We believe that schools must train our young people in



the society so that they can become an active part of the community. People who have skills acquired over the years in agriculture, fisheries, handicraft and general life experiences must be organised to pass on this knowledge to the pupils. In this way, our teachers and students with the help of the adults of the community can produce History books, Geography books, books on practical ideas in Agriculture and Fisheries, as well as other forms of teaching materials which would be the basis for teaching throughout the school system. This plan would bring together in a concrete way parents, teachers and children working closely in co-operation. This practical, productive activity would raise our living standards in every area.

*Freedom Schools*—We propose the creation of what we call Freedom Schools. At these schools, our people will be given the opportunity of acquiring certain basic skills, such as competence in agricultural techniques, boat-building, craftsmanship, first aid and simple medicine, typing, shorthand. We intend focussing on areas outside of St. George's where the need is greatest and people have been neglected for too long.

These schools will also provide basic information on matters affecting us in our daily lives, for example, family-life education, explanations on the law in practice, elementary principles of taxation, reading and writing, black history, Geography, and Elementary Economics. These schools will be independent of the present school system and will be staffed by volunteers.

### Social Planning and Health

#### Health

The wealth of a nation depends on the health of its people. If we are serious about raising the living standards of our people, it is very important that we make sure that our people are healthy and have cheap and readily available facilities to keep that good health.

The present problems are the high cost of seeking medical attention, the high price of buying medicines and drugs, a very poor ambulance service, the scarcity of basic items, such as

bandages, tablets, blood in the three hospitals in Grenada and Carriacou, and at the various Visiting Stations.

High quality medical attention, we feel, must be a right and not a privilege. We all need to be healthy to be able to continue to work and to develop our country. Our children must be healthy to learn.

We propose the creation of an island-wide preventative medicine campaign. This would involve a massive program of immunisation, that is, the provisions of injections and other medicines to our people *before* they become ill. Every child will be inoculated against the following diseases—diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles and smallpox. There would also be a serious program of health education involving the teaching of hygiene, dietary techniques and first aid in our schools and on the radio.

We will also set up a small research unit of our best local doctors to develop medicines from our abundant local herbs. These will be much cheaper than imported medicines since the foreign drug companies make huge profits for themselves.

We propose the creation of a *National Sewerage Scheme* to ensure that the beaches and seas around us do not become polluted thus creating health hazards.

We will make sure that drains are properly maintained and that modern new drains are built.

We will provide the necessary men and equipment to ensure that garbage is removed thoroughly and regularly.

The entire water supply will be constantly checked, filtered and purified before being supplied to the public. All meats, milk and other food commodities will be regularly inspected by properly trained public health inspectors.

We will begin a program designed to wipe out completely mosquitoes, bugs and other pests in the State.

There will also be a large-scale training program for nurses for each village in the country. The main function of these nurses will be the application of first aid, diagnosing (saying what is wrong) illnesses for reference to a doctor (particularly complaints involving the organs of the body, such as the eyes or

the ears) and handling the hundreds of minor complaints which many doctors charge heavy fees for. The nurses will be trained to give expert attention and treatment to expectant mothers and to treating all forms of communicable diseases.

These nurses would also be responsible for teaching the health education subjects in the schools.

We do not consider it necessary to build new hospitals at this stage. Rather, what will be done would be to upgrade the present hospitals, ensure that they are sufficiently stocked with essential items and equipment and to provide them with local doctors with love and dedication for our people.

There is also a crying need for the formulation of a fixed scale of charges which doctors will be obliged under penalty of law to follow. There will also be price control on the cost of drugs and medicines.

In place of building a lot of new Visiting Stations, we would set up a number of mobile units which would travel to the respective areas in the country and to schools at intervals. The number of ambulances available will be increased.

School children, in particular, must have their eyes and ears regularly tested. It is very common for teachers to accuse children with bad eye-sight or poor hearing of being dunces without realising the severe handicaps the children labour under. Under this system of regular tests, these problems will be overcome.

In times of national crisis, for example, during the major outbreak of typhoid fever, doctors will come under the control of the State, so as to ensure that our people are not exploited.

Finally, we would create a *National Insurance Health Scheme* to provide free medical attention for our people.

None of these changes would require a massive outlay of expenditure but rather a more careful utilization of our present resources to provide a decent health plan.

#### *Social Planning*

In addition to our proposals under Health we advocate:—

- (1) Free Psychiatric and Mental Health treatment for all persons in the State.

- (2) As a special priority, the building of houses for the old and needy.
  - (3) The provision of adequate physical facilities for proper Geriatric treatment for the old. First priority will always be given to our older folk. They have laboured for long and as a people we must now be prepared and willing to care for them adequately and without cost.
  - (4) Free dental treatment for all our people, particularly pensioners and school children.
  - (5) The creation of Community Centers in every village with a planned programme of activities.
  - (6) A National Youth Development Committee to be controlled and run by the youth of the State. All existing youth organisations, and, in particular, the Grenada Assembly of Youth, will be invited to contribute ideas and personnel to the Committee. Apart from organising activities for its membership, this Committee will be invited to participate in other national bodies concerned with public affairs.
- The Committee will have as one of its main functions the implementation of a program designed to raise the level of National Consciousness throughout the State.
- (7) The present House of Refuge (or Poor House) will be renovated and its facilities updated to ensure the comfort of its residents.
  - (8) All organisations in the State running Charitable Institutions will be given every encouragement to continue and expand their efforts.
  - (9) We believe that the present policy of the administrators of the prison over-stresses punishment. We will ensure that all offenders who are convicted are treated as human beings while they are in prison and are given every opportunity to acquire a skill which could benefit them on their return to Society. Proper separate facilities and programs for the rehabilitation of young offenders, in particular, will be created.

*Agriculture, Fisheries, Agro-Industries*

*Our basic policy for the organisation of economic activity is through co-operatives. We find the principle of co-operatives is the fairest way of ensuring full workers' participation and benefits from whatever enterprise is being done. We feel that workers will work harder and produce more if they know they are working for themselves and reaping the benefits of their labour, rather than if they are working for a boss:*

For us to achieve a higher standard of living, we must enter upon a modern agricultural program, expand greatly our fishing industry and develop an island-wide network of factories for canning, processing, preserving and packaging all of the crops and fish we produce in this new program.

Our goal is not just to expand production of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, rabbits, etc., while continuing to import the feeds for these animals, because to do so would still keep the cost of the animals too high owing to the high cost of these feeds. Rather, we aim to produce the various feeds ourselves. This we can do by making use of the fishmeal, coconut meal, corn, breadfruits, soya beans, sugar-cane, reject bananas, citrus and many other products which are now being used by the countries we buy the feeds from at high prices.

Our plan for increased production in cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, etc., will stress the introduction of breeds adaptable to the region and proper feeding and management. We advocate the creation of properly managed community pastures practising communal grazing in tastier and more nutritious grazing areas.

We advocate the creation of a *Central Dairy Board* which would be responsible for collecting, processing and distributing locally produced fresh milk at fair prices.

From our present agricultural commodities, we can develop agro-industries producing for ourselves some of the following products:

*Nutmegs*

Nutmeg oil, jams, jellies, liqueurs, spice powder, pharmaceuticals, preserves, juices and marmalade.

*Cassava*

Flour, baby food, cereals, farine.

*Bananas*

Flour, chips, cake-mixes, baby foods, animal feeds.

*Cocoa*

Confectionery (sweets), beverages (chocolate, Ovaltine, Milo), ice cream.

*Breadfruit*

Flour, chips, tinned foods.

*Corn*

Mixed with flour for baking, starch, oil.

*Cucumber*

Gerkins.

*Cotton*

Oil, animal feeds and plastics.

*Fish*

Freezing, canning, packaging, powder for animal feeds, dehydrating surplus fish as the protein supplement in a livestock feed.

*Groundnuts*

Peanut butter, milk substitutes.

*Lamb*

Tinned, dried, frozen.

*Coconuts*

Cooking oil, soap, using the coconut meal by-product for animal feeds.

*Citrus:**Limes*

Lime oil, lime juice, lime cordials. The pulp can be used as a stock-feed.

*Orange and grapefruits*

Fresh fruit trade and the canning of surplus.

*Other fresh fruits*

Fruit trade in mangoes, avocados (pears), soursop, passion fruit, guavas, W.I. cherries, sorrel, paw-paw, sapodillas and tamarinds

for local consumption and export trade. The agro-industry here can be based on fruit-juices, nectars, liqueurs, wines, etc.

#### *Minor spices*

Our cloves, cinnamon, ginger, tonka beans, vanilla, black pepper, can be used to produce ground and mixed spices.

#### *Livestock feed*

This can be produced from reject bananas, breadfruit, corn, fishmeal, slaughter-house wastes, citrus and sugar-cane.

#### *Ground Provisions*

The production of instant yam, tanyas, and sweet potatoes, etc., in packaged form. It must be stressed that all of these new products can and will be packaged, bottled, canned or wrapped by us right here in Grenada at our new factories.

We propose the setting up of a *Soil Conservation Authority* to deal with soil and water conservation in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. We will introduce small-scale machinery, whenever possible, to remove the stigma of slavery and toil associated with the fork and hoe.

We propose to completely re-organise the existing facilities for servicing agriculture through a strong *Research and Extension Division* and a core of specialists in such areas as *Crop Science, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Livestock Science, Agricultural Economics, Marketing, Land Use and Soil and Water Conservation*. At present the *technical service lacks depth and direction* and a climate of *frustration* prevails. Juniors lacking in knowledge, qualification and ability have been promoted over seniors, open political activity is encouraged, while favours, promotion and courses are handed out on a *patronage* basis. To crown the matter, there is often conflict between the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff.

We will improve the existing agricultural feeder roads and build new ones for the opening of new areas for agricultural expansion.

Our new emphasis in what we teach in our schools will attract better types of Farm Manager/Operator with a higher standard of education and a better understanding of farming

principles and practices offered by modern technology. We will demonstrate that commercial farming can provide a decent and respectable standard of living as any other occupation. We will make an early start in motivating our new farmers through summer schools, weekend agricultural camps, teach-ins and the formal teaching of agriculture in both Primary and Secondary Schools and at our Freedom Schools.

To develop such a program of agro-industries based on the agricultural commodities we can grow will require a large and steady supply of all these commodities coming from the farming sector to supply the agro-industry factories. Such a large and constant supply of these commodities, we believe, can only take place by radically redistributing the land in Grenada into co-operative farms of not less than 40-50 acres in size. This will replace the present scandal of "Land for the landless" policy, which has the effect only of destroying the whole agricultural basis of the economy.

Such a plan would also require a *National Transport System* and a *National Marketing System* which would take the fresh crops as well as the processed foods and animal feeds from the farms and factories to the homes of everyone throughout the island and to the docks for exporting overseas for us to earn some extra income.

We must use our agricultural experts as well as experts from the University of the West Indies along with our most successful local farmers, primary and secondary school teachers and pupils, as the hard core of the detailed planning and implementation of this scheme as well as for continuous research to get higher yields from the available land being utilised on these crops. We see our students throughout the island playing a more active and direct role in raising our levels of production thereby improving the material well-being of the people and gaining for themselves in the process an invaluable education in real life.

We aim to expand coastal as well as deep-sea fishing, using the right kind of boats and trawlers, with refrigeration on board for deep-sea fishing. Additionally, adequate deep-freezing facilities at the various fishing ports will be provided so that the fish

can be preserved for long periods, and would not go bad if sales cannot be immediately obtained.

Our 1,500 fishermen with their 654 boats and our 110 fish vendors will be encouraged to work co-operatively. The fishing industry will develop into both a fresh fish market and a manufacturing industry. The co-operative will control its production, distribution and marketing thus benefitting the individuals while at the same time severely reducing our high food import bills and saving us badly needed foreign exchange. The surplus sprats, small jacks, flying fishes, etc., will be utilised as animal feed. We will examine closely the possibility of making our own saltfish.

We intend opening a *fishing school* drawing on local experts and experts from various countries of the world experienced in fishing techniques, storage and processing and fish farming.

Fishing, like any other activity in the country, must be done professionally, and if the right facilities and training and marketing are available to the fisherman, he can make a very good living out of it.

With Grand Etang Lake, other, smaller lakes and several of our rivers and inland bays, we can and should develop an *inland fishing industry* with the rearing of crayfish, titerree and other kinds of fish, and in the bays lobster farming on a big scale.

Directly connected with this expanded fishing program would be an expanded and varied *boat-building industry*. Again, we do not want to go buying expensive fishing boats from abroad when no one knows how to build boats better than our very own people from Carriacou and Sauteurs.

### CARRIACOU: A FORGOTTEN ISLAND

#### Agricultural Development for Carriacou

Because of the long period of neglect with which Agriculture has been faced, the island should receive both direct and indirect benefits from the reconstruction programme. The indirect benefits should flow from the programme in Grenada. However, a specific programme for the island should include the following:—

*Livestock* — General improvement in livestock husbandry through better pasture management, rotational grazing, better grasses, adjustment in the stocking rate based on the carrying capacity of the pastures. Provision of an Abattoir with chilling facilities and the air-lifting of beef, pork, lamb and mutton to Grenada. Outlets will be provided through the supermarkets, hotels, local meat stalls, etc. There will therefore be little need for farmers to travel to Grenada with animals on the hoof for sale to face all the problems that this system entails. However, to meet this situation if it does arise, holding paddocks should be set up in Grenada where animals would be fed and housed until sold.

*Limes* — Improvement in the cultivation practices and restoration of the Dunfries factory to provide facilities for the production of lime juice and lime oil.

*Cotton* — Introduction of better agronomic practices in the cultivation of the crop and a possible change from the production of the Marie Galante cotton variety to the more lucrative Sea Island Cotton variety. The utilization of cotton seed for soil production and the "cake" as a stock feed. This cotton will be used as the basis of our local textile and garment industry.

*Soil and Water Conservation Programme* — This to be administered through the Conservation Authority and will include the establishment of *large earthen dams in all possible catchment areas*. The water resources so developed could be used to further expand the livestock and agricultural potential of the island through irrigation. Among other things, it would give a fillip to the production of out of season vegetables to supply Grenada and regional markets. Crops envisaged include: tomatoes, beans, okras, cabbages, carrots, onions, beet, garlic, watermelons, etc. Crops to be properly graded, packaged, then air-lifted to their destination.

*Local Assemblies* — We propose that the people of Carriacou and Petit Martinique will run these islands in their local Assemblies. Petit Martinique can have one local Assembly while Carriacou will have at least six. These Assemblies, together will

elect four representatives to the National Assembly. In addition, the Assembly Council for Carriacou and Petit Martinique will be given greater agreed powers than the Assembly Councils in Grenada.

## BUILDING OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY

### New Tourism

The present tourist industry is a major scandal. Most of the hotels and restaurants are owned by foreigners buying out the best lands in the island, throwing local hotel owners out of business and paying virtually no taxes at all to the Government. Nearly all the building materials used for construction of their hotels, cottages and private apartments are imported from other countries.

Even more scandalously, while our farmers and fishermen scrape and scunt for a living, these foreign hotel owners import meats, fish, vegetables, spices or even fruits for use at their tables. And to make things even worse, these foreigners rake up all of their fat profits and take it out of the country every year.

It is because of these and like facts that every time a tourist spends a dollar in Grenada, at least ninety cents of it goes right back outside the State. So the politicians let these people come in and buy out our best lands, make fat profits out of us, treat our people who work for them as dirt, bring in their nasty habits like drugs—and all for ten cents in every dollar!

What we propose in place of this bubul industry is a GRENADIAN Tourist Industry, owned by the people of the State. This means that *a first priority must be the complete nationalisation of all foreign-owned hotels as well as foreign-owned housing settlements, such as Westerhall.* In this new industry, all the meats, vegetables, provisions, fish, drinks, fruits, spices, handicrafts (chairs, tables, ornaments, etc) will be locally produced. This will create a large market for our farmers, fishermen and handicraft men and women. Our agro-industry factories would

also be able to supply the hotels and restaurants with canned, bottled and packaged foodstuffs of all kinds.

In this way, the tourist industry will for the first time serve the needs of Grenadians. It would provide jobs at higher wages not just for those working in the hotels and restaurants or for a few taxi drivers, but also for the many workers on the farms, fishing ports and factories, producing all these things that before were imported from abroad.

This is what we mean when we say the tourist industry must be a Grenadian Industry; not only in the sense of it being owned and controlled by the people of Grenada but also because it will provide a large and new market for the goods made by thousands of Grenadians throughout the country.

We want to attract to Grenada as tourists not just a few rich, white people who can afford the ridiculous prices these hotels charge while the guest houses, apartments and smaller hotel rooms remain empty. Rather, we want the massive numbers of potential tourists from Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, and other parts of Latin America, the millions of black Americans, students and teachers in North and South America, and right here in the West Indies the thousands of Trinidadians, Jamaicans, Arubians, Martiniquans, Puerto Ricans, together with tourists coming from Africa and other parts of the world who would love to come here but cannot afford the present nonsensical prices.

The last major problem to be solved in a new tourist industry is the organisation of reliable and cheap air and sea transport. LIAT and CUA are totally unreliable. We need a Caribbean Airline owned by the governments of the region, including Grenada, so that we can fix the schedule of flights and control the cost of air fares to suit our needs. In this way, we can bring in tens of thousands of tourists at more reasonable fares each year.

Finally, we will be very strict in ensuring that all beaches are open and available for use by all members of the public. We will not leave it to the people of individual areas to hold People's

Trials of foreigners such as Lord Brownlow who attempted to create private beaches for their own use.

### Trade

Our policy on trade is to cut down on imports as much as possible and we have shown many ways of doing so earlier in the Manifesto. Those goods which we will have to continue to import because we cannot produce ourselves and which we import only from North America and Europe, we will instead try to get at a cheaper price wherever possible from other countries in the Caribbean and in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The cost of shipping both our imports and exports are very high and use up a lot of our foreign exchange. Instead, we intend joining with other Caribbean and Third World countries in developing our own shipping line to carry goods more cheaply and to keep the profits local.

At present, we export only cocoa, nutmegs and bananas. In the future, under our plans for Agriculture and Agro-Industries we intend exporting a large range of agricultural and agro-industrial commodities, not only to the Big North American and European Markets but also to Latin America, Africa and Asia and other countries in the Caribbean.

### Banking

We believe that no country can be independent unless it owns and controls the banks and the insurance companies. No matter how great our plans for agriculture, agro-industries, tourism and fishing are, if the foreign-owned banks decide that they are not lending the money to our farmers and fishermen etc., to develop these industries, then all the plans burst-up. And we know that this is just what the banks are doing. They are lending money left and right to buy cars and radiograms and other things which cannot produce food for us to eat, and which we have to buy at fat prices from the same countries the banks come from. But our farmers and small businessmen catch hell to get a loan from them. Yet, all the money they have in the banks is our local money. It is our deposits they use to lend people to buy

cars instead of loans to produce more food and develop new industries.

On top of all of this, they take fat profits out of the country daily. We will put an end to this bubul.

Our plan is to nationalise the banks at the earliest correct opportunity and to use the money to finance directly the new agricultural and agro-industrial schemes, as well as our new plans in tourism and fisheries earlier outlined. We need to produce more goods in every sector and in every part of the island. It is for these reasons that we condemn foreign ownership of our banks. In fact, Grenadians already possess the necessary skills but use them for foreign capitalists.

The new banks would be controlled and directed by a Central Bank. One of the main functions of this Central Bank will be to make sure that the loans available in these banks are provided for housing, small farmers, fishermen, co-operatives, the setting up of agro-industries and the expansion of the new tourist industry.

These new banks will continue to employ as their staff the persons presently engaged in the industry.

### Insurance

Most of what we have said about the banking system is also true about the Insurance Companies. Nearly all of them are foreign-owned; they are taking large amounts of money from Grenadians in premiums, and they are taking fat profits out of the island all the time. Our plan is to phase out the foreign Insurance Companies and to set up one large government-owned Insurance Company to handle all forms of insurance and to keep the profits in the country.

### Roads and Transportation

Transportation is a big problem to the people of this country. It is absolutely unreliable and uncomfortable. And for that, you pay one of the highest prices in the world.

The problems are:—(1) poor roads, (2) no proper organised service to meet the needs of the people, (3) un-economical

vehicles and operations, (4) government's failure to determine and control the fares when it comes to the poor local passengers, and (5) the high cost of gasoline and vehicle parts.

We advocate: - (1) the control of the fares by government or some other statutory authority, (2) a road extension programme to accommodate bigger, more economical vehicles, (3) the reorganising of more reliable and economical runs, (4) the organisation of bus drivers into a co-operative association so that together they can work out proper schedules, and so bring an end to the fighting against each other, and the un-economical runs for which passengers pay dearly.

We would consider setting up a Co-operative Bus Service, failing agreement among bus owners. Taxis can be organised along similar lines.

We will commence an immediate survey of existing roads and possibilities for opening new ones particularly in the first instance, new agricultural feeder roads.

#### **Harbours and Airport**

We are *not* in favour of building an International Airport at this time. The present airport is more than adequate for our needs at this time, but should be upgraded and resurfaced. *What is desperately needed now is not an International Airport but ownership of LIAT or some other regional airline by the Governments of the region, including Grenada*, so that we could regulate efficiently flight schedules and the cost of flights. It is also essential that the road from Grenville to St. George's should be widened and properly maintained.

We will give urgent consideration to rebuilding the jetty at Hillsborough, Carriacou and repairing and improving the jetties at Harvey Vale, Carriacou, and Grenville.

We will consider the desirability of putting down jetties at Gouyave and Sauteurs.

We will give active consideration to the building of deep water harbours at Hillsborough (Carriacou) and Grenville.

The whole question of communications requires careful and serious study, and final decisions on what should be done about

new roads and harbours will only be taken after a thorough survey of our resources, needs and potential have been undertaken.

#### **Local Private Investors**

Estate owners have over the years shown themselves bankrupt of ideas for developing a modern and profitable agricultural sector. Today many of them leave large areas of their land lying idle and uncultivated while thousands of people have no land to work and we import most of our food. *We feel that these estates should form the basis of the co-operative farms which we outlined earlier.* To this end, we intend to negotiate with the owners in order to organise this scheme successfully.

The business firms which do all the importing at the moment charge in many cases excessive prices, and make excessive profits while not actually producing anything in the country. *We feel that a National Importing Board should be set up to import all goods into the island, from whom retailers can continue to buy those goods as at present.* As this Board will not be a profit-making body, it means that the price of all goods imported into the island will be substantially reduced by the extent of the profits presently made. We also consider it essential to set up a *National Exporting Board* to coordinate the exporting of all items produced in the island.

We believe that the money, energies, experience and abilities of our local investors should be harnessed and channelled into the development, along with the Government, of Agro-Industries. This is an area with great potential for development which requires a greater amount of cooperation, hard work and ability.

#### **Financing of Agriculture, Fisheries, Agro-industries, New Tourism, Housing, Roads, Schools, and Other Projects.**

As outlined earlier in the Manifesto, Health, Education and the supply of local foods, require relatively little additional capital expenditure. At the moment a hell of a lot of money is spent on these things but with the amount of "bubul" and inefficiency, most of the money is mis-spent. Our National Health, Education



and Food plans will utilize the present large sums of money spent on them, but reorganise them along the lines we have outlined earlier to make them more efficient and serve the needs of the people in all parts of the island equally.

Our plans for Housing and Clothing will need more capital expenditure. So will our plans for Agro-Industries and an expanded fishing industry. Agriculture will require reorganisation of man-power, redistribution of the land, the growing of a larger variety of crops and the use of larger quantities of fertilizer and small machinery.

The sources of financing of all these projects will be from:—

- (1) Government revenue from taxation.
- (2) Government revenues from collecting the profits from the Banks, Insurance Companies and formerly foreign-owned hotels.
- (3) Loans from the government-owned banking system.
- (4) Local private investors.
- (5) Commercial loans from banks in other countries. These loans can be repaid from out of the profits made from using that money.
- (6) Loans from International Financial Institutions like the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and so on. It is worth noting that in a recent report by Sir Arthur Lewis, the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, he pointed out that some \$[?] million were awaiting Grenada and a few other islands. The money is available but cannot be touched because of the corruption and lack of planning existing in these islands.
- (7) Foreign Aid from friendly countries *provided that there are no strings attached.*
- (8) Profits from the Agricultural, Agro-Industrial and Fishing sectors to be reinvested in these same sectors for them to expand even bigger.
- (9) Organisations such as Credit Unions, Friendly Societies, Co-operative Associations for Nutmeg, Banana and Cocoa.

Producers and people who operate methods of savings like the su-su will be encouraged to invest their savings.

- (10) It should also be pointed out that by cutting down the ridiculous costs involved in our present political administration, with bubul salaries going to the Premier, other Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Governor, Speaker, top civil servants, 82 so-called farmers' club organizers, secret police, etc., the country will be able to make a great saving. Likewise, all the money now being wasted on prestige "dream" projects such as roundabouts, and Independence celebrations, will now be available for constructive policy spending.

### Labour and Unemployment

*At present, in Grenada 50% of the working population are without work.* This means that every other person who wants a job cannot find one. This is a crime against the people. It is also a crime against the country for if jobs were created for everyone the country would produce double what it now produces. This would result in a tremendous boost in development for Grenada.

The New Jewel Movement feels that ALL men and women of working age should be able to find jobs in their country. Our plans for expanding and diversifying the agricultural sector, the fishing sector and the creation of factories to produce Agro-Industrial commodities, plus our proposals for a People's Tourist Industry would create enough jobs for the ten to twelve thousand people unable to find jobs. Our plans, in fact, would create a new problem—a shortage of labour.

As we have pointed out earlier, we intend setting up a Fishing School for people to master all the techniques involved in boat-building, sea navigation, the catching of fish, storage and refrigeration, processing, packaging, distribution, fish-farming and marine motor-mechanics. We will also set up a School of *New Tourism* to cover all aspects of training, and a *School of Agriculture and Agro-Industries* to increase the level of skills of the labour force and to produce regular skilled recruits to these industries.

**Wage Rates and Price Controls**

We believe that every worker has a right to a decent wage so that every family is provided with the basic essentials.

We propose the setting up of a *Wages and Prices Board* to make sure that people's wages will rise whenever costs rise and to impose price controls on imported items. Legislation will be passed to guarantee minimum wages for different categories of workers.

Another way in which we hope to reduce the skyrocketing cost of living is through our plan of expanding our Agricultural Sector to produce cheaply all the food we eat at the moment, a half to three-quarters of which we presently import.

**National Insurance and Pension Scheme**

We have already outlined our National Health Insurance Scheme. In addition, we propose a *National Insurance Plan* to cover compensation for injury at work, unemployment, general accident, life insurance and retirement pension.

The money for these plans will come from contributions by all workers and employers from out of their earnings and profits.

**PEOPLE AND THE LAW****The Police Force**

To the public as a whole, the members of the Grenada Police Force are objects of hatred, fear and pappy-show, and the image of the Force is that of a group of people whose only function is to protect the private property of the chosen few to assist the Regime in keeping power and to keep the masses in their place despite the hunger, starvation and injustice which exist everywhere in our society. The shooting of ten (10) unarmed demonstrators at Pearls Airport in April of 1973 is a good example of this.

It is the system of recruitment to the Force rather than the present members who are to be blamed for the image and practices which take place in the name of law and order.

- (1) The police receive improper or no training;
- (2) They work long and irregular hours;
- (3) They are away from their families and local communities for long periods of time;
- (4) They are abused by the public for acts of physical violence they are commanded to take against our citizens;
- (5) Persons with known criminal records are being recruited to the Force.

If a new and just society is to be created in which there is equality before the law, the role of the police must be new and different.

Persons seeking to join the new Service must possess the basic qualities of leadership, intelligence, good character, discipline and social sense. The teaching of West Indian History, Community Relations, Economics and Law will enable the new breed of policeman and woman to have a balanced outlook and no longer be the Robots of today.

We stress the importance of having the Commissioner of Police come from the ranks of the service, making sure that he or she will be responsible to the country as a whole for official actions.

We recommend:—

- (1) A strong Police Association to bargain for members;
- (2) That police officers reside and work in the areas in which they live;
- (3) That the transfer of members to areas away from their families be stopped;
- (4) That the police have regular hours of work and overtime pay for extra hours worked;
- (5) That there be greater involvement by the police in social work;
- (6) That known criminals be removed; and
- (7) That the words 'Royal' and 'Force' be removed and the name be changed to The Grenada Police Service.

The thousands of dollars which will be saved from the present sums being paid to Gairy's Secret Police will be used instead to help to achieve the above objectives.

### The Courts

In the past the settlement of disputes in our society have been solved in the Courts by Ministers of Religion, head-teachers and persons of outstanding character in the local community. Today, however, the Courts, and in particular the Magistrate's Courts, are used in the settlement of everyday disputes.

*THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT*—There has been of late a public outcry at the delays and complete lack of regard for persons who appear there as witnesses or defendants. People as a whole no longer respect the institution because of the lack of efficiency and the image these Courts enjoy in our society. We believe the reasons for this are as follows:—

- (1) The fact that the Magistrates do not reside in the districts in which they sit and so fail to have any real understanding of the locality and the people;
- (2) The police are able to bramble the Magistrates into adjourning cases when there is no good reason for so doing;
- (3) The Magistrate has to deal with cases of minor anti-social behaviour, e.g. drunkenness, cursing and offences by youth and children, which often are not crimes at all.
- (4) Court decisions are very often not complied with;
- (5) Imposing fines which bear no relation to the nature of the offence; and
- (6) The Magistrates are subject to political pressure and displeasure in matters in which the Government may have an interest.

We propose therefore:—

- (1) That Magistrates reside in the district in which they sit;
- (2) That People's Courts be set up in villages to try petty offences;

- (3) That Magistrates sit on the bench with two or more lay people so that they could be assisted in forming a balanced judgment. This can be experimented with for a period before final implementation.
- (4) That the Magistrates be given full power to supervise fully the administration of their department;
- (5) That the wide powers of heavy fining now allowed to Magistrates be reduced.

*THE PEOPLE'S COURT* — The Court would be comprised of elected villagers who will deal with anti-social behaviour of the villagers themselves, e.g. petty theft, absence of children from their school, drunks and young offenders. The sentence of these courts would be the imposition of small fines or compulsory community work.

We feel that being tried by our neighbours and friends would help to reduce anti-social behaviour and assist in promoting a sense of responsibility and community.

*THE COURT OF APPEAL AND THE HIGH COURT* — We are satisfied with the present method of appointments to the High Court and Court of Appeal and would be in favour of retaining this system.

*THE PRIVY COUNCIL* — Self-reliance must be our goal in all the institutions in our State. However, no state like ours could on its own run all its institutions. With our Caribbean neighbours we must establish a Caribbean Court of Appeal in the very near future and abolish appeals to the Privy Council in England.

*THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT* — We do not see the need for the top heavy, big pay, fancy-named legal officials who staff the Government's legal department. We see the need for an Attorney General and one assistant. They will be responsible for all civil matters in which the State has an interest, and provide legal advice to the Government and draft new laws. The Director of Public Prosecutions, together with an Assistant, will be responsible for all criminal matters in which the State has an interest.

He will also be responsible for giving lectures on the Law to the Police Service. We would abolish the post of Solicitor-General.

#### LEGAL REFORMS—

- (1) The Court dress of the judges and lawyers will be changed to suit our tropical conditions.
- (2) A Law Revision Committee will be set up to promote changes in the law to meet the needs of the society. Representatives will come from all groups within the society under the Attorney-General as Chairman.
- (3) That persons who are presently regarded as “illegitimate” will be afforded all the rights of persons who are born in wedlock.
- (4) Legal aid will be extended to cover cases other than murder.
- (5) We will give the Law Society an opportunity to agree on a fixed scale of charges to clients. If they can not agree, we will lay down maximum charges for lawyers.
- (6) Reduction of the legal age of majority from 21 to 18 years.
- (7) Raising the marriage age to 16 years.
- (8) Simplifying and revising the law relating to land and conveyancing.
- (9) Various disabilities and disadvantages which women presently suffer under the law will be removed. The “Common-Law” wife will be guaranteed certain rights and wives will be guaranteed the right to remain in and/or share the value of the matrimonial home and other assets with the husband on a divorce or other dissolution of the marriage.

#### PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES FOR POWER TO THE PEOPLE

##### The Constitution

The Constitution is a body of Rules which are supposed to reflect the legal principles under which a people agree to be governed within a State. Usually these laws seek to provide for

the equality of all citizens before the law and to ensure that even the Government is subject to the law of the land. This legal principle is expressed as the rule of the law.

There are countries in the world which do not have written Constitutions, e.g. Britain, where the rule of law may yet be maintained. The fact of having a written Constitution does not of itself guarantee that the laws will be respected or enforced. What is important is the value which the people and the Government place on the importance of upholding the law.

We are in favour of Grenada having a written Constitution. What is important, however, is that our Constitution must reflect our genuine aspirations and ideas about justice. A Constitution is meaningless to a people unless it is obtained by the process of the people's involvement. The present Constitution is a total farce, and its provisions are broken, ignored or rejected by this Government as a matter of course.

A meaningful Constitution must at least contain:

- (1) A statement of the basic principles for which the society stands;
- (2) Machinery for the protection and enforcement of fundamental rights and freedoms. Both of these essentials are missing in our present Constitution.

We reject as a total pappyshow the present 1967 and the proposed 1974 Constitutions which were imposed on us by the British Government. It is a shameful reflection that it took three trips to London to discuss the 1974 Constitution and all that resulted is three minor changes from the Associated States Constitution of 1967. In effect Englishmen drafted the laws which are to govern us. We had no say. We will use the Independence Constitution as the basis for discussion in the preparation of a meaningful Constitution for a new and democratic society.

##### The Civil Service

We have been stressing that the three main arms of the apparatus of the State—the Courts, the Police and the Civil Service—are all badly in need of repair.

With the Civil Service, the problems have been victimisation by the Government, inefficiency in certain departments due to lack of overall co-ordination, breakdown in communication between Permanent Secretaries and their staff and between Permanent Secretaries and their Ministers, a climate of frustration due to the Government's open policy of biased promotions of their political supporters regardless of their qualifications, experience, energy or ability, non-productivity on the part of many civil servants who see themselves as only awaiting a pension, and a general lack of direction and aimlessness on the part of those civil servants forced to abandon planning for the "dreams" of Lucifer.

The urgent need is to inject the Service with a new approach of dedication, direction, efficiency and commitment to the aims, values and aspirations of a people searching for a new life in a new society.

The Civil Service Association must be given the assurance that it will be allowed to conduct its activities and look after the interests of its members in an atmosphere free of political pressure and victimisation.

We will consider the desirability of increasing the membership of the Public Service Commission and of allowing two of its members to be appointed by workers in the Public Service, including civil servants, teachers, policemen and nurses.

A survey will be undertaken to determine the best ways of achieving meaningful change in the smooth running, coordination, work-sharing, attracting of appropriate personnel and the restoration of a sense of values and direction to the Service.

As a first priority, we will immediately discontinue the practice of using civil servants as politicians. The funds now being wasted on the eighty-two Farmers' Club organisations (with a minimum salary of \$210.00 per month each) will be discontinued.

#### **New Villages**

We plan to provide a home for every family (and every family deserves a home), a home with the basic amenities and at the lowest possible cost. We believe that such homes should be

erected in areas where materials are obtainable or easily transportable, and where facilities are easily serviceable.

We see the need for the creation of entirely new communities organised along different lines to the present villages. These new villages would be self-contained communities with a housing estate, shopping area, recreational facilities, including community centre, properly planned and maintained roads, health clinic, church, school and a properly organised bus service.

Each house will be properly equipped with its own toilet and bath facilities and electricity. There will be at least a number of public telephones for the use of the village. *The people of the village will run the village through their local Village Assembly.*

*The aim of these new villages would be to "townify" the country and "countrify" the town; that is, we would aim at providing the best features of town life to folk living in the country and vice versa.*

#### **People's Assemblies and the Two Stages of the New Form of Government**

Since politics deals with the making of decisions, and since politics is largely the process which decides who gets what, where, how and when, New Jewel does not consider it to be the function of an "exclusive club." NJM stands solidly behind *People's Assemblies* as the new form of government that will involve all the people all the time. Through this form, people will be assured of both their political and their economic rights. To us, *People's Assemblies* will bring in true democracy.

Nevertheless, NJM does not expect that *People's Assemblies* will be able to take over right away. It will take time to get these *Assemblies* really going. We therefore hold that when power changes hands in the near future, there will have to be a *provisional government*, an in-between government. That government will be dedicated to the task of developing *People's Assemblies*, among other things. It will have the task of starting, promoting, encouraging and generally bringing into being these *Assemblies*.

Who will make up this new Government? That will have to emerge more precisely as the circumstances develop. As a guide, that government will be made up of a cross-section of the society. It will be made up of all major groups, without regard to favour—GULP, GNP, JEWEL, alike. Ability, dedication and patriotism will be the standards. It will be made up of representatives of workers and unions, farmers, police, civil servants, nurses, teachers, businessmen and students. These groups will be consulted in advance and they will choose their own representatives on the government. That assembly made up of representatives of all groups in the island will be the government.

The government will operate on the basis of collective leadership. All important decisions will be made by the whole group. There will be no Premier. The Assembly will elect a different chairman at intervals. Details as to who will be in charge of which Ministry will be worked out by the Assembly.

Later on, however, after consultation with the people at large, and with their consent, People's Assemblies will be implemented.

How will these Assemblies work? NJM has covered this subject at great length in previous publications. We shall only summarise it here.

But before we do this, let us state that we are rejecting the party system for many reasons. Firstly, parties divide the people into warring camps. Secondly, the system places power into the hands of a small ruling clique. That clique victimises and terrorises members of the other party. Thirdly, the ruling elite seizes control of all avenues of public information, for example, the radio station, and uses them for its own ends. Finally, and most importantly, it fails to involve the people except for a few seconds once in every five years when they make an "X" on a ballot paper. Therefore, we wish to replace the party system by People's Assemblies as outlined below.

Firstly, there will be the Village Assemblies. Each adult citizen, from eighteen years of age, will be a member of his Village Assembly. The Village Assembly will discuss the problems of the village and take decisions on them. It will meet, say, once

a month. The Village Assembly will elect a small Council to implement its decisions. That Council or any member of it can be dismissed and replaced at any time that the Assembly decides.

Secondly, we propose the creation of Parish Assemblies. These will be made up of representatives from throughout the parish. Each Village Assembly will send two delegates to the Parish Assembly. The Parish Assembly will elect a Parish Council. These Assemblies will discuss the problems of the parishes and reach decisions on them. It will be the duty of the Parish Councils to implement these decisions.

Thirdly, we advocate the creation of Workers Assemblies, which will be organised along similar lines to the Village Assemblies. These Assemblies would be entitled to representation in the National Assembly. These Assemblies would comprise, for example, stevedores, nurses, teachers, students and so on. *Workers Assemblies* will ensure that the present exploitation of workers being carried on by certain leaders in the name of Trade Unionism will come to an end. This will be so because for the first time the control and direction of their own lives will be in the hands of the workers themselves rather than in the hands of corrupt politicians whose only interests are in lining their pockets and riding on the backs of the labouring masses to keep political power.

Finally, there is the National Assembly. This will be the Government of the land. It will be made up of representatives chosen from each village and the Workers Assembly, one each. The National Assembly will elect its Council to put the decisions into practice. Members of the Council will be on Committees which will head government departments.

The precise demarcation and division of powers and functions, age participation, and normal frequency of elections will have to be agreed upon, after further discussions by the people. Power, however, will be rooted in the villages and at our places of work. At any time, the village can fire and replace its Council, its representative on the Parish Assembly, or its representative on the National Assembly. Together, the people of the

villages and workers can throw out the whole National Assembly and put in a new one. In this way, power will be in the hands of the people of the villages.

People's Assemblies, therefore, will end the deep divisions and victimisation of the people found under the party system. This new form will involve all the people in decision-making, all the time.

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Regional Affairs

We support completely the political and economic integration of the Caribbean. But, like with Independence, we believe in real and genuine integration of all the peoples of the Caribbean for the benefit of all the people.

We support the integration of the economies of the islands under ownership and control of the people of these islands. We oppose the present trend of integrating those economies to make it easier for foreign companies to exploit us.

We have witnessed over the past 20 years Federation, Little 8, Little 7, Unitary Statehood with Trinidad, and the Grenada Declaration among others. The reason they have all failed is that at no stage were the people consulted or involved in any of those attempts at Caribbean Unity.

The present Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) is no different. Here, too, the people have been completely shut out from any participation in its planning, beginning or present operation. We will work towards ensuring that CARICOM becomes a meaningful reality.

Our policy on imports of goods that we do not produce ourselves will be to try first of all to buy these goods from our Brothers in the other islands of the Caribbean. Any goods which they do not make we will import from fellow Third World countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Only as a last resort for goods that we cannot get anywhere else will we buy from the imperialist countries like North America and Europe who are rich enough already from exploiting us for too long.

Through our proposal for joint ownership of the airline and shipping lines serving the region by the governments of the region, we expect a large reduction in the cost of travel between the islands. This will mean that the workers of the different islands will have the opportunity to travel, presently the privilege of the middle and upper classes.

*We believe that these tiny islands of ours should abolish the need in regional travel for passports, travel permits, airport and ticket taxes and other ridiculous restrictions and politically motivated bans on individuals.*

### International Affairs

We stand firmly committed to a nationalist, anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist position.

We fully support the Organisation of Non-Aligned Nations in their courageous attempts to prevent big-power domination of their economies and internal politics, and propose to join that Organisation at the earliest possible opportunity.

For as long as the present composition of the OAS is maintained, we will not apply for admission to that body.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the intervention of the U.S.A. in the internal affairs of the South East Asian countries and the genocidal practices being committed on their peoples. We support in particular the heroic struggle of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia. We reject the right of the U.S.A. or any other big power to control the economies and the lives of any people anywhere.

We support fully the liberation struggles being waged by our African Brothers in South Africa, S.W. Africa, Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau for self-determination.

As a priority, we would ban all imports from South Africa, S.W. Africa and Portugal or its colonies and would cut off all trading and other ties with these countries. None of the nationals of these countries will be allowed access or entry to our island.

We will not allow the nationals of countries with racist laws designed to keep out Black people, such as the United Kingdom

or the U.S.A. to have free, open and unrestricted entry into our island.

We deplore the rampant racism that our fellow West Indians and other Black Brothers suffer in America, Britain and Canada, and will give them whatever concrete support we can.

We salute the just and heroic struggle being waged on Caribbean soil by progressive forces here. We are confident of our eventual victory.

### INDEPENDENCE

On February 7th, 1974, we are supposed to become independent. If we do, this will be independence in name only. *Gairy believes that independence means pulling down one flag and putting up another, composing a new anthem, creating a new motto, calling the Governor "Governor General" and the Premier, "Prime Minister;" playing steelband, jumping up and feting; cleaning up and beautifying the streets.*

*But after all the celebrations and bacchanal are over and we wake up next day (or next week) with a hangover, the price of food, clothes and everything else will still keep going up, wages will still be the same (or less), the condition of the schools, hospitals and roads (except for maybe two more roundabouts) will continue to get worse, and the people's housing will still be the same or worse.*

NJM has always stood for real independence, genuine independence, meaningful independence. At our People's Convention on Independence on 6th May, 1973, at Seamoon where 10,000 of our supporters were present, our two major speeches were called "*Meaningful vs. Meaningless Independence*" and "*New Directions for Genuine Independence.*" This Manifesto of ours sketches the things we must do as a people under new leadership to achieve real independence. *For we believe independence must mean better housing for our people, better clothing, better food, better health, better education, better roads and bus service, more jobs, higher wages, more recrea-*

*tion—in short, a higher standard of living for workers and their children.*

*None of these things can be achieved by celebrations, fetes for the big boys, incompetent and corrupt leadership or the dreaming of a tin-God politician as a substitute for hard work and planning.*

*Qualities of Leadership Under Independence* — We of the NJM believe that the only way out of the present mess is for a new progressive, dynamic, imaginative, honest and hard-working leadership to take power. This leadership must work closely with the people of every village, helping them to organise and improve their skills and carry out their ideas for a better life. Our goal is to eventually replace the present political system with a truly democratic and grass-roots system in which the people of every village and parish and of the island as a whole, will be able to exercise power on their own behalf, in their own interests in order to build a bright future for themselves.

The NJM, as an organisation, only started in March of this year. Yet at Seamoon, on 6th May, 1973 we brought together 10,000 people in one place, effectively contributed to shutting down the island for one week later the same month and closed down the airport for 3 days in April thus letting the outside world know of the scandals of Gairy's Police State and misgovernment. Indeed, we have been at the forefront of organising all the people's effective protests and opposition to this corrupt, inhuman and unjust regime. On top of this, we have been producing a political newspaper selling three times more copies than any other paper (all of them running for years and years in the island.) All of this speaks for itself.

We feel that leaders are not necessarily born, or come from the East, but are made. We feel that no small group of persons, regardless of how intelligent or educated or wealthy they are, have the right to sit down together in a small room and proclaim themselves the new Messiahs. Rather, the leadership must come from the people and must be accepted by the people not because of the way they look, dress or speak, but because of



their proven commitments, dedication and hard work in the interests of the people.

Leaders must not be required to know everything better than the people, or to be more intelligent than the people. Leadership must not mean the creation of Masters. Leadership instead should regard itself as the servants of the people, and must aim at destroying the relationship of master and slave, employer and employee and of destroying the whole class relationship in our society.

Our aim, in the words of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, is to "make every person a master—not a master who opposes others, but one who serves himself. A person who serves himself is a master. He has no worries, he has confidence in himself and is confident of his own actions."

Every future representative of the people will be required to live by a code of ethics, agreed by the people after consultation. All present parliamentarians will be required to account to an elected People's Tribunal for their ill-gotten gains.

*Independence Celebrations vs. Independence Projects* — The millions of dollars that the Government intends to waste on a week of independence celebrations could instead have been spent to build a thousand houses under a special *Independence Housing Project* for people who now live in shanty towns.

The 23 committees and 7 co-ordinating committees of businessmen, civil servants, hoteliers and others that Gairy has appointed to organise fetes and bacchanal could instead have used their talents and abilities to raise money for this project. In addition, money could have been raised by the hundreds of thousands of Grenadians and other West Indians living abroad in countries like Canada, America and England for this project.

Also, in our negotiations with the British on the question of independence, we could have demanded from them an independence payment of at least one hundred million dollars as partial reparation to make up for some of the money stolen from us and the exploitation, human misery, suffering and degradation we have endured at their hands over the last 400 years. This

money we could have used to build the factories for our *Agro-Industry Scheme*. Instead, all we are going to get from the British is a visit by some member of the "Royal" Family to pull down the old flag, put up a new one and make a speech congratulating us on our "achievement."

Apart from the obvious fact that we would gain more from a thousand new houses and twenty agro-industry factories instead of a thousand gallons of rum, this *Independence Housing and Factory Project* would have served as a permanent symbol and example of the first step towards achieving our real independence. In this way, the whole process of independence would have been correctly seen as something which does not begin and end on one day but rather as a dynamic process of developing self-reliance and attaining self-sufficiency in all areas of our lives — economic, cultural, political and spiritual.

The project would not only have helped us but would also have served as a permanent reminder to generations to come of the real meaning and value of independence.

History has shown us that it is only those countries where the people struggled and fought for the achievement of their independence, that independence has become a reality. In those countries where the people have been shut out of the process of obtaining independence, like in Trinidad, the people find themselves engaged in a violent struggle against the government who has cheated them of the fruits, expectations and promises of independence. Trinidad today after 11 years of independence, has finally gone around the country in an attempt to consult with the people in drafting an Independence Constitution for Trinidad. If Gairy has his way, we will find ourselves having to do exactly the same thing at a future date; but, praise God, the people and the NJM will not let him have the chance to play the fool with us.

We repeat that the present move towards independence is an insincere, opportunist move, designed to strengthen the grip of tyranny and corruption. It is bound to result in a sham, bogus, meaningless independence.

History will yet record that 7th February, 1974 marked the beginning of a new stage in the struggle of our people. It will set in motion a new process involving the people which will take us along the lost road to an eventual real independence.

### TOWARDS THE NEW LIFE AND NEW SOCIETY

#### **NJM and the Taking of Power**

No Government can continue to function in the face of the organised opposition and mobilisation of the people. When a Government ceases to serve the people and instead steals from and exploits the people at every turn, the people are entitled to dissolve it and replace it by another by any means necessary.

Very few people in Grenada today believe that it would be possible for power to be transferred from the corrupt Gairy Regime by means of an election. Indeed many people feel certain that for as long as this Regime holds power Elections will never be held in the island again. It is clear to us of the NJM that even if an Election was held tomorrow morning, it would be carefully rigged to prevent the people's choice from coming to power. The evidence of the 1972 Elections and the premise of even greater irregularities and corruption after Independence justifies this view and is clear for all to see.

Very few people in Grenada today need convincing that the island is in a total and absolute mess. To all of us, the most fundamental, urgent, and crucial question is the taking of political power by the organised people so as to clear up this mess and to set the island back on course.

The NJM proposes to hold in the near future a National Congress of the People to work out the best strategy for taking power.

#### **Towards the New Life and the New Society**

We have attempted to show in this Manifesto what is possible. We have demonstrated beyond doubt that there is no reason why we should continue to live in such poverty, misery, suffering, dependence and exploitation.

We must stress that this document is not meant to be a final blueprint for magical change. Some of these views will need to be modified or changed after further consultation with the people and with our National Co-ordinating Council of Delegates. These views, however, do represent the present thinking of the Bureau of the NJM, and we are happy to stand by them. But, until the people take power and implement a planned approach to the economy of the island, after undertaking surveys of our potential resources, the precise timing and implementation of these proposals and the final shape they take can not be exactly known.

To create the new life for the new man in the society, it is necessary that we reject the present economic and political system which we live under. More than this, we need to construct an entirely new system of values where the lust for money, power, and individual selfish gain are no longer the motivating factors. The creation of this new man demands the transformation of the minds and hearts of each and every one of us.

In the new society, our people will be encouraged to give full expression to their sporting, artistic and dramatic expressions. We will encourage local drama, art, native dancing, sports, calypso and steelband, and active assistance will be given to groups already engaged in these pursuits.

*The new society must not only speak of Democracy, but must practise it in all its aspects. We must stress the policy of "Self-Reliance" and "Self-Sufficiency" undertaken co-operatively, and reject the easy approaches offered by aid and foreign assistance. We will have to recognise that our most important resource is our people.*

Under the new society, students and youth can no longer be regarded as a class separate and apart from the rest of the community. Our aim will be to create an environment where it will be possible for students to be regarded also as workers and workers as students. The new system of values will demand that youth and students make a material contribution to society even while they study. Their preparation will be for entry into

a real world where they must join other workers in creating and producing.

We must recognise that Agriculture is, and must be, the only real basis of our development. Our people will have to be provided with material and spiritual incentives in their own interest and for their own development.

In the new society, all our people will be encouraged to find answers to the questions:—Who are we? What is the nature of our condition? Why are we in that condition? What can we do to change that condition? What can we change it to? We will together search to find answers to the questions: What do we want? Why do we want that? How can we get what we want? What must we do to make sure we keep what we achieve? We will develop attitudes which will always encourage us to ask questions and move us to find meaningful and lasting solutions. Our real enemies will always be exposed while we will always strive to work closely with our Brothers and Sisters in the Third World. The aim will be to encourage our people always to demonstrate true solidarity with our Brothers; always to strive to find our real identity; always to work harder and harder at developing a true national consciousness, and a real and meaningful integration of the entire Caribbean area. Our Grenadian Brothers and Sisters overseas, in particular, will be encouraged to join hands with us here to build a better land for our children and our children's children.

We know that none of this is possible under the present set-up. Our first task therefore is the destruction of Gairyism and the system it represents. To this end, we of the New Jewel Movement dedicate ourselves.

**ONWARD TO VICTORY! ONWARD TO THE NEW SOCIETY!  
PEOPLE OF GRENADA, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE  
BUT YOUR CONTINUED EXPLOITATION;  
YOU HAVE YOUR DESTINY TO FULFILL!  
EVER ONWARD TO VICTORY!**

## **PART II**

**March 13, 1979**

General Hudson Austin (with rifle) explains how he led the assault of March 13, 1979.



Free West Indians

## 2

# The Seizure of Power

### Introduction

The NJM's ultimate goal of state power by any means necessary was clearly stated in 1973, as already seen. The means adopted included participation in the general elections of 1976, as a result of which Maurice Bishop emerged as leader of the opposition People's Alliance. The NJM was convinced, however, that the alliance's 48% of the popular vote was a gross understatement, due to Gairy's election rigging. And the presence of NJM members in parliament did not lessen the oppressiveness of Gairy's rule. By 1979, therefore, contingency plans had been put in place for a forcible seizure of power. The opportunity came in the "pre-emptive" strike in the early hours of March 13, 1979.

### "PEOPLE OF GRENADA, THIS REVOLUTION IS FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN"

First Address of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, March 13, 1979

"At 4:15 a.m. this morning, the People's Revolutionary Army seized control of the army barracks at True Blue.

"The barracks were burned to the ground. After half-an-hour of struggle, the forces of Gairy's army were completely defeated, and surrendered.

"Every single soldier surrendered, and not a single member of the revolutionary forces was injured.

"At the same time, the radio station was captured without a shot being fired. Shortly after this, several cabinet ministers were captured in their beds by units of the revolutionary army.

"A number of senior police officers, including Superintendent Adonis Francis, were also taken into protective custody.

"At this moment, several police stations have already put up the white flag of surrender.

"Revolutionary forces have been despatched to mop up any possible source of resistance or disloyalty to the new government.

"I am now calling upon the working people, the youths, workers, farmers, fishermen, middle-class people and women to join our armed revolutionary forces at central positions in your communities and to give them any assistance which they call for.

"Virtually all stations have surrendered, I repeat. We restess, resistance will be futile. Don't be misled by Bogo DeSouze or Cosmos Raymond into believing that there are any prospects of saving the dictator, Gairy.

"The criminal dictator, Eric Gairy, apparently sensing that the end was near, yesterday fled the country, leaving orders for all opposition forces, including especially the people's leaders to be massacred.

"Before these orders could be followed, the People's Revolutionary Army was able to seize power. This people's government will now be seeking Gairy's extradition so that he may be put on trial to face charges, including the gross charges, the serious charges, of murder, fraud and the trampling of the democratic rights of our people.

"In closing, let me assure the people of Grenada that all democratic freedoms, including freedom of elections, religious and political opinion, will be fully restored to the people.

"The personal safety and property of individuals will be protected. Foreign residents are quite safe, and are welcome to remain in Grenada.

"And we do look forward to continuing friendly relations with those countries with which we now have such relations.

"Let me assure all supporters of the former Gairy government that they will not be injured in any way. Their homes, their families and their jobs are completely safe, so long as they do not offer violence to our government.

"However, those who resist violently will be firmly dealt with. I am calling upon all the supporters of the former government to realise that Gairy has fled the country, and to co-operate fully with our new government. You will not be victimised, we assure you.

"People of Grenada, this revolution is for work, for food, for decent housing and health services, and for a bright future for our children and great grandchildren.

"The benefit of the revolution will be given to everyone regardless of political opinion or which political party they support.

"Let us all unite as one. All police stations are again reminded to surrender their arms to the people's revolutionary forces.

"We know Gairy will try to organise international assistance, but we advise that it will be an international criminal offence to assist the dictator, Gairy.

"This will amount to an intolerable interference in the internal affairs of our country and will be resisted by all patriotic Grenadians with every ounce of our strength.

"I am appealing to all the people, gather at all central places all over the country, and prepare to welcome and assist the people's armed forces when they come into your area. The revolution is expected to consolidate the position of power within the next few hours.

"Long live the people of Grenada. Long live freedom and democracy. Let us together build a just Grenada."

*Nation (Barbados), March 19, 1979*

## "OPERATION APPLE" — OR, EXECUTING A REVOLUTION

By Maurice Bishop

I think there have been several reasons for this development:

FIRST of all, there is, of course, the fact of the massive repression which has gone on in this country for the last nine to ten years.

There has been the brutality meted out to us by the dreaded Mongoose Gang, the secret police elements, the criminal ele-

ments in the Police Force. Many of our citizens over the years have been murdered, beaten, tortured. In recent times they had even introduced the phenomenon of the "disappeared person."

SECONDLY, there is the question of what happened within a few weeks of the March 13 uprising. We received word from our sources inside the security forces that there was a Gairy-designed plan for the police to come and search our homes and then detain us. This was to have included six top members of our leadership.

Having been forewarned, we made ourselves unavailable. In my own case about 150 policemen arrived at my home on March 11, and some of them, covered by their armed colleagues, started to dig up our compound, while others searched inside the house. They claimed to be looking for arms and ammunition. I was not at home, of course. Later that same day, they broke into the home of comrade Bernard Coard, who was also underground. The only comrade of the NJM leadership they picked up was Vincent Noel, who was at home.

On Monday morning, March 12, while we remained underground, we learnt that Gairy was leaving the country on the midday flight and that he had given orders for us to be wiped out before his return.

*It therefore became necessary for us to decide whether we should await the impending massacre or take pre-emptive action.*

We met with those of our comrades who had previously been in readiness for this momentous occasion. The alert went out across the island to trusted and dedicated comrades. We had a very hard look at the entire situation and decided that our best strategy would be to seize power the way we did before dawn on March 13.

As is now known, our first attack was made on the True Blue barracks, which we stormed under the able and courageous leadership of comrade Hudson Austin. On our instructions, "H. A." as we call him, had earlier emerged from his hiding place, shaved off his beard, disguised and moved, unnoticed to Gairy's police, to strategic points, communicating with our comrades.

Almost simultaneous with our attack from across the hills on the Truc Blue barracks, we seized the radio station, renamed "Radio Free Grenada," and used it as the principal instrument to mobilise the people in helping us to capture all of the police stations. On reflection, it could be said that ours was largely a revolution by radio. The response by the masses was tremendous; it was stunning.

Our lightning success clearly has to do with a number of factors. Foremost, is the fact that our party is deeply rooted in the masses. Over the years we have led the people into many struggles. We have been a party that never gave up. It is a party that fights day in and day out; dry season and rainy season, in the face of torture and murder.

Our families have been terrorised, our comrades denied employment and suppressed. Our struggles earned us the respect of the masses. So our roots in and among the people proved a crucial factor.

There was, of course, the element of surprise, the swift attack on the barracks and seizure of the radio station. Within the first half an hour of our operations, we had burnt down the barracks and were already broadcasting to the people.

While comrades, armed with captured weapons from the army barracks were making arrests of army officers and those of Gairy Ministers, like George Donovan, who was in charge of National Security, others fanned out to police stations; to grab Ministers in their beds. Those who were caught outside the gates at Truc Blue were attracted by the fire raging at the barracks. Molotov cocktails and hand grenades were used in the attack.

It was a bloodless event. The one soldier shot dead, after the destruction of the barracks (Lt. Philip Brizan) was moving for his revolver when ordered out of his car, and subsequently a policeman was killed while attempting to escape. We will be looking into both cases when we are satisfied that Gairy has given up any idea of landing mercenaries on our shores.

As I said earlier, the appeals to the people, over Radio Free Grenada, plus the statements made by Gairy's captured cabinet colleagues, proved decisive in the initial hours of the revolution.

They helped us to man strategic points and to take over police stations that at first showed some resistance to fly the white flag of surrender.

We remain particularly grateful to the various categories of workers who helped to make the revolution: the dock workers, the commercial workers, the farmers and fishermen.

The telephone workers were particularly magnificent. From the very beginning, they refused to allow overseas calls to go out and that sort of thing. Electricity workers kept a watchful eye on the power plant while other workers ensured that the water supply was not poisoned.

This was, in every sense, truly a people's revolution.

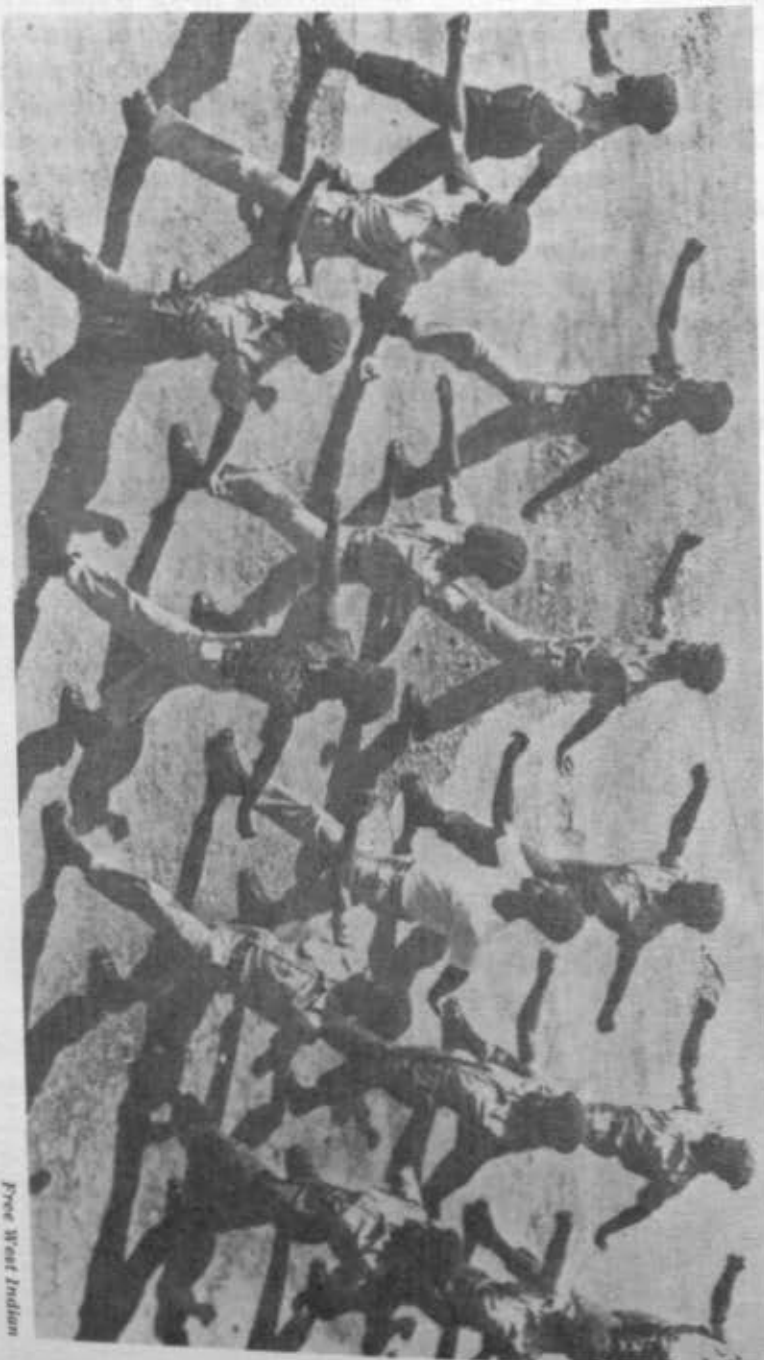
*Caribbean Contact, April 1979*

### **PART III**

## **Social and Cultural Development**



Young cadets on parade.



Free West Indians

### 3

## A New Democracy

### Introduction

The NJM's concept of democracy, though shared by many countries around the world, nevertheless marked a sharp departure from the Westminster type democracy (Westminster type "hypocrisy," as Prime Minister Bishop called it) of the English-speaking Caribbean. Mass organizations with constant access to the leadership took precedence over elections every five years. Social justice and economic well-being for the largest number took precedence over unlimited freedom of speech and action. The political system, and the revolution in general, seemed to be moving steadily towards a socialist mode. Prime Minister Bishop made this clear in a December 1982 speech to the National Women's Organization (NWO) in which he referred to the "transition [to] the path of socialist construction in our country."

The NJM itself reflected the shift to a new concept of democracy. While in the Gairy years membership was relatively open and based largely on anti-Gairyism, after the revolution it came to be seen more as a vanguard party in the Leninist sense. Active members of long standing were dropped as the party reorganized itself under the direction of its left elements. Full membership now was granted only to those who survived a year as applicant members and a second as candidate members. There were said to be only sixty-five full members in September 1983. The new mass organizations and "support groups" and not the party itself, became the major vehicles for mass involvement in the political process. As early as December 1980 in a speech to the



Communist Party of Cuba, Prime Minister Bishop described the NJM as a party based on the Cuban model. It was a vanguard party, he said, which built "close links" with the masses through the mass organizations.

### BUILDING A NEW DEMOCRACY

To the unbiased visitor, one of the most striking features of the present Grenadian scene is undoubtedly the constant dialogue between the people and their revolution.

This dialogue may take the form of a panel discussion, a parish council gathering, a parish co-ordinating body meeting, a mass rally, meetings of the National Women's Organisation, the National Youth Organisation, the National Student Council, the workers' unions, an exchange between a village contact and members of his community, or one of the many novel forms that have developed here within the last 24 months.

No less interesting to such a visitor is seeing people participate in the everyday decisions that affect different aspects of their lives; a unique situation, indeed, where the worker, housewife, doctor, nurse, farmer, is, at one and the same time, a parliamentarian, a politician.

This is a far cry from the traditional scene where the running of the country, of decision-taking, is left in the hands of professional politicians.

But still more significant, is the sight of these same people, transforming the decisions they have helped to formulate, into action.

Although probably taken for granted by most Grenadians, the experience they are living is of great interest to political students, who come here, because it represents a serious attempt to go beyond the boundaries of conventional democracy to create a new model, where the people are at the centre of every decision and action.

Through a process of more than 200 years of social conditioning, people have come to believe that the system of representative democracy, or democracy by proxy, is the only one possible.

However, the ancient Greeks were among the first to talk about democracy. As a matter of fact, the word has Greek origin: "demo," meaning people, and "cracy," meaning rule. Hence: rule of the people.

And yet this concept, for the democratic-minded Greek, did not include the slaves, who were considered by the spokesmen of the system—Plato, Aristotle and the others—base and incapable of the art of government or, for that matter, even enjoying the benefits of democracy, although it was on their backs that the whole Hellenic society rested.

Centuries later, after the revolution in England in 1688, against the absolute monarchy of the time, and the advent later of universal suffrage, the Westminster-type of parliamentary democracy came into being.

With slight variations, this system of representative democracy was instituted in most of the western world and taken, in time, as something permanent and unchangeable.

Even though the common man now had the right to vote, he could do so only every four or five years, when, to the politician, he became the most important person in the world. But once the election was over, he was forgotten and had no way of influencing events or decisions that affected him or his family.

Although more sophisticated, basically it was still the Greek concept: the difference being that now only the politicians had the ability to run society.

Politics, the people were made to believe, was not for the farmer, the unemployed, the poor, or the average worker.

This was a very convenient order of things because it gave the politician, and the people they served, a free hand to pursue and promote their own interests, without being bothered by the "troublesome and unruly masses."

Of course, the kings and nobles fought this type of democracy with every trick in the book, and it actually took a revolution to have them accept the new order.

But even then, in 1688, there were people like the Levellers and the Diggers who thought that democracy was much more than the right to vote. It should be, they thought, a system

through which each citizen actively participated in all the decisions affecting his life.

The Grenadian experience did not happen by accident; it was shaped by the way in which the Revolution came into being.

The overthrow of Eric Gairy was carried out, not by a group of fortune-seeking and power-hungry adventurers, but by a political party made up of some of the finest, most selfless and dedicated sons and daughters of the Grenadian people, and, at the same time, a party deeply-rooted in the Grenadian masses.

The Revolution is, therefore, the work of the Grenadian people, and, it follows, the government of the people.

This is evident in some of the first measures carried out by this government: legislation giving workers the right to join the union of their choice, maternity leave law, free medical attention, hundreds of scholarships abroad for the children of workers, reduction of school fees and free milk for children, among others.

But some of the most important measures are those directed at organising the people, creating vehicles for giving them a voice in decision-making, raising their educational and political level: in sum, unleashing the tremendous strength of a united people to solve, with their own hands and minds their problems and needs.

In a real democracy, like the one being built in Grenada, the most important role rests with the people. It means that the participation of every man, woman and child is decisive. The pace with which the country moves forward, the things that are accomplished, will depend on the degree and quality of this participation and not on the goodwill or generosity of anyone.

In a real democracy, the people don't sit back and wait for politicians to remember election promises because the people are the politicians. They are the parliamentarians, out there, in their villages and parishes, discussing, deciding and acting.

This type of democracy brings added responsibility, of course. It means doing the utmost at your workplace and then shedding your working clothes and going to a meeting where you will decide about the community centre that is to be built, the beau-

tification tasks of your area, your participation in the CPE programme, or exercising your right to get information about the country's economic situation and how your taxes are going to be used.

Such are the labours of the real democracy that is being built in Grenada; still far from perfect, but better than anything that this country or the English-speaking Caribbean has ever known.

FWI, March 13, 1981

### ACCOUNTING TO PEOPLE VITAL

"The principle of accountability is fundamental in building a new people's democracy."

So said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Bernard Coard, at last Monday's Central Zonal Council meeting at the St. George's Anglican School.

Explaining that everything which affects the people must be reported to them, so that they can have a direct say in what goes on, Bro. Coard stated that nearly half the adult population attends meetings on an organised basis every week.

The tremendous growth and development of mass organisations and the rise of popular participation in the numerous meetings of the masses reflect the genuine grassroots democracy in Grenada now, Bro. Coard said, and this is "terrifying those lackeys of imperialism in the region."

These meetings started as eight parish councils. They were reorganised into 18 zones to cater for the great influx of people that has been stepping forward daily to indicate their willingness to participate.

These will be soon expanded to accommodate other farmers, workers, women, youths and villagers, who want to be part and parcel of these direct forums to express themselves. "There are no bystanders, everybody is part of the Revolution," endorsed Bro. Coard.

In response to the PRG's call for total participation of everyone in nation-building, more and more people are becoming increasingly involved, he pointed out.

In the past four months, the National Women's Organisation (NWO), has gone from having 59 groups to 129 groups, with an increased membership of over 3,200 women.

Likewise, the National Youth Organisation (NYO), in the same four months, has gone from 64 to 116 groups, with over 3,000 members while the Young Pioneer Movement now has 67 groups.

All this, Bro. Coard explained, demonstrates the interest and enthusiasm of these organisations in filling their ranks with patriotic Grenadians.

Even the farmers are now moving full speed ahead, to have their annual general meeting soon, he reminded.

"A lot of new faces are joining the People's Revolutionary Militia," Bro. Coard added. Hard mobilisational work which ensured the "most incredible turnout of our people in the face of imperialist aggression in the last 'Heroes of the Homeland Manoeuvres,' is now ensuring that the militia is moving from strength to strength."

"Grenada is being totally transformed through infrastructural development in all areas," he added. Over the last two-and-a-half years, the PRG has raised \$300 million in signed agreements geared towards development. . . .

*FWI, October 17, 1981*

### RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The PRG has reaffirmed its regard and commitment to respect the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This was declared in a special statement the PRG released to mark international Human Rights Day on December 10.

The statement said that human rights and fundamental freedoms were trampled upon in the years before 1979, bringing severe repression, which laid the basis for national resistance to overthrow the repressive dictatorship.

With the March 13 Revolution, the PRG immediately pledged to observe the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Grenada.

Reviewing the record of human rights in Grenada since the Revolution the PRG pointed to fundamental expansion in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.

A number of repressive and anti-democratic laws introduced by the former dictatorial regime were immediately repealed. These included the Public Order Act, the Publications Act, and the Essential Services Act.

Workers have now guaranteed legal rights to form and join trade unions of their choice, and trade unions are officially recognized as entities of the society.

Laws have also been passed to end several forms of discrimination against women, creating the right of equal pay for equal work, and giving maternity benefits.

And consistent with the provisions of the Universal Declaration, the Grenadian people have begun to enjoy, for the first time, the right to a wide range of services, including health, housing and educational facilities.

In concluding, the PRG drew particular attention to Article One of the International Bill of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of states to self-determination, a right the PRG firmly believes in.

*FWI, December 13, 1980*

### NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE DRAFTED

The concept of popular democracy should be reflected in the new constitution, expected to contain structures that "shall be designed to facilitate continuous popular involvement."

So declared chairman of the newly-appointed Constitution Commission, Allan Alexander, in a statement outlining its background and terms of reference.

The statement said that "something more meaningful is required than the illusions of popular control by the right merely to enter a polling booth once or twice every four or five years."

This was among four principles it outlined, on which the Grenada Revolution is based, and to which the commission will adhere, while drafting the new constitution.

Another principle is based on the PRG's efforts to transform Grenada to ensure a better standard of living for its working people, including building a new and just society, people's participation in decision-making, grassroots democracy and national unity.

The next is on the need to ensure that the violations and abuses of democratic rights and corruption, so widespread during the Eric Gairy regime do not recur.

The fourth principle covers public accountability, including the right to recall officials who perform unsatisfactorily.

The statement noted the necessary legislative steps adopted after the old constitution was suspended following the March 13, 1979 Revolution and added that, as a result, "life in Grenada continued to function, without interruption under the rule of law."

Such steps included enacting legislation establishing the PRG, reinstating certain sections of the old constitution and confirming the validity of existing laws if not repealed or amended.

"The PRG and the people of Grenada have regarded development of the economy, improvement in the standard of living, expansion of education and employment, development of the popular organisations and improvement in the country's defence as matters having priority over constitutional reform," the statement said.

The time has come, however, to take the process of the formal institutionalisation of the Revolution a stage further and commence work on preparation of the proposed new constitution," it went on.

It noted that "in advance of the establishment of a new constitution, the Grenada Revolution has already achieved a high level of popular participatory democracy."

"In revolutionary Grenada, many more people have become involved in the decision-making process of government than any other country in the English-speaking Caribbean."

"Restrictions on the free functioning of trade unions imposed by the former colonial authorities and the deposed dictatorship

acting under the existing constitution, were removed, and the trade unions have grown rapidly in strength and influence since the Revolution.

"Of equal importance," it said, "in the development of popular participatory democracy has been the formation of parish and zonal councils, whose meetings are open to all the working people and provide a means of public consultation on all important new legislation, and the annual Budget at the draft stage, before enactment or introduction."

FWI, June 11, 1983

### THREE NAMED TO COMMISSION

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has announced formation of a five-member commission to prepare a draft constitution for Grenada.

Names of three members of the commission were announced Saturday by Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan.

They are Trinidad attorney Allan Alexander, the recently appointed Director of Public Prosecutions and Attorney General, Jamaica-born Richard Hart, and legal advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ashley Taylor.

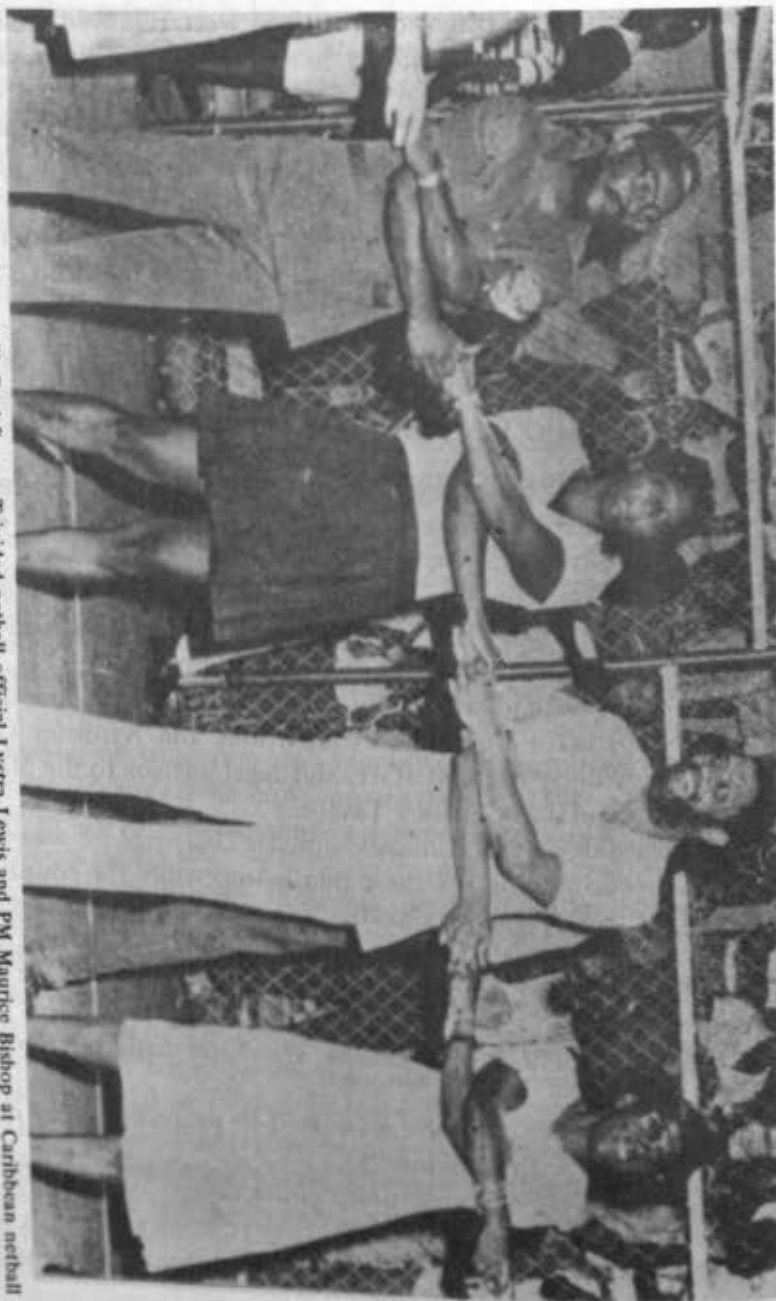
The Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC) will be asked to name a fourth member of the commission, while the country's three other mass organisations, the National Youth Organisation (NYO), the National Women's Organisation (NWO) and the Productive Farmers Union (PFU) will be asked to name the fifth member.

A secretary will be appointed after the fifth member is named.

The commission has been mandated to present its first constitutional draft within 24 months.

Announcing the commission's formation, Min. Strachan pointed out that the draft constitution [conformed] with the PRG's principle that the people should participate in all fundamental decisions.

Left to right: Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, Trinidad netball official Lystra Lewis and PM Maurice Bishop at Caribbean netball championships, 1982.



Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, on the PRG's behalf, appointed the three lawyers to the commission.

Chairman Alexander, a senior counsel of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar and a member of Gray's Inn in London, has been practising law in the Caribbean for the past 22 years.

A former leader of the opposition in his country's Senate, Alexander was a judge of the Trinidad and Tobago High Court in 1980. He is also a legal adviser to leading trade unions there.

Hart qualified as a solicitor in 1941 in Jamaica, where he practised for many years.

He is a founding member of Jamaica's People's National Party (PNP), now led by Michael Manley, and was on its executive between 1940-1952.

An active trade unionist, Hart was secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress from 1946-53.

For the past 17 years, before coming to Grenada, he practised law in England where he was head of the legal department of a local government authority.

Hart was a co-founder and active member of Caribbean Labour Solidarity and author of several publications on West Indian history.

Grenadian-born lawyer Ashley Taylor studied law in Canada and England. He practised here for several years before returning for further studies to Canada, where he practised for several years, before returning to Grenada in 1980.

Taylor was the youngest member of the Grenada civil service to have been promoted to the post of permanent secretary.

*FWJ, June 11, 1983*

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE ELECTED

A national People's Assembly or Parliament, as outlined in the New Jewel Movement's (NJM) 1973 manifesto, will eventually be elected to replace the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) as the country's government.

Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan, has said that not only members of the PRG and New Jewel

Movement (NJM), but also members of the communities will be eligible for election to this Assembly.

To form the Assembly, the democratic structure has to be broadened to reach all the people and a number of other components have to be in place, Min. Strachan said. The overall goal is to have a council elected in each village and community, or where not practical, a council for two villages.

These village councils will each elect a village assembly or executive, to ensure that its council functions effectively. These village assemblies will then elect representatives to form a parish assembly. The national assembly will be elected by and from among representatives of the various parish assemblies.

There must be constitutional legislation to guide these structures, Min. Strachan explained, therefore all these structures must be embodied within the constitution.

During drafting of the constitution, there will be a period for views on these structures through discussions at the existing democratic fora, such as the zonal and parish councils.

The country is moving closer to the National People's Assembly, Min. Strachan said. Right now, zonal councils, which bring together the working people from a number of villages to discuss issues affecting them are being broken down into mini-zones.

These mini-zones, he said, will include less villages. This will allow more people a chance to take part in these meetings since the 30 zonal councils now existing can not facilitate all who want to contribute.

As the Revolution develops, the democratic structure is also being deepened. At first, parish councils were set up for all the working people in the parishes to come together to discuss issues affecting them.

After one year, these became over-crowded, and it was necessary to provide other fora for people to discuss their problems more intimately: so that the zonal councils were established.

People's democracy is going even further now, said Min. Strachan. New structures called Village Co-ordinating Bodies (VCB) are being formed in villages. He explained that these

VCB's, which comprise NJM as well as ordinary community members, will be responsible for dealing with all the grievances of residents, as well as with community development.

The VCB's, an NJM initiative, will eventually be replaced by the village assemblies, whose members will be elected by the village councils.

*FWI*, July 9, 1983

# 4

## Health, Education and Social Development

### Introduction

The rise to power of the NJM unleashed a flood of energy to tackle the country's problems. The areas of health, education and general welfare benefitted immediately. Here, as in other areas, the Gairyite legacy was poor and the needs were basic.

As in the case of other revolutionary societies, notably Cuba after 1958, an immediate assault was made on illiteracy. This was supplemented by new programs in teacher-training and schools in fields such as agriculture, fisheries and handicrafts.

In keeping with the new concepts of democracy, access to health care was expanded, with the help of Cuban health personnel.

The new participatory ethos found full expression in these areas. Volunteers manned the literacy campaigns and communities turned out to clean up neighbourhoods and repair roads and drains. The government chipped in with soft loans for home repairs and new laws covering such areas as rent control and the introduction of national insurance.

### ADULT EDUCATION AND THE REVOLUTION

Dear Adult Education Teachers;

Today, October 4th, marks a historic date in the history of our Revolution and our Caribbean. Today we enter the final preparatory stages for the start of the second phase of the CPE Programme. With this phase the Revolution makes it possible

for every worker to become a learner; it becomes possible for learning to really become a forever process. In short, through this Adult Education Programme the Revolution opens new possibilities for the masses. As has been said before, "the first great problem of the Revolution is now to combat and overcome the influence of old ideas, old traditions and old prejudices and how to make the ideas of the Revolution gain ground and become common knowledge and clearly comprehensible to all. The problem of education is not only the problem of illiterates and those persons who never had the opportunity to study in an institution of higher learning. It is above all *the problem of educating the revolutionary masses.*

It is this problem which we are going to confront by our weekly and consistent work in the Adult Education Centres. Our work must aim at achieving the five broad objectives of the programme:

1. To improve the intellectual capacity of our adult learners by the development of their thought potential to a point where the acquisition of knowledge becomes an independent and self-critical process.
2. To achieve the scientific and technical education of adult learners by exposing them to fundamental scientific principles and their application in the actual process of constructing a new economy and society.
3. To guarantee the *political-ideological education* of adults so that they become increasingly conscious and more involved participants in the revolutionary process, helping to forge the new democracy and strengthen the organs of popular power.
4. To provide the *cultural and aesthetic education* of adults, deepening their capacity for self expression, for the appreciation of art and beauty and above all to assist the revolutionary masses in becoming the creators of a new art.
5. To contribute to the *moral education* of the adult learners by, in some cases, reshaping, in others reaffirming correct social habits and the encouragement of attitudes of selflessness, collective effort, the spirit of community and patriotism.



The challenges of this second phase are as demanding as the challenge of the literacy campaign. Do you recall the many noble examples of self sacrifice? Do you remember the beauty of seeing those who know teaching those who didn't? Do you recall the sense of revolutionary and patriotic satisfaction when someone learnt to read and write?

The Adult Education Programme will call for even more discipline and consistency because it will be a regular and systematic programme of study. It will call for even more development of our personal educational and cultural level because, more than ever before, it is by learning that we teach better.

The challenge is a historic responsibility not only because we are helping to set up a whole new sub-system of adult education but also because by institutionalising adult education we confirm the right of our workers, women and youth to a full education; we confirm their right to inherit the cultural and educational patrimony of all mankind. And above all we provide them with the means to become more conscious makers of history.

The opening of about 41 adult education centres throughout the country for the educational and cultural enlightenment of working people is a realisation of a pledge made many years ago by the guiding party of our Revolution - the NJM. In conception they were called Freedom Schools; in realisation they are the Centres for Popular Education. Dear teachers, let us rise to the challenge of history and make of every CPE Adult Education Centre, a centre for the practice of freedom, because in the education of the working people and the poor lies the true practice of freedom.

This is our responsibility and sacred duty as adult teachers, as patriots. In the name of all who in the long march of history have died so that such opportunities may be enjoyed today, we urge you to fulfill your responsibilities with consistency and dedication.

*FWI, October 16, 1982*

### ADULT EDUCATION IS A MUST!

Why do we drink water? What was Conyar's invention? Who was the first non-white astronaut and where was he from?

Can you answer these questions? If not then perhaps you should consider enrolling as an adult learner in Phase II of the CPE Program. The Program is beginning this week, so if you are interested in furthering your education and learning more about the world around you, register at your local CPE Centre.

The CPE was started shortly after the revolution by the People's Revolutionary Government. Originally, the program was geared towards tackling the problem of Adult Literacy. In April 1980, it was found that 12,000 Grenadians were illiterate or functionally illiterate. (Illiterate is a term used to describe someone who cannot read or write. Functionally illiterate refers to someone whose ability to read and write is extremely limited). Such a situation was seen as a major obstacle to Grenada's progress.

But, why was illiteracy a problem at all in a nation such as Grenada? The reason for this was because prior to the revolution, not everyone had an opportunity to obtain a decent education. Under colonialism, education was reserved as a privilege for those who could afford to pay school fees. This practice also continued under the Gairy dictatorship. In addition to the lack of opportunities, several Grenadians were forced to leave school early either because they had to work to earn money, or because they needed to stay at home and help their families by watching the young children.

With the revolution of March 13th, 1979, Grenada's problems in the area of education became a top priority on the list of changes which needed to be made. The Centre For Popular Education was created shortly after the revolution for the purpose of bringing education to those who had previously been denied the chance to learn.

Phase I officially started in August 1980 and lasted until February 1981. 4,070 students were enrolled in the program. During Phase I, literacy classes were conducted in the adult learners' homes. Dedicated volunteer teachers travelled to their students' homes and conducted classes on a weekly basis. Despite the fact that the teachers were often younger than the students, a close relationship often developed between the teacher and student. This was because the teacher realised that although the student was uneducated it did not mean that he or she was



not intelligent, CPE teachers showed the adult learners a great deal of respect, and in fact they often learned from their students.

Although problems arose during Phase I, the program was largely a success. But, Phase I was not enough. As Comrade Leader Maurice Bishop has said, "Reading and study are permanent habits of a conscious people." It was with this understanding in mind that Phase II of the CPE Program was launched.

Phase II aims at reaching a broader cross section of people. Phase II is a two year program, with six levels: Literacy, Post Literacy, Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV. Placement into one of the levels will be determined by how well students perform on diagnostic tests which are being given this week. Adults who are able to read and write, but who wish to learn more should enroll now for CPE classes. Those who completed the two year program will be given a certificate which can be used as a credential for employment.

We often hear that some people are shy to admit that they are illiterate or that they have not received a good education. Let us put this shyness to rest once and for all. Education is a must, for all Grenadian people. Those who are interested in furthering their education and gaining more knowledge should be supported and encouraged.

Grenada's greatest resources are the Grenadian people, and like our other resources, the people of Grenada must also be developed and enriched. And how do we develop and enrich our human resources? Of course education is the answer.

Let us all participate in Phase II, either as volunteer teachers or adult learners. Each one must teach one. If there is not a CPE Centre in your community, contact the CPE Office at 3416 [sic], or visit the office on Lucas Street, and we'll help to get a centre started. Let's move forward with education for all!!

*FWI, October 16, 1982*

### **CENTRE FOR POPULAR EDUCATION PASSES 5,000 TARGET**

Over 2,300 new learners are expected to enroll during the second term of the Centre for Popular Education (CPE) adult education programme, which began on Monday.

Yesterday several of the 14 new adult education centres throughout the country were officially opened by members of the People's Revolutionary Government.

CPE mobilisation co-ordinator Merle Clarke disclosed that the newly-registered learners have brought the total number of learners to 5,010, achieving the 5,000 target.

She explained that the trade unions played an important role in helping the CPE reach its target.

The Bank and General Workers' Union recruited 638, Agricultural and General Workers' Union 485, Commercial and Industrial Workers' Union 37, Technical and Allied Workers' Union 188 and the Productive Farmers' Union, together with the Parish Co-ordinating Body, 539.

The mass organisations also recruited learners: the National Women's Organisation 352 and the National Youth Organisation 63.

Sis. Clarke said that to accommodate the new learners, the centres had to be increased from 35 to 49. . . .

Sis. Clarke said that for the next two weeks, all the new learners will be mobilised to attend classes and at the end of that period, registration will be closed for this term.

About 55 new teachers have joined the programme bringing the total to 210.

*FWI, February 23, 1983*

### **MARRYSHOW READERS A FIRST STEP TO RELEVANT EDUCATION**

The name of the T.A. Marryshow will live on in yet another area of Grenadian life, that of the education of the nation's children.

The launching of the Marryshow Readers for primary schools, is another giant step taken by the revolution. For the books are the first such school books ever to have been produced in Grenada. The books reflect the revolution in several important respects.

In the first instance, the very idea of producing the books arose out of the broad, democratic consultation process which was started by the revolution itself. The primary school teachers

themselves, in the 1980 Education Seminar, made the suggestions concerning the readers.

Secondly, the work done on the books, was accomplished by the efforts of Grenadian teachers and tutors, as well as those of a Trinidadian and an English tutor who have been working as internationalists here in Grenada for some time.

Additionally, the Marryshow Readers have been designed to overcome the age-old problem of the irrelevance of the materials used in the readers to which our children were formerly exposed. The new readers are totally related to our Grenadian reality, especially our new reality.

The new readers emphasize the typical Grenadian way of life in its many respects. Emphasis is placed on the Grenadian man, woman and child, as well as on the local environment. A quick glance through the readers would reveal faces, places, words, names and scenes familiar to the average Grenadian.

Perhaps one of the most important features of the new Marryshow Readers, lies in the fact that the cost at which they would be sold, would go down in our revolutionary history as being the cheapest readers ever to hit the market. At 50 cents per copy, every household can easily afford the books.

The cheap price of the new readers, made possible through the Grenada-Cuba co-operation agreements, is yet another fulfillment, by the PRG, of the promise, not only of free education, but of cheap and relevant education as well; a promise that was made as far back as 1973, in the manifesto of the New Jewel Movement.

The Marryshow Readers are most welcome at the present time, and would certainly go a long way in ensuring that our revolutionizing of the Education system in Grenada, is such that it enables our children to know and understand our reality, in order to be better equipped to help shape its future course. At the same time, our children would be ever mindful that they are the children of T.A. Marryshow, that great Grenadian and Caribbean hero and father of Caribbean Federation, whose sterling example they must emulate.

*FWI, November 3, 1982*

### DRAFT LAW ON NIS RELEASED

The draft law and regulations on the proposed National Insurance Scheme (NIS) has been released for discussions among trade unions, mass organisations and in zonal and workers' parish council meetings.

The release was made on Wednesday by the seven-member NIS committee in the presence of trade union representatives, employers and representatives of private insurance companies.

The NIS, scheduled to be launched in April next year, is being instituted by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), to protect the interests of and provide a number of insurance benefits to the country's workers.

Sickness, invalidity, maternity, survivors, and age benefits will be provided under the scheme, which is widely referred to as a major social security initiative. These benefits will come through pensions and grants.

The NIS will cover all persons who are currently members of private and public insurance schemes, but will not discontinue or prevent the introduction of such schemes.

At Wednesday's meeting, the NIS committee gave a brief outline of the scheme and distributed to those present a six-page document on the scheme.

NIS chairman Christopher Ram disclosed that the committee has ordered that 6,000 copies of the draft law and regulations be distributed among workers so that they can make their comments, criticisms and suggestions.

Bro. Ram explained that the draft law is an enabling piece of legislation, which, he explained, will be implemented through regulations that will be published in the government gazette.

The committee, he said, is continuing to inform workers about the scheme, by explaining its operations and benefits to them at workers' parish council and trade union meetings.

*FWI, November 20, 1982*

### NEW HEALTH POLICY STATED

Deputy Minister of Health Chris De Riggs outlined the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) health policy, during his

opening address to a five-day workshop on health planning and programming, which ended last Friday.

Free health care for all, expansion and reorientation of national health service along primary health care lines, adequate health for socially depressed areas and the correcting of traditional imbalances in the quality of health care delivered to town and country, were some of the main priorities in the coming months and years.

The workshop, held at the Ministry of Health, was attended by senior health personnel, heads of departments, senior nurses and tutors of the Nursing School and representatives from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Planning, National Mobilisation, Construction and Public Utilities and the Central Water Commission (CWC).

It was jointly sponsored by the Health Ministry, the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the Pan-American Health Organisation, both of which sent resource personnel to lecture at the workshop.

Principal objective of the course was to discuss and formulate well-planned health programmes, as well as providing participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for achieving such.

The health policy also stipulated that a tremendous push must be made to democratise the country's health systems, if it is to go forward and materialise all its objectives during this year.

Bro. De Riggs said that this will be accomplished through decentralisation of health services and personnel, together with mass participation.

On immediate priorities, he listed maternal and child care, basic sanitation, food supply and nutrition, the provision of essential drugs at cheaper cost and appropriate and accessible treatment for common diseases, as services that will be improved and expanded during this year.

Margaret Price, a lecturer from Caricom said the workshop is the first in the Caribbean that has been jointly co-ordinated between Caricom and PAHO, and expressed satisfaction with its outcome.

Rose Henry, one of the participants, said the workshop taught them, "very necessary skills which will be utilised on the job," and they learnt to work as a team.

Other participants echoed similar sentiments, adding that the tools of planning and programming will be useful for a country with scarce financial resources.

*FWI, April 3, 1982*

### **NO PRIVATE PRACTICE AT HOSPITALS**

Doctors in Grenada have agreed jointly with the PRG, to stop all private practice at hospitals and other public health centres.

This means that, from October 1, thousands of poor Grenadians will no more have to find money to pay for basic care or for medical certificates, prescriptions or injections at a Government hospital, visiting station, health centre or other public clinic.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said this new development in health care represents a fundamental and historic advance for the working people of the country.

For an average Grenadian family of seven that pays approximately three visits per month to doctors, this represents a saving of \$40-\$50 per month.

This is another great improvement in the field of health since the Revolution, since the number of doctors working in the country has almost doubled, from 19 to 35. The number of specialists has also doubled.

In addition, at the time of the revolution, there was only one dental government clinic operating in St. George's. Today, just 18 months later, there are dental clinics in every parish except St. Mark's, and within the coming weeks the Ministry of Health plans to open one there.

The doctors' agreement does not mean, however, that private practice will not continue in the country. Doctors wishing to practise privately will have to obtain their own offices outside government's health facilities.

The agreement reached on Thursday, during a seminar organized by the Ministry of Health, for doctors and other senior health officials, allows them to play a part in deciding the way forward for health in the country.

At the seminar were Cde Bishop, Minister of Health Norris Bain, Secretary for Health Bernard Gittens and 95 per cent of the country's doctors.

Bro. Bain stressed the responsibility that doctors and senior health officials had in developing health in the nation, especially at this early stage. He pledged his Ministry's support and commitment to helping doctors and other health workers carry out that task.

Besides the agreement of "no private," three other major agreements were reached: to set up specialised units at the General Hospital, develop the primary health system as the main component of the National Health Plan, and organise health teams, with doctors, nurses and various health workers, to go into the field.

The first aims to set up specialised care departments in the General Hospital. At present, a patient may have a throat problem, but when he goes to the hospital, the only doctor on duty may be a bone specialist.

The new system will allow people to receive about nine different types of specialist treatment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for six days a week.

The second, concentration on primary health care, aims to bring the level of health care that is now available only at the hospital, to villages where the majority of people live and work.

There are 35 medical centres around the country, in addition to community centres. Medical centres will also be built in areas where they are most needed.

The whole community is expected to play a part in this programme. Community health councils comprised of villagers, will be organised and will receive basic health education to play important roles in preventative care, such as destroying holes where mosquitoes breed, and getting rid of rubbish in the correct way.

On the third, the setting up of health teams, doctors and nurses agreed to work with the other 18 or so categories of health workers to provide better care. In the old system all effort was placed on the doctor's role. The modern idea is to recognise that other health workers also have a great part in developing health care.

These teams will visit villages to help improve primary health care, but the details of these visits will have to be worked out to fit the doctors' timetables.

Cde Bishop explained that in the present system of health care, 80 per cent of the budget is spent on the three hospitals, yet only 20 per cent of the population go to the hospitals for medical treatment.

In addition, the people who really produce the wealth of the country, the fishermen and agricultural workers, usually are the ones who do not go to the hospitals.

Cde Bishop pointed out that under the old system, it was always the poorest, those who produced the largest part of the national wealth, who paid the most and got the least benefits.

Closing the historic six-hour seminar, PM Bishop assured the participants that national benefits in improved health care would be tremendous, and would lead to higher productivity of our people and increased jobs, as the country moves towards free health care for all, by the year 2000.

*FWI, September 20, 1980*

### COMMUNITY WORK CONTINUES

The New Jewel Movement (NJM) will again launch an attack on potholes in various roads in St. George's, from 7 a.m. tomorrow.

NJM members and villagers, are voluntarily repairing roads in Shenda, Woburn, New Hampshire and La Borie, all in St. George's, using part of the \$800,000 set aside by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) for community work this year, for materials.

NJM members moved into those villages last Sunday and along with the villagers, worked wonders on blocked drains and pot-hole-infested roads.

The National Youth Organisation (NYO) also worked on building a hard court for sports in Sauteurs, St. Patrick's. Around 75 youths laid blocks around the court, to prepare it for volleyball, netball and other games.

The New Hampshire road project was most impressive. Over 300 villagers, at different points along the 1.8 mile-long road, cut grass on the roadsides and overhanging branches. They dug and spaded out mud from blocked drains, and carted this mud away, allowing the water brought by pouring rain to flow down the drains smoothly.

At the end of the day, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, as he had done with other projects, passed through the village to see how the work was being done.

The villagers came together to talk with PM Bishop, and he thanked them for turning out, pointing out that he was particularly impressed to see the number of children who were on the road outlassing and carrying barrows of mud and bush.

Members of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) were at most of the projects.

In Granton, a road off New Hampshire, members of the National Women's Organisation (NWO) and some villagers, mainly female, were able to clear a drain which, according to the villagers, caused the village to flood whenever it rains.

They said that fathers had to carry their children, even those attending secondary schools, on their backs, over the muddy water, so they wouldn't arrive in school wet and dirty.

In La Borie, where the work of clearing roadsides and drains, and patching the road was led by members of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces, a drain that had remained blocked for 15 years, was finally cleared.

Villagers pitched in and helped fill up the gaping potholes, a feature of the La Borie Road. At the end of the work which began at 7:30 a.m. and ended around 1:45 p.m., a small emulation ceremony, honouring the villagers who had worked the hardest, was held.

The villagers also came out in Shenda to clear drains and roadsides. At the end of their work, they came together and were spoken to by NWO President Phyllis Coard.

In Woburn, where the villagers have complained about the road's bad condition, they came out to work after seeing the seriousness with which the NJM members tackled the work.

All the villages where work was done provided ample food and drinks for the workers.

The Ministry of Construction also had an important input in most of the projects. Construction officers carried tools, dumpers and other equipment to do the work, and gave technical advice.

The villagers were instrumental in providing tools for the workers. Those who couldn't come themselves for various reasons, had no problems about lending their tools.

The NJM chose these projects as a result of a census it had conducted to determine the most serious problems facing communities throughout the country.

FWI, May 21, 1983

### OXFAM FINANCES PROJECTS

Eight organisations and agencies have received close to \$100,000 between May and October this year from OXFAM.

The organisations are the National Women's Organisation (NWO) \$12,060; Agency for Rural Transformation (ART) \$21,400; Productive Farmers' Union (PFU) \$13,395.55; Gren-craft \$13,400; National Youth Organisation (NYO) \$5,000; Butler Cooperative \$15,150; Pope Paul's Ecumenical Centre \$17,265.

Regina Taylor of ART said the money had been used for projects including expansion of cooperatives, seminars and the construction of a district centre for the Productive Farmers Union.

The Agency in many cases assisted in drawing up project proposals for these organisations.

FWI, December 4, 1982

# 5

## Medical School

### Introduction

The NJM government, the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), inherited the St. George's University School of Medicine from the Gairy administration. The school was one of several United States "offshore" medical schools which dot the Caribbean area. As a significant contributor of foreign exchange to Grenada and an apparently politically neutral institution, the PRG apparently felt no need to close it. In general, the new government exhibited a willingness to keep whatever seemed beneficial from the old regime.

Relations between the PRG and the medical school were good. Students volunteered for community work, helped in hospitals (sometimes under the guidance of Cuban doctors) and one even represented Grenada at an international sporting event. Prime Minister Bishop addressed the school's graduating students and at the time of the U.S. invasion there were about eighteen Grenadian students enrolled, supported in part by PRG scholarship money.

The safety of United States students at the school later became part of the pretext for the invasion of October 1983.

### TWO-WAY BENEFITS FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL SAYS PM

"Our Government is very happy to have the school with us in Grenada. We are very conscious of the benefits the school has brought to our people and our country over the years, in terms

of jobs, foreign exchange, direct government revenue, in terms of scholarships for some Grenadians to study at the school, and apart from these material ways, the school has brought intangible benefits."

Those were the words of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to 119 graduating students of the St. George's University School of Medicine, at a ceremony last Sunday, at the National Convention Centre in Grand Anse.

The medical school, which comprises mainly U.S. students and faculty, invited PM Bishop to deliver an address at the end of which he received a standing ovation.

After being warmly welcomed, the PM told the students that the benefits the Grenadian people have received from the school were not a one-way process. Grenada and its people have also brought benefits to the school. And when he added that there can be no more beautiful campus than that on Free Grenada, the students applauded.

PM Bishop said it is patent that all the rumours about the Grenada Government not wanting the school, and that the school is not performing as well as it should, are groundless and without foundation. PM Bishop added that of all U.S. overseas medical schools, the St. George's school has today justifiably earned a reputation as the most outstanding.

Records have shown, he said, that over 100 distinguished professors have come from different parts of the world to lecture at the school and that over 31 countries are represented on the student body.

"Not only is our Government happy to have the school, the fact is that last September a high-level joint committee of the school and the Government was established. This committee is chaired by a top Grenadian public servant, Lauriston Wilson, our Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and through this committee tremendous work has been done over the past nine months to ensure that whatever little problems occur from time to time, and whenever there are bottlenecks, that these are solved quickly," he said.

The 119 graduates will in a couple of weeks, graduate a second time in New York at the United Nations, under the auspices and with the arrangement of the Grenada Government.

From this fact, the PM said, it can be seen that Grenadian people have extended their more than usual hospitality and warmth to all the students who have come to study at the school, and that the students themselves have participated well in the country's social life.

The school, founded in 1977, has a team in the Grenada basketball league. Many of its students have done charitable work at the Kennedy's Home for handicapped children, and have participated in road races from time to time and clean-up campaigns organised by the PRG.

Also significant, observed the PM, is that in the last few days, a U.S. student at the school, represented Grenada in lawn tennis and helped retain the Windward Islands Lawn Tennis championships for our country.

"We certainly wish you the best and ask you to remember our country and our people, and when you get the time we hope you will come back once again. We'll be happy to see you," the PM concluded amidst a standing ovation.

*FWI, May 19, 1982*

### GRENADIAN GRADUATES FROM ST. GEORGE'S

Phillip Arthur Adrian Finlay of Springs, St. George's, has been awarded the degree of doctor of medicine by the St. George's University School of Medicine, in Grand Anse.

Dr. Finlay is the second Grenadian to achieve a medical degree under the St. George's University scholarship programme.

At the graduation ceremony held at the United Nations in New York on May 16, Dr. Finlay also received the John Adriani award for the graduate displaying the most outstanding performance in the comprehensive written exams.

The graduation ceremony, was addressed by Lord David Pitt, a Grenada-born physician and a member of the British House of Lords, who serves on the university's academic board.

Dr. Finlay is one of six children of Cecil and Ismay Finlay.

*FWI, June 11, 1983*

### MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMITS THREE WITH A-LEVELS

Three Grenadian students with only advanced level passes in the General Certificate of Examinations (GCE) have been admitted to the United States-administered St. George's University School of Medicine, in Grand Anse.

They are Martin Purcell and Louis Telesford of St. David's and Philip Bonaparte of St. George's.

Previously, only Grenadians with bachelor degrees were admitted, said Dr. C.V. Rao, Associate Dean of Students and a member of the selection panel for scholarships.

The three, all graduates of the Institute for Further Education (IFE) in Tanteen, attained satisfactory A-level grades in chemistry, biology and mathematics.

The PRG and the school jointly agreed to give them scholarships and they were admitted at the school's first semester this year, in January.

Dr. Rao, also professor of anatomy, explained that since there were few students with bachelor degrees, the school decided to consider those achieving excellent grades in the A-level GCE examinations.

The school, in collaboration with the PRG, will grant five scholarships each year to successful students, he disclosed.

Admittance of the three brings to about 18 the number of Grenadian students at the school. The others were admitted on the basis of bachelor degrees.

Students getting C or better grades in A-level chemistry, biology, mathematics or physics will be eligible for admittance, Dr. Rao said.

He praised the three students for their outstanding performance, noting that they have had to do twice as much work to keep pace with other students, since they do not have bachelor degrees.

They are dedicated to their work, he pointed out, and have good relations with the other students of 40 different nationalities.

Purcell said that he and the other two have made out "all right" so far and do not have any major problems.

The school's medical course, leading to a doctor of medicine degree, lasts five years. Two are spent here, half at the other U.S. offshore medical school in St. Vincent, and the remaining two-and-a-half years at U.S. hospitals.

Two Grenadians, Joy Church and Phillip Findlay, were among the students who recently graduated from the school.

Grenadian students seeking admission to the school have to apply both to it and to the Ministry of Planning.

*FWI, July 9, 1983*

### U.S. MEDICAL INTERNS: IT'S GREAT WORKING WITH CUBANS

American medical student Neil Schacht says he was impressed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's recent statement that Grenada's anti-imperialist policy is not directed against the American people.

Schacht is one of 59 students from the St. George's University School of Medicine, who are doing their final three months of sub-internship at the St. George's General Hospital, before becoming certified doctors.

He said he enjoyed working with the hospital's staff, especially the Cuban doctors. "They are some of the most co-operative people in the medical field," he said.

"They certainly are not beasts, in fact far from that. We were very much indoctrinated about Cubans."

"They don't look down on me as a student and are instrumental in leaping over the barrier of politics. Their knowledge is terrific and I would like them to be more involved, maybe in a more official way, in the Medical School," Schacht said.

The sub-internship classes started over one week ago at the Hospital and are the first of a series from which both the national health system and the Medical School will benefit every year.

Dr. Stan Friday, associate dean of clinical studies at the school, and head of surgery at the hospital, said: "They will be getting their final touching-up in patient health care and, since they have had a lot of experience from their clinical

studies in U.S. and English hospitals, they will help with the practical attending of our patients here."

The students are working on the wards and in Casualty at the moment but soon they will be involved in giving health care at the medical centres all over the country and in educating the communities and schools in the primary health care programme.

They will be working under the direction of the medical district officers and alongside the nurses in the medical centres.

A similar programme has started in St. Vincent, where the other half of the school is located.

The St. George's Medical School, started four and a half years ago, though somewhat controversial, has been doing very well.

Last year, student Jeff Schultz received 99.9 per cent—the highest mark in all-American medical exams for U.S. students overseas.

Dr. Friday said the programme was going through some teething problems, but he was certain these will be overcome soon. "They are so many for our small hospital, you have to be careful we don't bump into each other," he said.

Stephen Gorman said people in Grenada "treated us very well for four years." Grenada touches the heart of every student at the medical school and I really hope that many of us will be given the chance to at least repay the people by serving them."

The students were split on the equipment at the hospital.

Gorman said there was room for improvement as always, but he thought there was some very good equipment, in particular in the Radiology Lab.

Kevin Keating, another student, thought the equipment at the hospital was poor. He however, has been doing pre-clinical studies in the U.S. for the past two years.

Keating said, however, he will be returning to Grenada to serve the people of the country in the near future.

*FWI, March 28, 1982*



East German technicians at the *Free West Indian*.*Free West Indian*

## 6 The Media

### Introduction

Interviewed by the *Caribbean Contact* newspaper shortly after the revolution, Maurice Bishop referred to the events of March 13, 1979 as "largely a revolution by radio" (see Chapter 2). The seizure of the island's radio station in the early stages of the NJM uprising was crucial to the quick success and near bloodless nature of the action. The struggle to wrest and maintain control of Grenada's media from internal and external opponents soon became one of the most bitterly contested of the revolution's four and a half year existence.

The dilemma facing the PRG was not a new one. It needed time to consolidate its power and this was a daunting task for a tiny nation possessing one weak radio station and no daily newspaper, and surrounded by the powerful and hostile media of its many adversaries.

The PRG therefore simultaneously tried to do several different things. It worked first to strengthen its own media. The national *Free West Indian* was upgraded with technical assistance principally from the German Democratic Republic. It progressed from an irregular publication to a weekly and eventually appeared twice weekly. The power of Radio Free Grenada was augmented with assistance from the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Secondly, the PRG moved to diversify its sources of news. Traditional North American and Western European news agencies were balanced by increasing reliance on such new sources as Prensa Latina of Cuba and the Soviet Tass news agency. On a trip to the Soviet Union in August 1982 Prime Minister Bishop announced the forthcoming receipt of a satellite station

from the U.S.S.R. which would help Grenada receive news from the socialist countries. This, said Bishop, would "substitute for the United States garbage" Grenada had received hitherto. Bishop himself kept the portfolio of Minister of Information and the quest for a New International Information Order was high on the foreign policy priorities of the People's Revolutionary Government.

The PRG had thirdly, and in the short run, to stem the inflow of hostile news. Throughout the period of PRG rule Grenada remained a fairly open society, but some issues of foreign publications were confiscated. Two attempts to publish local opposition newspapers were quashed. Press freedom, it was argued, did not extend to license to destabilize the fledgeling revolution.

Yet the revolution had fourthly to demonstrate its openness to criticism and freedom of expression. Much of this activity took place in the many meetings of the mass organizations, where government officials routinely made themselves available for public discussion. The *Free West Indian* also maintained a lively "letters" section where criticism of government policy was quite acceptable.

#### A PEOPLE'S PRESS IS OUR RIGHT, SAYS MWAFC

"We state our firm support for a publicly-owned media, which reflects the interests and aspirations of the real people of Free Grenada, the people who are working daily to better their lives, who are struggling against tremendous odds to bring a bright new dawn to the country, to build an attractive future for their children and for generations to come."

So declared vice-president Don Rojas, on behalf of the Media Workers' Association of Free Grenada (MWAFC) on its official launching at the Dome in Grand Anse, last Saturday.

MWAFC unites all the workers, from drivers to managers, and they spent seven months discussing and drafting a constitution and code of ethics, "two central documents which will guide and direct our theory and practice in the months and years ahead," said Bro. Rojas, who is also FREE WEST INDIAN'S manager-editor.

"We strongly oppose the use of the media by parasites, pimps, saltfish journalists and prostitutes to imperialism, whether they come in gangs of 26 or any other minority formation. They can never be permitted to use the media to disseminate their own narrow and reactionary views," he added.

MWAFC will fight for the rights of progressive journalists, imprisoned, persecuted or exiled by fascist dictatorships anywhere in the world, Bro. Rojas said, and will join the militant universal struggle for a new international information order (NIO).

Explaining the need for the NIO, he pointed out that the political decolonisation of the Third World in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s was not accompanied by economic and information decolonisation.

Indeed, "large transnational corporations continue to monopolise and strengthen their control over the gathering and dissemination of news."

But worse, said Bro. Rojas, is the type of news the agencies seek from developing countries: news about unrest, coup d'etats, crises, conflicts, catastrophes, and tribal wars, "most of which is exaggerated and misconstrued."

"There is little reporting on the political, economic, social and cultural progress in the developing countries," he noted.

These countries remain hostage to monopoly interests, he said, because of their serious lack of funds and technology. Modern news-disseminating equipment, such as telexes and satellites are technological preserves of the industrialised countries.

This imbalance in the flow of information, Bro. Rojas said, was directly affecting international relations, and contradicting democratic principles.

"Ideological interference in the internal affairs of other states, through imperialist mass communications domination, must be changed soon."

To effect this, he said, the struggle for the NIO must step up, and we must also "begin to establish alternative sources of news, strengthen existing national mass communications structures and forge joint actions and concrete plans for co-operation among ourselves."

Because of the growing strength of the people's media, Bro. Rojas said, more and more corporate journalists "are finding it difficult to hide behind the fig leaf of neutrality."

Noting that all freedoms are concrete, grounded in reality and do not exist in the abstract, Bro. Rojas questioned whether press freedom should be only for the minority moneyed class or for the majority working class.

Western newspapers exercise the right to present their views, to interpret according to their values, he said. Therefore, progressive newspapers have the right to present working class values, ideas and interpretations.

Noting that "no press in the world is objective or neutral," Bro. Rojas said: "Everyone is either for or against something, There is no absolute neutrality in reporting."

He explained: "What goes into a paper, and what stays out, how much of a story goes in, what of the story is highlighted or emphasised, where it is placed, how the facts are reported, and all subjective political judgements, are based on the reporter's and editor's class conditioning, outlook, loyalties and interest.

"These decisions are not made by computers, but by flesh and blood human beings."

Bro. Rojas noted that Latin American liberator Simon Bolivar described the press as "the artillery of thought," because of its active role in promoting the people's struggle for liberty. "Journalism of former times was a constructor, an orientor and a guide."

But he compared the Goebbels maxim in the propaganda campaign used by the fascists in Nazi Germany—"An oft-repeated lie becomes the truth"—with the continuous campaign of lies and distortions about Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada in the Western media.

And, he said, "we of MWAFC condemn, in the most forceful terms, the systematic propaganda destabilisation and psychological warfare that U.S. imperialism has unleashed on the Grenada Revolution."

FWI, July 18, 1981

### PM HITS SALTFISH NEWSMEN

Prime Minister and Minister of Information Maurice Bishop told the York House audience that the sooner all countries which

have committed themselves to the struggle for a new international information order begin to implement the decisions adopted at the Sixth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, the sooner these countries will be free from imperialist control and domination over everything they read, hear and see through the mass media.

It is a massive task which has to be tackled seriously, he said, together with the equally important task of journalists' having to "de-brainwash" themselves of the false concepts of the so-called "free press."

These false concepts, which have been accepted by many Caribbean journalists, boil down to what Cde Bishop called "saltfish journalism," whereby those who control the news, set up their own self-serving organisations to monitor themselves, thus becoming "judge and jury."

Such people, he said, treat information as just another business, whereby they make the necessary capital investment, purchase machinery, get a few friends to take shares with them, hire an editor, and give out controlled news and views, which are usually their own.

"It's just like selling saltfish," said the PM.

He reiterated Grenada's serious commitment to implementation of the decisions made at the Havana non-aligned summit last year, to strengthen and develop the national mass communications media, to utilise more national information services, to co-operate with other nations' information services in disseminating and circulating information, to secure better avenues of training for national communications personnel, and to develop, as rapidly as possible, the technical and technological foundations for national communications policies.

Cde Bishop noted that journalists face a particularly hard test on a weekly, bi-weekly and daily basis, because their views have to be put into print, and what they say is examined by the reading masses with a critical eye. "And when they make mistakes, the masses come down on them in a harsh and hard way."

The journalist's job is to mirror and reflect what the people are thinking, where the society has come from, where it is going,

what the aspirations of the people are, their dreams and their ambitions, he said.

He outlined many of the problems facing journalists and the development of the media in poor, underdeveloped, over-exploited countries, and said that when all these are taken into consideration, "it is doubly remarkable that a newspaper like FREE WEST INDIAN has been able to double its circulation, has been able to go out to the islands in the region and to spread even to the metropolitan countries."

*FWI, November 15, 1980*

### OUT THE TORCHLIGHT

Government sources say the "Torchlight" newspaper, banned last weekend by the PRG, will return to the street in a few weeks but with a different management and ownership structure.

Government does not plan to take over the newspaper but will insist that its ownership structure be broadened. At present the newspaper is owned by Grenadian business man D.M.B. Cromwell and the "Trinidad Express," who hold the large majority of the shares, and two or three other persons. The plan is to "democratise" the paper with limits placed on the number of shares individuals or organizations can hold and to outline guidelines that would ensure that "Torchlight" publishes the views of all sections of the Grenadian society. It is also expected that there will be a change in the management structure.

The PRG's ban on the "Torchlight" was announced last Saturday night by Secretary for National Security and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Hudson Austin. Commander Austin made reference to the newspaper's front page lead on Wednesday, October 10, in which he said the "Torchlight" had skillfully used false allegations made against the PRG by a group of Rastafarians "to stir up the maximum amount of confusion and unrest in the country."

Commander Austin also made special mention of the publication of a charge that the People's Revolutionary Army had been "pointing gun at Rastas in the hills" and the "Torchlight" prediction that Rastas would take to the streets in "massive numbers" to demonstrate against the PRG.

He saw this as an attempt to "stir up Rastas to undertake acts of violence and bloodshed and to stir up demonstrations against the People's Revolutionary Government. . . . at a time when the government is trying to unite the people to reconstruct the country."

Comrade Austin then stated: "In the interest of peace, order and national security, effective immediately and until further notice, the 'Torchlight' newspaper shall cease publication. All other commercial operations of Grenada Publishers Ltd. will continue as normal."

The front page story in which "Torchlight" repeated allegations against the PRG, made by the leader of the minority Rastafarian sect, Ras Nna, had, prior to the announcement of the ban, provoked two separate demonstrations against the newspaper.

On Friday, October 10, Rastafarian members of the People's Revolutionary Army, bearing placards, congregated outside the "Torchlight" offices. Some of the placards read "RASTA SAY DOWN WITH CIA TORCHLIGHT," "RASTAS DON'T WORK FOR NO CIA," "RASTA STAND FIRM WITH PRG," "RASTA SAY DOWN WITH TORCHLIGHT, UP WITH PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION," "RASTA SUPPORT THE WORKING CLASS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE."

The demonstration was peaceful although there was a sharp exchange of words when Ras Nna arrived on the scene and shouted abuses at the demonstrators.

One demonstrating Rastafarian PRA, in an interview with the FREE WEST INDIAN said there were certain Rastas who did not understand the political situation at this time and the "Torchlight" newspaper was using them in a divide and rule strategy to undermine the government. To support his point he said that before the revolution the "Torchlight" maintained an anti-Rasta position and had supported police brutality against Rastafarians.

The second demonstration took place the following morning and this time it was civilians who marched through downtown St. George's and then held a public meeting outside the "Torchlight" office. The chant and main slogan of this second demonstration was "OUT THE TORCHLIGHT."

A member of the FREE WEST INDIAN staff who asked the editor of "Torchlight" about the offending publications in the paper was told that the editor had to publish what the owners wanted.

*FWI*, October 20, 1979

### PRESS FREEDOM: FOR WHOM?

With audacity, arrogance and unmitigated freshness characteristic of their elitist mentalities a gang of 26 big bourgeois planters, businessmen, lawyers and sexploiters (all opposed to the popular revolution and all boot-lickers of imperialism) have attempted to foist on the Grenadian people a newspaper misnamed the "Grenadian Voice."

This so-called "voice" claims falsely to speak for the people and to be independent and free when in reality it is the voice of imperialism speaking through the forked tongues of 26 disgruntled, power-hungry vagabonds who have no love for the people and who do not come from the people.

Flinging to the winds whatever pretenses to patriotism they may have once had they have now snaked their way into the CIA's hip pocket. Imperialism has found a new set of pawns and sychophants to carry out its stinking tricks against the Grenada Revolution.

They speak of press freedom in the abstract but we ask the critical questions: Press freedom for whom and for what? For a minority to print lies, to distort or to fabricate? No. Press freedom for 26 men in the service of Grenada's enemies to push their reactionary views? No.

Journalism at the service of reaction has no place in Grenada. Journalism which manufactures convenient ideological and philosophical justifications for objectively supporting counter-revolution belongs in the garbage bin of history.

But journalism in the service of the majority of the people is responsible journalism.

A truly free, national press is one that primarily reflects the concerns, the struggles, the gains and the aspirations of the

Grenadian masses, engaged daily in the task of building a revolutionary democracy which would lay the basis for a new Caribbean civilization.

The voice of the masses can never be seen in the bourgeoisie. The revolutionary ideas of the masses can never find a forum in the likes of a so-called "Grenadian Voice." Nor will the masses of Grenada and the Caribbean find their interests championed in reactionary newspapers like the Trinidad Express or the Jamaica Gleaner, themselves controlled by small cliques of anti-people, anti-democratic parasites.

But we have to understand why imperialism and its local gang of 26 robber barons have twisted the concept of press freedom to suit its exploitative motives.

This motley crew of spineless characters perceive their bourgeois class interests to be threatened by advances the Grenadian working class has made since March 13, 1979.

In their desperation to stop inevitable change they have made defense of their class interests in their odious organ a dire necessity. So they attack profit-sharing for agricultural workers and cry "what about our rights to make and keep profits for ourselves."

When pregnant working women win the right to have paid maternity leave they say, "what about the rights of employers to fire pregnant women."

They quote from Abraham Lincoln saying wage payers have just as much rights as wage earners. Such are the selfish noises of a minority of fat corrupt cats whose loyalties are not to their country but to their imperialist masters.

Preferring to prostitute themselves to the CIA they are now completely discredited in the eyes of all freedom-loving Grenadians.

Now that its "voice" will no longer be printed in this country, imperialism will surely command its media puppets throughout the region and further afield to bark up more anti-Grenada propaganda, to distort the good name and image of the Grenada Revolution and to brainwash millions of innocent minds.

*FWI*, June 20, 1981

### PEOPLE MARCH AGAINST "GRENADIAN VOICE"

Grenadians have been taking to the streets to express their displeasure at the latest attempts by minority elements to publish a newspaper for the propagation of minority and anti-revolution views.

Demonstrations took place last weekend in various parts of the island, with people calling for "heavy manners" for those responsible for publication of what was called "The Grenadian Voice," which hit the streets on sale two weekends ago.

The demonstrations began after last week Friday's "Heroes Day" rally, when hundreds marched from Queen's Park to the home of journalist Alister Huges, one of the 26 declared shareholders and publishers of the "Voice."

With fists clenched and shouting militant slogans, the people called on Huges and others to "Stand up there and feel the weight of the Revo," and for "heavy heavy manners," for them, declaring firmly that "this Revolution must be respected."

Another demonstration began, by over 150 youths, early the next morning in the city centre. People left their Saturday morning shopping and other business to join the demonstration, marching for hours through the streets, stopping periodically outside the offices and business places owned or controlled by some of the 26 shareholders of the "Voice."

By the time the marchers began their second turn through the city, there were more than three times the number. Men, women, youths, children, off-duty soldiers, workers, students, housewives and unemployed, marched behind a large banner, beating pan covers and every available noise-making object, shouting slogans to the beat of drums, demanding respect for the Revolution, and calling for "manners."

On Sunday afternoon, just before a public meeting addressed by members of the Political Bureau of the New Jewel Movement, there was another demonstration in St. Patrick's. The people of Sauteurs and surrounding areas joined that national outcry against the "Voice."

This latest mass protest follows what thousands of Grenadians see as a direct attack on their Revolution. Ever since the news-

paper hit the streets, people have been calling on the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to stop it. Although the second page of the newsheet declares that it does not intend to be counter-revolutionary, in later pages it distorts and attacks the Revolution's programmes and philosophies.

Further, the majority of the 26 share-holders have a history of opposition to the Revolution, and the PRG, and represent a powerful clique with tremendous economic power in Grenada.

The pretense that they were defending "press freedom" is another aspect that angered and incensed the people. The 26 claimed they were offering a service to the people, but the people felt they were actually creating an opportunity to stir up counter-revolution, and clearly defying the decree by Secretary for Defense Hudson Austin, after the closure of the "Torchlight" newspaper last year.

This decree stated that publication of new newspapers should be halted until the PRG publishes a media policy.

The external connections of the publishers of the newspaper are also a source of concern for the PRG and the people. Top officials of the United States' State Department and regional officials of its CIA spoke of the paper's publication, weeks before its first issue.

It was no accident, many people felt, that within 36 hours of the newsheet sale going on, many of the leading elements in the 26 had left the country.

Lately, some of the 26 are saying that they were misled, or that their names were published in the paper without their consent.

FWI, June 27, 1981

### ALISTER HUGHES GROUNDED

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has described a report on Radio Antilles earlier this week that journalist Alister Huges was prevented from leaving the country without any reason as "dishonest and unethical."

According to a statement from the Government Information Service (GIS), a government official said Huges wrote the



report himself, and put it on the wires of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), of which he is the local correspondent.

And in his own report about himself, Hughes implied that he did not understand why he was stopped from leaving the country by immigration officers, because his tax records were in order.

But the GIS statement points out that Hughes was stopped from leaving the country earlier this week, precisely because he had not been paying his taxes.

It said that Hughes paid no taxes for 1980, and less than one-quarter of taxes due for 1979, that is, only \$379 of an Inland Revenue Department (IRD) assessment totalling \$1,708.96

But he has refused to pay the rest.

The statement notes too, that even the IRD tax assessment two years ago has proven too small an estimate of Hughes's tax liability, because he would have been required to pay only \$142 monthly.

According to a Ministry of Finance official, this could be right only if Hughes's entire income from all sources was somewhere in the vicinity of about \$800 monthly.

But with himself and his wife to support, two maids to pay, a huge house with modern electrical facilities and a car to maintain, electricity, water, telephone and gas bills, land and house tax to pay, and the financing of his frequent trips abroad, the official says he could not have been making correct declarations to the IRD.

"It is impossible to meet all these commitments on a salary of about \$800 monthly and therefore Hughes must have additional sources of income which he has not declared over the years. This is a serious offense under the law," the official said.

The GIS statement says that Hughes, up to the time of his attempted departure on Thursday, had refused to pay up his tax arrears, and had not paid for last year.

For these reasons, the IRD has announced an immediate investigation into all possible sources of revenue and Hughes's tax liability for the past several years, and until this investigation is completed, he will not be able to get a tax clearance certificate.

"In a dishonest and unethical manner, Hughes files a report about himself, without even mentioning that he is living off the social services paid for by the working people of Grenada," the statement says.

"But the people of Grenada are not surprised by this latest shallow and opportunistic tactic by Hughes to discredit the PRG, because they are fully aware that he has no intention of telling the Caribbean people the truth or of maintaining professional standards of journalism.

"His intention is to use cheap journalism in the interest of his minority class, and what we see is a situation where Hughes is the judge and jury in his own case, reporting untruthfully about his own situation," the statement concluded.

FWI, July 4, 1981

#### REGION'S NEWSMEN UP IN ARMS AT ANTI-GRENADA EDITORIALS

The co-ordinated media attacks against the Grenada Revolution have finally provoked response from the working journalists themselves.

In an unprecedented move, journalists from all the media houses in Trinidad, met last Tuesday to discuss the appearance of joint identical editorials published in last Sunday's editions of both daily newspapers, the "Trinidad Guardian" and the "Express."

The editorial, which also appeared in the "Sunday Sun" of Barbados, the "Gleaner" of Jamaica and throughout the Caribbean said: "Today all major newspapers; radio and television stations in the English-speaking Caribbean (with the exception of Guyana, which has not been invited for obvious reasons) join in a common expression of condemnation of the behaviour of the People's Revolutionary Government."

The journalists decided that the editorials, which called on the PRG to "hold elections," "stop human rights abuse" and "free Grenada," originated from the Caribbean Publishers and Broadcasters Association (CPBA), an offshoot of the CIA founded Inter-American Press Association (IAPA).

The Trinidad meeting, held at a Port-of-Spain restaurant, the first independent collective meeting of journalists there in over five years, was chaired by "Express" reporter Jeff Hackett.

It attracted representatives from the "Express" and its sister paper the "Sun;" the "Trinidad Guardian" and its sister "Evening News;" NBS radio 610; Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT); "The Trinidad and Tobago Review;" the "Bomb," "Challenge," and "Catholic News."

The journalists appointed a seven-man steering committee to prepare resolutions on the editorial's appearance and to investigate further the reports of alleged abuse of press freedom and human rights in Grenada.

A report and pictures of the meeting were published in the "Express" but the "Guardian" refused to publish those submitted by its own staff members.

This has added fuel to the fires of journalistic discontent in Trinidad and increased the feeling that news is being controlled by the directors and editors who are linked with CPBA.

CPBA is an association of the region's wealthy press barons, who have open ties with the United States' International Communications Agency (USICA), which acts as a CIA propaganda conduit.

In May this year, at a USICA-sponsored conference in Washington, CPBA editors were briefed on "how to handle Grenada" in the news, while being wined and dined at U.S. State Department expense.

Directly after this, the clearly organised propaganda onslaught against Grenada multiplied, mainly in CPBA-owned newspapers.

The Media Workers Association of Free Grenada (MWAFG), commented that "this new wave of co-ordinated press attacks takes place in the context of the Vieques military manoeuvres, which revealed clear U.S. intentions to invade Grenada. It is not the first, and it won't be the last tactical offensive that U.S. imperialism will mount through its operatives in the region."

MWAFG further observed that "the capitalist media owners and managers of the CPBA have a notorious record for economically exploiting and stifling the views of democratic and pro-

gressive media workers in their employ, and are hardly a credible body to level judgements on human rights and press freedom."

In a telegram of solidarity with their colleagues in Trinidad, MWAFG, which represents approximately 90 per cent of the practising journalists in Grenada, stated:

"As journalists and media workers freely practising our profession in Grenada, we condemn these latest co-ordinated Caribbean newspaper attacks as blatantly false and dishonest. They represent the narrow views and interests of the media monopolists in the region, who abandon all pretenses of objectivity, when it comes to reporting on the Grenada Revolution."

A similar statement came from the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ), which protested the attempts by CPBA media magnates to poison the minds of the region's people.

FWI, October 2, 1981

## WELCOME STEP FROM NEWSMEN

It is indeed refreshing to see working journalists in oil-rich Trinidad stand up to defend journalistic practices, principles, and ethics.

Their concern over the common editorial attacking the Grenada Revolution, printed the same day in two privately-owned Trinidad daily newspapers, clearly demonstrates their distaste for collusion and conspiracy by the Caribbean press barons association, CPBA.

The fact that these few individuals own and control the major means of mass communications throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, excluding Free Grenada and Guyana, gives the CPBA an unfair advantage to disseminate their views without fear of contradiction.

It means that the minority CPBA voice is the main one heard by the majority of people in these countries. Only news, views and opinions that either reflect the CPBA's position, or do not threaten its interests, are allowed to be printed or aired, and thus the CPBA and the imperialist interests it serves maintains tremendous influence on the minds of the masses.



This is mainly done behind the scenes through CPBA-selected editors and decision-makers, and is generally trumpeted as "press freedom."

But now the CPBA feels so powerful, that it has blatantly showed its hand, turning its combined fire once again on Free Grenada, one of the few countries where its money and ideas have not been allowed the freedom to dominate.

Such brazenness has offended even those journalists who previously turned a blind eye to the quieter pursuit of private interests and the constant barrage of anti-Grenada propaganda masquerading as concern for the human rights of the Grenadian people.

The journalists are obviously bothered by these constant charges of "abuse of press freedom." But, like true professionals, rather than simply joining the attack, they have named a three-man team to come here and investigate.

As professionals ourselves, we welcome this desire to seek the truth, and not accept the words of others.

However, we definitely resent the bold attempt by the CPBA-controlled "Trinidad Guardian" to influence this investigative team.

In an editorial, the "Guardian" hoped "that if the team is permitted to travel to Grenada, that unlimited access will be given them to the numerous prisons maintained by the Grenada government for the confinement of political dissidents."

This is clearly pronouncing judgement before the case has been heard. It is the team, which should ascertain whether detainees are mere "political dissidents" or whether they are being held for crimes against the Grenadian people.

Moreover, we wonder how many Trinidad journalists are given "unlimited access" to the "numerous prisons" maintained by the Trinidad government—far more than those here.

The "Guardian" also hoped that "unlimited freedom will be permitted them to discuss with those who have endeavoured to resuscitate in Grenada a free and independent press."

And it mentions one journalist, Alister Hughes, who with 25 other share-holders, published the since-banned "Grenadian Voice."

We are sure that Hughes and his monied collaborators will make it their business to seek out the team and put their views across, as they do with nearly every foreign journalist visiting Grenada.

But we hope the investigators will decide themselves whether these individuals really speak for the masses of Grenada.

We hope that they will not follow the spirit of the "Guardian's" advice and confine themselves to talking to the few "dissidents" in our midst, the elite few who were accustomed to having their voices heard and their ideas predominate, during the years of colonial and neo-colonial rule.

We hope that they will also speak to the masses of Grenadians who were denied voice in these long years—the workers, farmers, fishermen, women, youths and schoolchildren.

Let them ask these people if they really feel oppressed in Grenada today, or if they believe that the denial of the private means of mass communications to certain individuals constitutes denial of press freedom to the masses.

Like the "Guardian," we are also looking forward to the team's report "with great interest."

*FWI, October 10, 1981*

### IOJ BACKS GRENADA

The Media Workers' Association of Free Grenada (MWAFC) and the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) were formally accepted as full members of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) at its ninth congress, recently concluded in Moscow.

Press associations from 10 other countries were also accepted in the IOJ, thus joining the world movement of progressive journalists according to MWAFC's vice-president and FWI editor, Don Rojas, who represented MWAFC at the congress.

Held from November 18-25, the congress was attended by press association delegations from over 90 countries.

During the congress's deliberations, conducted in a number of plenary and working sessions, Bro. Rojas said participants "exchanged ideas, views, and concerns on such matters as world peace, international solidarity and the need for a new international information order."

Messages of greetings and solidarity were sent by world leaders, including Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, German Democratic Republic (GDR) President Erich Honnecker and Syrian President Hafez Assad.

A highlight of the congress was an address by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, on U.S. imperialism's support for Israeli aggression against the Lebanese people and the continuing atrocities perpetuated against Palestinians.

Bro. Rojas said Arafat condemned the Camp David accords as "a cheap deal" between U.S. imperialism, Egypt and Israel that could not solve the fundamental problem of the Middle East—the Palestinian people wanting to return to their homeland to set up a democratic state and live in peace.

"In a final historic document released at the end of the congress," Bro. Rojas disclosed, "a call was made to all revolutionary and democratic journalists all over the world to support the Cuban, Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions. It denounced imperialism's military aggression and propaganda campaign against these revolutions, and the peace-loving and progressive forces."

Calling on world journalists to continue the struggle for international peace, disarmament and detente, the document also recognised "that the most crucial problem facing mankind was the threat to world peace posed by the war-mongering U.S. administration, whose desperate efforts to dominate the world's poor nations create a threat to the survival of human civilisation."

It also criticised U.S. imperialism's support for the fascist regimes in El Salvador, South Africa, Chile and Argentina.

"The congress," Bro. Rojas said, "recognised that in some parts of Latin America today, journalism is the most dangerous profession."

Taking this into account its document appealed for solidarity "with the hundreds of progressive journalists over the world who have been jailed, persecuted banned or murdered, because they had the courage to write on behalf of people struggling against oppression and backwardness."

It vigorously denounced the domination of the global information flow by large Western transnational news agencies, and renewed the appeal for a new international information order

and a balanced flow of information between developed and developing countries.

Similarly, it lashed out at the systematic campaign of psychological warfare, lies and slander directed against the Soviet Union, the socialist world and the National Liberation movement by the imperialist press.

"It recognised that there can be no genuine social and economic development in an atmosphere of stepped-up warmongering . . . and that the world's problems of hunger and poverty, cannot be tackled without peace."

Bro. Rojas held a joint press conference in Moscow with the Jamaican and Guyanese delegations. The Jamaican delegation was headed by Ben Brodie PAJ president and news editor at the Jamaican "Daily News."

A statement on behalf of the three Caribbean delegations gave an insight into the region's media structure and the ideological struggle with the imperialist media. It also mentioned the pressures such as victimisation and dismissals brought to bear on progressive Caribbean journalists.

Interviewed by Moscow Radio, TV and newspapers and various new agencies, Bro. Rojas said he was able to talk about the Grenada Revolution and its achievements.

The IOJ was formed in 1945, at the end of World War II, by European journalists, who were determined to work for peace and to promote understanding and cooperation among the world's peoples. Since then, it has grown to include 250,000 progressive journalists on every continent.

From Moscow, Bro. Rojas travelled to the GDR, where he met and held discussions with printing personnel about possible fraternal assistance for the development of the printing industry here, and possible cooperation with the editors of "New Germany," the GDR's national newspaper.

FWI, November 14, 1981

### INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS' CONFERENCE

Journalists from around the world are in Grenada this weekend for the first international journalists' conference being held in the English-speaking Caribbean.

About 100 journalists, mainly from the Caribbean and Latin America, will participate in the three-day conference, which opens at the Dome in Grand Anse, this morning.

It is sponsored jointly by the Media Workers Association of Free Grenada (MWAFG), the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ), and the Federation of Latin American Journalists (FELAP).

Prime Minister and Minister of Information Maurice Bishop is delivering the opening address, a major presentation on Grenada's view on journalistic issues that affect Caribbean people.

Special invited guests include Jiri Kubka, secretary general of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) of which MWAFG is a member; Aggrey Brown, head of the University of the West Indies Institute of Mass Communications in Jamaica; Gil Noble, prominent black television producer in the United States; Hugh Cholmondeley, regional representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Canero Roque, an expert on the new international information order in the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

Also present are Ben Brodie, chairman of the PAJ; Baldonero Rios, secretary general of FELAP; Ernesto Vera, president of the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC); Miguel Ateaga, secretary in the IOJ secretariat and Ricky Singh, editor of "Caribbean Contact."

Grenada's 10-person delegation, led by MWAFG president Ray Donald and vice-president Don Rojas, will present several papers, including "An Analysis of Three Years' Coverage of the Grenada Revolution in the Caribbean Press" and "The Socio-Economic-Political Situation Affecting Journalists in Grenada."

Other major papers to be delivered include "The Flow of Information in Latin America and the Caribbean" by FELAP, "The Role of Journalists in Defense of Peace" by Cde Kubka, and "The Building of National Organisations of Journalists" by Elaine Wallace, secretary of the PAJ.

Delegates from Jamaica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries will present 10-minute reports on the state of the media at home.

The conference is expected to draft a professional code of ethics for journalists and media workers in the region, pass a number of resolutions and make a final declaration. . . .

*FWI, April 17, 1982*

## TWENTY-EIGHT COMPLETE MEDIA COURSES

Twenty-eight graduates of six-month courses in journalism and radio broadcasting, received certificates of attendance at an impressive ceremony at Radio Free Grenada (RFG) last Friday evening.

Journalism instructor Arnaldo Hutchinson, of Prensa Latina news agency, and broadcasting instructor Arnaldo Banders, of Radio Havana, were both invited by the Grenada government, under agreement with the Cuban government.

Delivering the feature address at the ceremony, Prime Minister and Minister of Information Maurice Bishop told the graduates they would be very important to the country and to future construction of the Revolution.

He noted that in the media, "even less mistakes" could be afforded than in other areas. "What you put out becomes a permanent historical document, with constant criticism by those who receive this information here and overseas," he said.

PM Bishop also spoke on the need for prompt dissemination of information, saying that if the graduates could recall the recent American CBS television documentaries of lies and distortions about the Grenadian reality today, it would remind them of their responsibility "to put out the facts as soon as we have them," so that anti-Grenada propagandists overseas would be "on the defensive, rather than the offensive."

He called on the graduates to apply "consciously" what they had learned at the courses "on a daily and even secondly basis," and thanked the Cuban instructors for their internationalist assistance.

On behalf of the graduates, RFG's Jerry Grant thanked the Cuban instructors. "Five months ago," he said, "we did not know what we know now, and we realise that this is just the beginning, with a long way to go. But we must ensure that what

we learned does not go down the drain, and that our instructors have not wasted their time."

Jerry Malcolm, another RFG announcer, delivered a "thank you" address, while Vivian Philbert, a FREE WEST INDIAN reporter, read a pledge prepared by the journalism students.

They pledged to "readily and creatively enhance the knowledge and skills acquired during the course," and to improve their training "to be in a better position to accurately and quickly inform and educate the masses" at this stage in Grenada's development.

They also pledged to apply discipline and dedication "without any reservation," in their service towards "building a new and progressive journalism within the framework of the Grenada Revolution."

The graduates rejected "the old notion" of press freedom, "since in the past we have seen this concept limit its freedom to the interest of a few individuals."

Stressing their support for the "bold and radical initiatives" of the PRG's foreign policy, its struggle for world peace, and its efforts to improve the people's living conditions, they reiterated "wholehearted support" for the Revolution, and pledged "to genuinely inform and educate our people at all times about the objective realities" it faced, and "to promote the ideological and cultural consciousness necessary as the Revolution moves to higher and higher stages."

The graduates expressed full support for the call by developing countries for a new international information order, and their willingness "to stand firm against attempts by sections of the regional and international media to distort the realities in Grenada."

Also addressing the graduates were Deputy Secretary for Information Colville "Kamau" McBarnette, RFG's programme director Lew Smith, and the Cuban instructors.

Cuban Ambassador Julian Torres Rizo was present.

*FWI, June 6, 1981*

### SOVIET AID FOR MEDIA WORKERS

The tools, training and quality of news available to media

workers should improve, following a recent visit of the Media Workers' Association of Free Grenada's (MWAFG) international relations secretary, Don Rojas, to the Soviet Union.

An agreement he signed on behalf of MWAFG with the Union of Soviet Journalists, will provide material assistance in the form of cameras, tape recorders and typewriters to MWAFG. Ten cameras have already been received, and the other equipment is expected in the next few months.

Training at university and technical levels, and short courses and attachments to media houses in the USSR, are part of the agreement.

Another agreement was initialled with the Soviet news agency, and should be signed early next year.

Under the agreement, Grenada will receive free Tass's English language service, and the Latin America news agency, Prensa Latina in English.

Tass will provide the equipment and spare parts necessary to receive the information, and two technicians will come to set it up.

*FWI, September 15, 1982*

### VOICE OF AMERICA FOR ANTIGUA

Voice of America, the U.S. government's worldwide propaganda radio station, will begin operating an Antigua-based medium-wave station beamed to the entire Caribbean in about two months time, a senior American official said.

Ashley Wills, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Barbados and director of the U.S. International Communications Agency (USICA), said the American and Antiguan governments had concluded an agreement for establishing the transmitter at the U.S. naval base there.

"We hope to begin these English-language transmissions within several weeks," Wills told CANA.

The new station will broaden VOA's worldwide net and will basically relay propaganda and music from the U.S.

*FWI, July 10, 1980*

### MORE POWER FOR RFG

Radio Free Grenada (RFG) has now got a louder, clearer voice.

Its new medium-wave transmitter at Beausejour, St. George's, was officially opened during the third anniversary of the March 13 Revolution.

The 50 kilowatt transmitter, built with assistance from the government of Cuba, will enable RFG to be heard clearly throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, the Caribbean, parts of Central and North America and even Europe.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, also Minister of Information, opening the transmitter, said this additional ability came at a time when there was an increase in United States propaganda against the Grenadian, Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions, and the fighting people of El Salvador.

"We will now be able to tell the people of the Caribbean of the real explosion of democracy here," he added.

He noted the importance of the day, March 11, the ninth anniversary of the formation of the New Jewel Movement and a day when the country was observing "Solidarity with the Government and people of Angola."

"The people of Angola and Grenada have in common the friendship, support and solidarity of the revolutionary people of Cuba," he said.

Broadcasters will have greater responsibilities in ensuring that whenever news leaves the station that it is good, solid news that reflects the true achievements of the people.

Deputy Secretary of Information and RFG manager Kamau McBarnette said the station was committed to those people who are struggling for their liberation, and for the establishment of a new international information order.

He condemned the setting up of the anti-Cuban propaganda "Radio Marti" by the United States and said this was an act of provocation and war.

Member of the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party, Jorge Risquet, said the transmitter will be an irreplaceable vehicle for the cultural development of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

*FWI, March 27, 1982*

## 7 Culture

### Introduction

Most revolutions give birth to a revolutionary culture and the Grenadian revolution was no exception. The outburst of energy and hope unleashed by the new regime provided inspiration for an explosion of poetry, calypsos, theatrical performances, artwork and the like. Not only was there an absolute increase in cultural activity, but there was also a shift to revolutionary themes, especially marked in the case of calypsos and carnival. A militant Black consciousness and defiance against imperialism were frequently recurring themes.

While some of this cultural activity was spontaneous, much of it was encouraged and facilitated by the regime, which placed a high priority on the cultural revolution. By the time of the 1983 invasion Grenadian cultural groups had begun to venture overseas. Grenada was already well on its way to becoming a focal point for progressive artistes from a number of countries. The first Conference of Intellectual and Cultural Workers (1982) attracted to Grenada such well-known names as Barbadian novelist George Lamming, Afro-American folk-singer Harry Belafonte, Surinamese literary figure Dobru Ravales and Trinidadian writer Earl Lovelace.

### THE PEOPLE'S CULTURE IS A WEAPON

"Just as imperialism has used culture as a weapon against us, so we will use culture as a weapon in our struggle against imperialism."

This quote from a leading artiste in Grenada characterises the importance put on cultural activity since the triumph of the people's revolution.

In the past two years, there has been a great outburst of progressive arts. Drama and music groups have sprung up in every parish, and almost every school, while mass organizations are increasingly forming such groups.

The Theatre Group of the National Youth Organization (TGNYO), Workers Enlightenment (WE), We Foute, Veenyway La Grenade, and the GBSS Drama Group, are but some of the many.

There has also been a dramatic change in the content of the presentations, from traditional comedy-tragedy, to a new revolutionary style that is closer to the reality of today's Grenada.

This is particularly seen in the productions of the TGNYO and the many groups formed within the Centre for Popular Education (CPE).

Seminars are also being held aimed at increasing relationships and sharing experiences between cultural groups, experimenting with new art forms, and encouraging unity.

Efforts are also being made to bridge the gap between the young, new artistes, and the older ones, who have preserved the indigenous cultural forms over the years.

The increased activity is not limited solely to performing arts. More Grenadians are involved in the literary arts, writing books, plays, poems and songs, since the revolution.

This increased cultural activity encouraged Radio Frec Grenada to organize a national cultural contest last year, and the number of cultural shows put on by local groups to increase considerably.

The arts have also played an important role in the festivals of the Revolution. Last year, many overseas groups and artistes performed here, and this year there have been as many presentations, with the accent on local performers.

Arts and craft exhibitions have been going on constantly in recent months, with participation by women, children and other sections of the population. The women's cultural compe-

tion, organised by the National Women's Organization (NWO) earlier this year, attests to this.

Musically, more Grenadian musicians have cut records since the Revolution than before, and the progressive content of this music has brought satisfaction and success to their creators.

The arts are now playing an important role in reflecting the people's cultural values: the way they dress, talk and behave, the things they do, their whole life-styles.

As such, they have become a powerful weapon against cultural imperialism, the imposing of foreign influences, values and life-styles on the people.

Along with the political, economic, scientific and technological revolutions, the cultural revolution forms an integral part of the revolutionary process now taking place in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

FWI, March 13, 1981

### NEW VALUES CREATING A NEW ART

With the development of the anti-imperialist struggle in the Caribbean, a new consciousness has been emerging among the people. The struggle against imperialist penetration and domination is being waged on all levels—politically, economically, scientifically, and culturally.

The struggle against cultural imperialism is particularly hard. Our history of colonial domination with its deliberate mis-education of our people, has warped our cultural values and mis-orientated our people.

Thus, the cultural revolution has become a priority in our struggle to break free from the negativity of imperialist influence throughout the Caribbean.

Progressive artistes are now approaching their art from a new perspective of the struggle for a liberated Caribbean. Combining this perspective with their artistic activity, and relating this activity to the day-to-day struggles of the people, they have created a new art to which the people can relate easier, since it more closely reflects their culture.

The Theatre Group for National Liberation (TGNL) of Jamaica, and the Theatre Group of the National Youth Organisation (TGNYO) of Grenada, are two outstanding examples of this new approach to art.

TGNL comprises progressive Jamaican artistes, who combine political and cultural aspects of the anti-imperialist struggle. TGNL has made several productions which relate closely to the day-to-day struggles of the Jamaican people, and in the process, has emerged as the most popular Jamaican drama group in recent times.

One of their best productions is "The Mother," a play by German Berthold Brecht, about the struggles of the Soviet workers in the early part of this century, adapted to the Jamaican situation in late 1978.

TGNL was able to show the similarities in the struggles of the international working class by localising the original play, using practical examples of the Jamaican working class struggle, which were similar with the Soviet workers' struggle against the owners and controllers of the means of production in the early 1900s.

TGNL also produced the Caribbean anti-imperialist youth anthem, "Forward March Against Imperialism," written by the group's director, Barry Chevannes. Originally, the anthem was orientated to Jamaica, but when TGNL visited and performed in Grenada during the festival of the revolution they adapted it to Grenadian struggle.

Today, the anthem is popular among the people of Jamaica and Grenada, with an appropriate version for each country.

TGNL's performances must have served as an inspiration to progressive cultural artistes in this country, for, only a few weeks after their visit, TGNYO emerged in April.

TGNYO comprises NJM-NYO members, who have recognised that the cultural revolution is an integral part of the consolidation of the revolutionary process in Grenada. TGNYO has combined local experiences with their creativity, and have been producing a new side of Grenadians' new revolutionary culture.

So far, their two major productions have been "We Cocoa," and "De Bomb," both of which have scored tremendous success with the people of this country.

"We Cocoa" is a dramatic explanation of the unfair treatment of local cocoa producers by the imperialist companies that buy the raw product cheap, refine it, and sell it back to local consumers at very high prices. "De Bomb" depicts the events of the terrorist bomb attack of June 19.

TGNYO also produces songs with an anti-imperialist content on the Centre for Popular Education and Land Reform programme.

As the revolution consolidates and develops, TGNYO seeks to relate more of its work to the national revolutionary struggle.

From all appearances, it is felt that groups like TGNYO and "Workers Enlightenment" will take their place in the forefront of the struggle to promote revolutionary cultural activity in Grenada, and like the TGNL in Jamaica, will eventually have a regional mass following as the people of the Caribbean begin to relate more clearly to the aspects of the new Caribbean art, which these groups present.

FWI, October 18, 1980

### *Let Us Go*

Let us go  
with our chains turned into weapons.  
Let us go  
with our pens of piercing progressive  
poetic pursuit  
to write our own history.  
Let us go  
with our old-aged fork and hoe  
farrowing the soil into a mixture  
which will provide flowers and babes  
for our future.  
Let us go  
to close the door

on that bankrupt wicked wilderness  
 which is old and dying away  
 so we can open our eyes  
 to the bright new day  
 which is coming into being  
 creating  
 revealing  
 and inspiring  
 Let us go:  
 the blood the sweat and the need  
 that nourishes the pregnant seed  
 in their hands  
 is bursting into a billion  
 different bright colours,  
 a banquet of former bullets  
 now promising fresh  
 proletarian flowers  
 is in safe hands.  
 It is growing food for the future  
 in all the gardens  
 of fertile Free Grenada.  
 Let us go  
 even if our backs and shoulders  
 have been lacerated  
 by the greedy whips  
 that burn and bite in pain  
 for craziness and profit  
 Let us go  
 with our determined legs  
 planted firmly apart  
 with steady confident hands  
 on hips of fearlessness  
 with clenched mighty fists.  
 Let us declare:  
 No more!  
 to those who wish  
 to hear us humbly say

"More blows Masta suh"  
 for that is the past  
 downpression can't forever last  
 the present is changing  
 a new and bright future  
 is coming into being  
 Let us go  
 to close the door  
 on that which is old and dying away.  
 Come let us go  
 to greet our tomorrow  
 and feel at home  
 in this new day.

— Garvin Nantambu Stuart

*FWI, March 13, 1981*

#### NATIONAL PERFORMING COMPANY RETURNS HOME

Grenada's National Performing Company on Thursday returned home after what has been described as a highly successful and fantastic one-month tour of the United States and Canada.

The company, comprising some 26 cultural artists, performed in a number of large cities throughout the U.S. and Canada, including Washington, San Francisco, New York and Toronto.

On their arrival at Pearls Airport, the group was welcomed by Minister of Health Chris DeRiggs and members of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) Young Pioneers, "The Flowers of the Revolution."

Min. DeRiggs complimented them for their "successful and fantastic tour," adding that they served as ambassadors for their beloved country.

A preliminary report on the tour was handed over to Min. DeRiggs by Grenada's ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS) Dessima Williams, who accompanied the group on its journey from New York.

Reports received during the tour said the group made an impressive impact on the North American public.



According to noted black activist, Angela Davis, the group's performances were "truly magnificent and an excellent representation of the cultural life of the revolutionary people of Grenada."

The group, led by calypsonian Cecil "Flying Turkey" Belfon, included dancers, singers, poets, drummers and calypsonians.

*FWI, December 4, 1982*

### J'OUVERT GOES POLITICAL

Jour Ouvert [during the] past two years has undergone a dramatic change from the vice and immorality for which it had become characteristic, to its old political and satirical flavour.

"J'Ouvert" had become something which parents wouldn't allow their children to see because most of the portrayals were immoral. Now, its role has returned to one which mobilises and agitates the people against the imperialist masters, while increasing their awareness of the benefits of the Grenada Revolution.

This change was first seen in the 1980 carnival celebrations, when the National Youth Organisation hit the streets with a J'Ouvert band which was completely out of keeping with J'Ouvert's character. It was led not by a steelband, but with youths playing drums and shouting anti-imperialist slogans, instead of singing calypsoes.

The few J'Ouvert bands which were organised that year, were forced to "park up" while most of the spectators joined the NYO band.

This year saw two bands of the same character hitting the road—the NYO Youth Campers '81 and the Spice Isle Agro-industries bands. Slogans like "Plant More Food We Go Can Them" shouted the Spice Isle band, while NYO Youth Campers chanted Flying Turkey's "No, no, no, imperialism no; No backward reaction, can stop our Revolution."

One band which doesn't seem to be leaving the scene in a hurry though, is the traditional "jab jabs." But even they are changing. They are much more disciplined than they were in the past, and not many people can complain of being soiled by them.

Some of the "old mas" was also educational. Evelyn Mark's "Downfall of the Capitalist," which portrayed a sick man in a wheelchair with a box on his head, won the old mas competition.

Steelbands also came out with something different. Most of the calypsoes they played were from Grenada, not Trinidad.

*FWI, August 22, 1981*

### REFLECTIONS ON CARNIVAL '83

This year's Carnival celebrations climaxed successfully last week Tuesday night, but a critical look at it is necessary to discover its strong and weak aspects and to see how qualitative improvements can be made in the future.

Beginning with Calypso, Carnival's most talked about and popular ingredient, we find that as usual there was mixed reaction to their general standard.

But a close study of the contents in most of the "serious" calypsoes will show that these focussed around three main themes: patriotism, the struggle between rich and poor and solidarity with the struggling African people.

To illustrate this, let's categorise some of the calypsoes under the different themes.

Defender's "Voice of the Oppressed," Survivor's "Bourgeoisie Policy," Smokey's "Political Songs" and Chain's "Scavenger" all reflect the struggle between rich and poor and arouse sympathy for the working people.

Solidarity with the African people was expressed strikingly through Praying Mantis's "Condemn South Africa" and "Strike Drum" and to a lesser degree, African Teller's "I Am an African Young Man."

Survivor's "She Fraid the Gun" and Lady Cinty's "Future Children" are the only two songs with a patriotic message that made it to the finals, but there were others such as Lady Cheryl's "Be Yourself," Tangler's "All Ah We One Grenadian" and Supreme's "Remember Our Heroes," among others.

The Mighty Defender might have scored more points for his "Voice of the Oppressed" if both his personal and stage performances had been more dramatic and relevant.

The calypso correctly decried the bourgeois system for oppressing the poor working man. At the finals, however, Defender appeared on stage dressed in a princely mauve coloured garb with silver embroidery, which I felt, contradicted the real character of his message.

This was unlike Lady Cinty and Survivor, who had excellent stage performance to compliment the message in their respective calypsoes.

The Caribbean Calypso Festival, like the one held last year, again emerged as an outstanding success, highlighting the instrumental role of culture in bringing together Caribbean people.

Grenada is the only country among the English-speaking Caribbean which includes such an event in its official Carnival celebrations. It has been hosted for the past three years and is now regarded as an annual Carnival event that will stand out as a symbolic testimony to Grenada's commitment to Caribbean unity and integration.

From Calypsoes to J'Ouvert morning, I agree with some of my old friends that there had been too few old mas bands on the streets that morning. Efforts should be made to encourage more of them to be out next year.

Jab Jabs were plentiful, for sure, but that mas seemed to have lost certain aspects of its originality. Too many people play Jab Jab just for kicks.

The mas has its roots in slavery and tribulation and, in previous years, had in it a definite sense of seriousness and aggressiveness of purpose, reminiscent of rebellious slaves revolting against their masters.

At the same time, efforts should also be made to preserve some of the indigenous Jab Jab chants and see that they are not replaced entirely by common, everyday ones.

The parade of the bands went along well until they reached downtown St. George's where everything seemed to have gotten mixed up after some time.

One band which did not make its way around downtown was the Cuban internationalist workers band, and a few other bands appeared to have been confused by the routes.

But despite this, the bands displayed a variety of colour and creativity which obviously delighted the hundreds of tourists who arrived on a tourist liner Carnival Tuesday afternoon.

While Carnival remains a major cultural event of our people, the gradual disappearance from it of certain types of traditional mas' must be of concern to all interested in preserving our cultural heritage.

Over the past eight or more years, each carnival celebration is seeing less and less of "Wild Indians," "May Pole Dancers," "History Mas" and "Old Mas."

One reason for this is that many of the people who played such mas' have died and did not pass on what they knew to younger ones.

But it is not too late, since there are still people around who know how to dance "May Pole" and "Wild Indians."

The task is to instill into people that consciousness that will help them to realise the value of our cultural traditions and customs.

*FWI, August 24, 1983*

### INTELLECTUAL WORKERS CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY

Prominent Barbadian writer, George Lamming has said that "the totality of what is called intellectual activity (in the region) would be represented" at the first Caribbean intellectual workers conference which will be held over the weekend.

"I don't think that we have ever before had an occasion in which men and women representing a great variety of intellectual interests and occupations would meet within the same forum to discover and articulate whatever links that hold them together in a common struggle," he said.

Cde Lamming was speaking at a press conference at Butler House on Monday, on the conference's significance for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Grenada, he said, is the obvious place for such a conference, since it is the pioneering territory in the region in the battle against imperialism.

The conference, which will be held from November 20-23 will bring outstanding intellectuals from the Caribbean and Latin America such as Jamaica's Michael Manley, Guyanese national poet Martin Carter, entertainer Harry Belafonte, Nicaragua's Minister of Culture Ernesto Cardenal, economist George Beckford and the 1982 Nobel prize winner for literature, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Its main discussions will focus on Cultural sovereignty in the Caribbean, the labour movement and women's participation in the political process. Lamming said the conference is significant because it will signal a break with an old tradition, in which culture is perceived as an activity that has nothing to do with labour.

Papers on technology in the Caribbean, the use of land resources and the role of transnational banks in determining national policies will be presented respectively by well-known Caribbean economists Dr. Trevor Farrell of the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus, Dr. George Beckford of UWI's Mona campus and Clive Thomas of the University of Guyana.

Trinidadian born Merle Hodge, a member of the recently formed Grenada Committee of Intellectual Workers who was also at the press conference, pointed out that one of the obvious benefits of the conference will be that of unifying all Caribbean intellectual forces, despite national differences.

She said that previous intellectual movements in the region have been unable to overcome such problems as language and nationality peculiarities, among others.

The conference will not only discuss problems affecting the Caribbean, Sis. Merle Hodge said, but, like similar ones before it, will express solidarity with the Grenada Revolution.

Grenadians have been called upon to attend the conference opening and its plenary and workshop sessions. Papers presented will be published in pamphlet form to be distributed among the public.

Also expected from the conference is a permanent regional commission that will be responsible for organising similar follow-up meetings.

## CULTURAL PERFORMANCE CLOSES CONFERENCE

The first Conference of Intellectual and Cultural Workers in the English speaking Caribbean came to a close Monday with cultural performances by local and some of the most talented artistes in the region, at the Dome, Grand Anse.

Minister of Culture of Suriname, Dobru Ravales did two of his poems, one of which was "I Want To Hate Somebody Today." Trinidadian writer Earl Lovelace read from his novel, "The Dragon Can't Dance." Trinidadian Pearl Springer did two of her poems on women, and Cuban poet Pablo Amando Hernandez, also did one of his poems.

Trinidadian actor, Errol Jones, enthralled the crowd with his portrayal of Macaw from "Dream on Monkey Mountain," and the Workers' Party of Jamaica's Barry Chevannes, sang some of his anti-imperialist songs, among them "Forward March Against Imperialism."

Local performances came from the Pioneer Movement, Rose Henry, Michael "Senator" Mitchell, Valdon Boldeau, and Merle Collins with her "Callaloo." Well known for his dialect poetry, Paul Keens Douglas had the crowd roaring with his "Bogoville" and "Storytelling."

The mini-rally also featured the presentation of the final declaration of the conference, and paid tribute to three outstanding Caribbean personalities—the late Walter Rodney of Guyana, C.L.R. James of Trinidad, and Nicolas Guillen the Cuban poet—for their contribution to the development of culture in the region.

A Standing Committee of Intellectual Workers, comprising representatives from Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, Dominica and Antigua was announced.

The closing address was delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Unison Whiteman, who described the conference as "an important blow hitting imperialism," and told the intellectual workers they could always rely on Grenada's support.

The conference, which lasted three days, discussed a number of critical issues affecting the culture and sovereignty of the

Caribbean, and had among its participants Belizean Minister of Health, A. E. Shoman, Nicaragua's Minister of Culture, Ernesto Cardenal, entertainer Harry Belafonte, American businessman Edward Lamb, Peoples National Party (of Jamaica) chairman, Dudley Thompson, and Caribbean novelist George Lamming.

*FWI*, November 24, 1982

### FINAL DECLARATION

#### First Conference of Intellectual and Cultural Workers

A standing committee to continue the work of the first Conference of Intellectual and Cultural Workers of the English speaking Caribbean, was formed, as the conference ended Monday night, at the Dome, Grand Anse.

The committee, announced in the final declaration presented by renowned Caribbean author and conference coordinator, George Lamming, was necessary for the defence and development of culture and sovereignty in the Caribbean, the declaration said.

It noted "with pride" the heroism of the Grenadian people, "their revolutionary achievements in the face of heightened attacks by United States imperialism and harassments from elements within the region," and applauded the efforts of the Revolution to build its own democracy and to direct and control its own process free from external intervention, and "rejoiced" that intellectuals were participating actively in the growth and strengthening of mass organisations here.

The heightening aggression directed against Nicaragua through "mercenary" invasions from Honduras, aided and abetted by the Honduran army, financed, armed, organised and directed by U.S. imperialism," was deplored and denounced by the intellectuals.

They also denounced the "planned invasion of Nicaragua organised by U.S. imperialism" and called on the region, including trade unions, youth and women's organisations to protest the planned invasion.

The declaration noted the continuing aggression against Cuba, and the U.S.' increasing support for the El Salvadorian

and Guatemalan regimes, and rejected and condemned the harassment and denigration of the Grenada Revolution in the regional media aimed at assisting reaction to destroy the benefits which the Revolution has brought to the people.

In the defence and promotion of the cultural aspirations and political sovereignty of the Caribbean people, the conference proclaimed that it was necessary to break the monopoly of the region's communications media and the delegates pledged themselves to creating a genuine peoples' involvement in the ownership and control of the media system, to meet the needs of the people.

The declaration urged the broadest possible means of ownership of the media system, and placing it at the service and development of the people. This new system must include public and private sector interests, trade unions, women, youth, cooperatives and cultural organisations.

"The time has come for the media workers of the Caribbean to establish a Caribbean Media Workers Association to overcome the manipulations that have long plagued them and the communications media in the region, and to equip themselves to serve the best interests of the region's people to beat back the forces of reaction and cultural imperialism," the declaration said.

It proclaimed and recognised the immense contribution which Casa De Las Americas, the Caribbean institution in Havana, had made and is making to the region's cultural development and expressed appreciation for its literature awards, its establishment of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, and its convening of the Conference of Intellectual Workers.

The declaration called on intellectual workers to participate actively and fully in the work of mass organisations to raise their political consciousness and deepen their cultural awareness.

It viewed "with great alarm the restructuring proposals which threaten to liquidate the University of the West Indies as an autonomous regional institution," and called on all graduates, students, and faculties of UWI to launch a resistance campaign to disintegration, and to develop proposals for making UWI a genuine people's institution.

The conference "noted with alarm the newly formulated strategy of U.S. imperialism for concerting the regional intelligentsia into a class of intellectual mercenaries as defined in the Santa Fe report prepared for President Reagan."

The intellectual workers recognised the contribution which the church can make towards the achievements of social justice and the promotion of peace and cultural sovereignty in the region, but deplored the professional "exploitation of our peoples' religious sensibilities by an expanding evangelical industry promoted and financed by U.S. interests which seek to retard the intellectual and spiritual development of our people."

They expressed support for political sovereignty of every territory of the region, and deplored constraints or attempts to impose constraints on peoples' efforts to create new and genuine forms of popular democracy.

The intellectual workers saw ideological pluralism as an indispensable stage in the struggle for cultural and political sovereignty, and proclaimed and declared that the full and free development of the region's people will only be realised with the creation of "a sovereign Caribbean nation state embracing the entire archipelago, free from imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism."

The creation of this Caribbean nation must be the focus of their work, the intellectual workers felt, since only "the establishment of a Caribbean nation will allow the full flowering of the genius of the Caribbean people."

FWI, November 24, 1982

### MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION

Historic events in the lives of the Grenadian people were recorded last week when a Museum of the Revolution and the restored True Blue Barracks were opened by National Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan.

The museum, which is divided into four phases, includes the struggles of the Grenadian people from 1970 to today. Min.

Strachan, in his opening address expressed the hope that the museum would be expanded to include not only the struggles from the 1970s, but as far back as the days of Julien Fedon, one of Grenada's national heroes.

Collections on the museum include photographs of rallies held before and after the Revolution, scripts on the rise of the Black Power Movement in Grenada, the nurses' struggle and rise of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), newspaper clippings on articles condemning former dictator Eric Gairy, Gairy's gowns and paraphernalia, clothes worn by NJM's leaders on Bloody Sunday in 1973, including NJM's leader Maurice Bishop's bloodstained underpants, the speakers' chair and a coffee set—a gift from England.

The museum is temporarily housed in the Ministry of National Mobilisation on Lucas Street.

The burnt-down True Blue barracks, which once housed Gairy's soldiers, was restored to its burnt-down state on the morning of March 13, 1979 and officially opened last Wednesday, also by Min. Strachan.

Charred zinc sheets, bed frames, chairs and posts, mangled iron, bottles of explosives, an old burnt-out, rusty car, rifles found at the barracks and used in the attack, and a pair of slippers, all help to give the impression of dereliction.

General Hudson Austin, who spoke at the ceremony, said that the "burnt-out wood and galvanise" of the restored barracks are signs of peace. He continued that the Revolution was not fought to make war or to bully anybody, because the NJM supports peace and detente.

The barracks, he said, should be a symbol of the ending of an old age of dictatorship and tyranny and the coming into being of a new age.

Min. Strachan said that the area surrounding the barracks was once a military zone, but has been transformed to an economic zone by the Revolution. He pointed to economic projects such as the Fish Processing Plant, the Fisheries School, an Agro-Industrial Plant, a Housing Scheme, an Asphalt Plant and the International Airport project now in the same area.

At the ceremony, the emulation award for the mass organisation to mobilise the highest percentage of its membership for the Julien Fedon Third Anniversary manoeuvre, was given out. It was won by the National Youth Organisation (NYO), and the trophy was received by its chairman Leon Cornwall.

*FWI, March 20, 1982*

## 8 Heroes and Martyrs

### Introduction

The Grenadian revolution fostered, as is usually the case, a new patriotism. Heroes and martyrs of both the recent and distant past were called upon, as it were, in order to plant the revolution firmly in Grenada's own experience. Yet many of the heroes chosen had a Caribbean, even a worldwide, impact far beyond Grenada's shores. This seemed to make a statement concerning the Pan-Caribbean and internationalist perspective of the revolution. Hero Tubal Uriah Buzz Butler, though a Grenadian, had spent his political life in Trinidad. T.A. Marryshow, whose political career was based in Grenada, had nevertheless for decades been a major advocate of West Indian federation. The revolution, in its earlier years at least, also celebrated the memory of Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey, the greatest Pan-African organizer of all time.

The NJM's own short history provided not only heroes, but an ample supply of martyrs, whose number would unhappily be augmented by the ultraleft coup and U.S. invasion of October 1983.

### HEROES AND MARTYRS— FROM BUTLER TO BISHOP TO BAILEY

In all Revolutions there are heroes, those who have made outstanding contributions to the revolutionary struggle and martyrs, heroes who have given their lives to defend the people's cause.

Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler, Scotilda Noel and Edith McBain are heroes. Rupert Bishop, Harold Strachan and Alister Strachan are martyrs.

Butler is best remembered as a fighter of the Trinidad working class. The "Chief Servant" as he was called, is, however, Grenadian by birth.

Butler went to Trinidad as a young man, when the working class there faced a bleak existence. Racism and oppression were the order of the day. The British ruled Trinidad as their own and Butler had to fight colonialism with all his might. At one point, he was jailed by the British authorities.

On June 19, 1937, Butler led a massive workers' march in Fyzabad, Trinidad, that ended in the burning death of a particularly brutal policeman called Charlie King.

Butler was an early leader of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), today the most powerful union in Trinidad. He died in the mid-70s, in semi-poverty.

Since the Grenada Revolution, Butler has been remembered and yearly honoured.

Rupert Bishop, father of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, was "a fanatic for freedom and justice," according to Legal Affairs Minister Kenrick Radix. Bishop was a small businessman in St. George's and had been consistently opposed to the Gairy dictatorship.

During the crisis years 1973-74, Bishop became one of the foremost figures of the uprising. He led many long marches that were to go down in the history of our people.

In early 1974, the people continued to stand firm. Urban workers, students and some business owners all opposed the tyranny. On January 21, that year, during a march of about one-quarter the population, Gairy unleashed on the people his most barbarous police and Mongoose Gang members.

The police fired at Otway House, where thousands of people were, and the Mongoose Gang used bottles from a near-by truck.

Many youths who were in the building that day remember clearly Bishop's voice, advising them to stay low on the ground. Some police, attempting to enter the building, were met by

Bishop who told them it was mostly women and children taking refuge inside the building. He was then shot dead by a policeman with a .303 rifle.

Harold Strachan was one of the early (since 1973) members of the New Jewel Movement (NJM). He hailed from the village of Boca in St. George's and was a taxi-driver. McKie, as he was called, was a firm fighter of the Mongoose Gang and other sections of Gairy's rogues.

In December 1973, the Mongoose Gang had decided it was time to get rid of Strachan, who was one of those who had guarded NJM leaders in hospital after the brutal beating on November 18, "Bloody Monday."

On December 27, came the showdown. Strachan was shot twice by Mongoose Gangman Willie. He however, was able to return the fire, severely injuring Willie.

Strachan died later in hospital, after Mongoose Gang elements removed the oxygen on which he was gasping his last breath of life.

Edith McBain was a poor country woman, who had come to live in St. George's in the early days of the Revolution. She was one of the first women activists and fighters of the NJM. The NJM's underground paper "Jewel" was at times printed at her home on Lucas Street, and many times she distributed it all over the country.

It was on one of those revolutionary assignments that she met her death. She fell under the bus on which she was travelling and it passed on her head.

Scotilda Noel also did outstanding work for the Grenadian struggle. Born in Birchgrove, St. Andrew's, of humble parents, she emigrated to England in 1961 at the age of 18.

In Britain, she saw the evils of imperialism clearly, and returned to Grenada in 1970, to join the struggle.

"Scotty" was a small businesswoman who always put the struggle first. She was very effective in organizing small farmers, women and agricultural workers in Birchgrove.

The mother of six, Scotty was also a steering committee member of the NJM's National Women's Organisation and a

founding and executive member of the Agricultural and General Workers' Union.

When Scotty died on the night of November 2, 1979, in a vehicular accident, her name was well known among the poor and working people of the country as one who always sought their interest. This was shown in the massive turnout at her funeral, one of the country's largest ever.

Alister "Garlic" Strachan is remembered by the NJM's National Youth Organisation (NYO) and Grenadian youth in general. "In the spirit of Alister," is a common battle-cry of the NYO.

Strachan hailed from Calivigny in St. George's and was a political activist and struggler against the Gairy regime. A paper-seller in the days when "Jewel" was illegal, Alister was in constant disputes with the police.

On June 19, 1977, while the Organisation of American States was meeting in Grenada, NJM held a meeting at the Market Square to inform the outside world of the serious plight of Grenadians. Gairy then unleashed on the people some of the terror that characterised his reign.

Many Grenadians were beaten and the meeting was broken up. Strachan was cornered along the sea wall. A good swimmer, he jumped into the sea, his only escape from the brutality. But the soldiers and police were bent to get in some brutal target practice. They fired again and again at the young swimmer, for almost one hour. Amid a hail of bullets Strachan finally drowned.

Three days later, his decayed body was washed ashore.

Ironically, it was at the rally the Revolution called to commemorate the memories of Butler and Alister Strachan, on June 19, 1980 at Queen's Park, St. George's, that three more martyrs were created.

Laurice Humphrey, Laureen Phillip and Bernadette Bailey were killed in the blast of a time-bomb the enemies of the people had left, in another attempt to wipe out the NJM leaders.

FWJ, March 13, 1981

### FRANCE TO HELP UNCOVER INFO ON FEDON

Grenadians are soon likely to know more about the life and activities of their first revolutionary hero, Julien Fedon.

French President Francois Mitterand has agreed to assign a researcher to collate information in France's historical archives about Fedon and other general aspects of Grenadian history.

Pres. Mitterand's decision was made during talks on cultural co-operation with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who last week paid a three-day state visit to France.

Fedon, a British-educated freed Grenadian slave, led a daring slave rebellion against British and French colonial settlers during 1795. His forces battled the colonial slave-masters for a few months, but were eventually defeated.

Fedon escaped capture, however, and up to today, his fate is still unknown to the Grenadian people.

PM Bishop told Pres. Mitterand that one of the problems Grenada has historically had in obtaining information on the "Fedon Period" was that it did not have access to historical archives in France and its Caribbean territories Martinique and Guadeloupe.

He also pointed out the impact that the French Revolution in 1789 had on Fedon, particularly its slogan "Liberty, Fraternity and Equality."

Six years before the French Revolution, French writer and revolutionary, Victor Hugo, had visited Grenada to influence the French settlers with the ideas around that slogan, which also had an ideological impact on Fedon.

Pres. Mitterand, who PM Bishop said was "very much interested" in discussing culture, "immediately instructed" his aides to appoint a researcher to assist Grenada in obtaining more information on Fedon, which, the PM said, "would be very valuable to us."

Photo-copies of documents in the French archives on the Fedon period, including letters Hugo brought to Fedon, were presented to the Grenada delegation, PM Bishop disclosed. The documents are likely to be placed in the museum or library.



After the March 13, 1979, people's Revolution, Fedon was declared a national hero for this brave and determined struggle against slavery and colonial oppression.

Other areas of cultural co-operation the two leaders discussed were the proposed establishment of a French cultural centre here and assistance in teaching French in Grenadian secondary schools.

*FWI, September 25, 1982*

### C.L.R. JAMES REMEMBERS MARRYSHOW

Revolutionary Grenada would make statesman and journalist Theophilus Albert Marryshow very proud if he were alive today.

Born T.A. Maricheau in 1887, this national hero struggled all his adult life for Grenadian independence and reforms in labour and economics. He was a staunch defender of human rights, long before U.S. imperialists abused those words.

"Constant vigilance is the price of freedom," Marryshow said and his voice was often raised in eloquent but sharp criticism of Eurocentric lies and misconceptions about African culture and the capabilities of people of African descent to rule themselves.

On November 7 last year, the 21st anniversary of his death, the People's Revolutionary Government made Marryshow a national hero. And on his first visit to Free Grenada last July, C.L.R. James said: "Marryshow exhibited the revolutionary spirit inherent in all Grenadians."

Though it is said Marryshow was not much for party loyalty, he described himself as a democrat and a socialist.

T.A. Marryshow was the son of poor parents who sent him to be raised with the Franco family of St. George's. He completed primary school, but because of little money, was unable to go any further. Surely the lower cost of school fees and the increased availability of scholarships today would please him.

Marryshow read voraciously, though, and educated himself. His heightened political and historical awareness would later lead him to change his name to the spelling we know today.

At age 16, Marryshow was apprenticed to a printer and soon began reporting for the "Federalist" newspaper under William Galwey Donovan. It was Donovan who first instilled in him the ideas of a federated Caribbean.

Young Marryshow became book-reviewer, feature writer and sub-editor there. By the time he was 22, he was editor of the "St. George's Chronicle" and "Grenada Gazette."

In 1915 after founding the Grenada Workingmen's Association, Marryshow opened the "West Indian"—forerunner of today's FREE WEST INDIAN. His outstanding career in journalism earned him an honorary membership in the British Caribbean Press Association. In some circles he was called the "prince of West Indian journalism."

An extremely artistic man, Marryshow also sang spirituals and wrote poetry under the pen-name, Max T. Golden.

Marryshow once said one of the thrills of his life was singing an old gospel song to Paul Robeson, whose baritone voice he loved.

In 1921, Marryshow helped set up the first Pan-African Congress in London, England with W.E.B. DuBois and others. His early political career centered on labour organising and the constitutional reforms that brought popular representation to Grenada, Trinidad, and other Leeward and Windward Islands in 1925.

His political career was long and stormy at times. For the 10 years between 1915 and 1925, Marryshow was regarded by the British government as a "dangerous agitator and anti-white propagandist."

Marryshow was the key man in getting the Wood Commission in 1922 to investigate the possibilities of popular political representation for the British Caribbean. A calypso was even written about him the day he boarded the British battleship which carried the commission to represent Grenadians in the talks.

Marryshow successfully fought the practice of locking bakers in the bakery from 7 p.m. until 10 a.m. And when the Legislative Council could not balance their budget and decided to cut

out \$1,000 for feeding children, Marryshow told the council their acts "defied the laws of social gravity."

During his visit, C.L.R. James said the statesman always remained a gentleman. "In 1932," C.L.R. said, "after the Tory party enacted the racist 'Policy of Protection' for Britain and the colonies, Marryshow went to London to see the Secretary of the Colonies to complain of the policy's economic unfairness and ill-effects on the predominantly black sections of the empire."

Marryshow wasn't considered important enough to see the secretary, and so had to discuss the matter with the assistant.

One of his concerns was that because of the policy, the shoes young boys used to purchase for \$1.50 had to be imported from Canada at an inflated price of \$2.50 and \$3. Consequently, many boys had to go barefoot.

C.L.R. remembers Marryshow saying the assistant secretary's response was that each part of the empire had problems, advantages and disadvantages, which would balance one another out.

"Well, I knew it was a lie," Marryshow told C.L.R. "I knew he was lying and he knew I knew he was lying." Marryshow said he had never come so close to cuffing down a man in his life.

In 1945, Marryshow was instrumental in forming the Caribbean Labour Congress, and in 1945, he became its president.

Even though the statesman was elected to the first Legislative Council in 1925 and re-elected for a record 33 years, he is probably best remembered as one of the strongest advocates of federation; in fact, the "Father of the Federation."

"West Indians must unite or perish," he said, insisting that the region would fare better economically and politically as one unit. Just before his death in 1958, he witnessed the birth of the federation—short-lived as it was.

"He was one of the few whom we respected," C.L.R. said of Marryshow. "He had what his contemporaries didn't have—a sense of history. The others had British history in their heads, but Marryshow had broken out of that."

Marryshow was extremely proud of his African heritage, and wrote about advanced African civilisations decades before the

Black Power movement moved this generation to proclaim its roots. "Cycles of Civilisation," first published in 1917 and perhaps his finest work, attests to this.

The essay is a stinging rebuttal to a speech delivered at the Imperial Conference in England by a white supremacist living in South Africa, General Jan Christian Smuts. Some of its "prophecies" are becoming more and more apparent today.

Realising Africa's resource wealth to the 21st century, Marryshow wrote:

"It is Africa's direct turn. Sons of New Ethiopia scattered all over the world, should determine that there shall be new systems of distribution of opportunities, privileges and rights, so that Africa may rid herself of many of the murderous highway-men of Europe who have plundered her, raped her, and left her hungry and naked. . . .

"Already she is in an economic position which insures the highest standard of production for the world's needs. Africa is getting to hold the economic balance of power, which is always greater than the military balance of power, and which, in fact, controls all power."

European colonisers did not "civilise" Africa, he said, they "syphalised" it.

Before his death, Marryshow expressed his wish that his home, "The Roscry" on Tyrell Street, be opened to welcome Africans and descendants of Africa.

Today, Marryshow House stands as a testament to his vigilance and scholarship and houses the Extra-Mural Centre of the University of the West Indies.

*FWI, November 1, 1980*

### REMEMBER WHAT GARVEY STRUGGLED FOR, SAYS PM BISHOP

In an address delivered at a rally in solidarity with Jamaica last Sunday and in commemoration of the 93rd anniversary of the birth of Marcus Garvey, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said there are five basic points about Garvey's life and works which are rarely spoken of.

First, he referred to Garvey's call for "the right of native labour," which Garvey made as far back as 1909. This call included the rights of workers to accident insurance which Cde Bishop said, "today many countries in our region still have not passed into law," 71 years after.

Second, Cde Bishop said, Garvey called for a minimum wage for working people, who were then working for 16 and 17 hours a day, for only about \$2.

Third, Garvey called for an eight-hour work day, "a revolutionary demand," said Cde Bishop, "considering the time in which it was made."

Fourth, Garvey called for land reform in Jamaica, when he saw the land still being dominated by a few foreigners.

And fifth, Garvey [called attention to the] big companies sucking Jamaica dry.

Cde Bishop noted that it took some 35 years after Garvey's death before any of these demands were complied with by any government in Jamaica. He said that "government after government, after Jamaica's independence in 1962, ignored these demands, up until 1972, when Prime Minister Michael Manley won the election.

"Up to 1972, 90 per cent of Jamaica's workers were working for less than \$20 a week, and 75 per cent were working for less than \$10 a week. And in 1969, only seven big companies owned more than a quarter of the entire land mass of Jamaica," said Cde Bishop.

"It was not until 1972-80 that we began to see in Jamaica that the calls made by Garvey were being implemented," he said.

Cde Bishop said there are also several principles Garvey stood for, from which we can still learn today.

Firstly, he referred to Garvey's anti-imperialist and anti-colonial stand. "This is one principle that all of us in the Caribbean who believe in peace, justice and progress must continue to fight for," he said.

Secondly, he spoke of Garvey's principle of organising and mobilising the people for self-reliant activity. "Garvey under-

stood the principle of getting the people involved in whatever activities are being carried out on their behalf," he said.

Thirdly, he pointed to Garvey's realisation of the need for consistency, individual self-determination, and individual courage. "Throughout his lifetime, Garvey exemplified these traits," said Cde Bishop.

"He never allowed himself to be a coward, nor did he ever lose his dream of a black people that were politically and economically free, notwithstanding the attacks from the planters, from the notorious 'Gleaner' newspaper, or the attempts of U.S. imperialism, first to kill him, and to frame him successfully and put him in jail."

Fourthly, there was Garvey's realisation that in the shortest period of time, benefits have to be brought to the people, and their quality of life has to be greatly improved. "That is why Garvey founded the UNIA in 1914, as well as the Black Star Line shipping company," said Cde Bishop.

Fifthly, Cde Bishop noted that Garvey understood the need to defend the country and the organisation. "This is an important principle for all the struggling people of the world to remember," he urged.

Cde Bishop said Garvey also understood that once imperialism sees a people moving in a direction to their own benefit, imperialism will "come for them."

"It is a law that we have seen throughout the world," he said. "We saw it in Chile, where, notwithstanding the fact that Allende had won a popular election, that he continued to allow parliament to function, that he refused to arm the industrial workers, that he refused to disband the 'El Mercurio' newspaper, that he refused to crush the reactionaries who were promoting counter-revolution, that he was preparing to hold free and fair general elections, or that four days before he was overthrown there was a massive popular election in his favour, imperialism and local reaction went for Allende on September 11, 1973, and Allende and thousands upon thousands of Chilean patriots were murdered in the streets of Chile."

"Therefore," said Cde Bishop, "one of the things we say to our friends in the PNP government and the progressive movement in Jamaica is: Do not forget Allende and Chile, because it is clear to us in Grenada that exactly what was taking place in Chile during the last three to four months of Allende's time, is now taking place in Jamaica."

"We can see there too, the violence being unleashed by imperialism and local reaction," said Cde Bishop. He referred to the Orange Lane and Eventide fires, Manley's preparations to hold free and fair elections, the continuous attacks against Manley by the "Gleaner," Manley's continuous holding of parliamentary sessions, and the people of Jamaica being murdered in the streets daily, without being given arms to defend themselves.

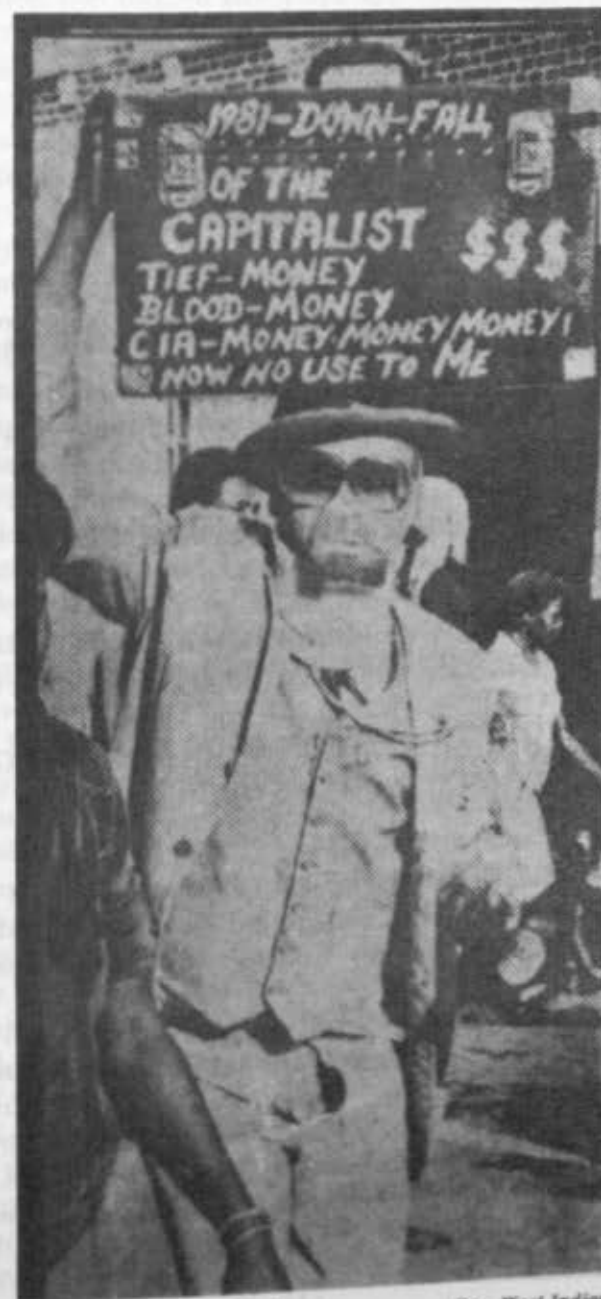
Cde Bishop said Grenada was urging Jamaica not to forget the lessons of history—"a people without guns to defend themselves cannot carry a process forward."

It is a duty that Manley and the progressive forces in Jamaica have, not only to the people of Jamaica, he said, but also to the people of the Caribbean, Latin and Central America and the entire "Third World," for which Manley is a powerful spokesman.

Cde Bishop also spoke of the importance of the upcoming elections in Jamaica and the United States.

He said Reagan's having an ally like Seaga in Jamaica would be a "monstrous and deadly development," and "that is why it is our duty to support Manley."

*FWI, August 23, 1980*



Political mas'-carnival 1981.

*Free West Indian*

# 9

## Women

### Introduction

The NJM's 1973 manifesto already showed concern for the special problems of women, especially with their disabilities under the law. Large numbers of women supported the NJM from its inception. Once in power, the NJM moved quickly to legislate for maternity leave, equal pay and against sexual exploitation at the workplace. Women also volunteered in ample numbers for the militia, the literacy campaign and the new mass organizations. The National Women's Organization itself became one of the most successful of the mass organizations. An early Women's Desk in the Ministry of Education and Social Affairs gave way in 1982 to a full-fledged Ministry of Women's Affairs.

### MAURICE BISHOP—SPEECH TO THE FIRST CONGRESS, NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Comrades,

Our party and government salutes this historic first congress of our National Women's Organisation and this outstanding tribute to the free, fighting women of free and revolutionary Grenada.

It has been a long, hard road to this day. This fifth anniversary, this historic first congress has not come about easily, without a tremendous amount of sacrifice, a tremendous amount of struggle on the part of the leading women of our country.

We can see this struggle in several different ways. We can recognise the great achievements of our fighting women if we just pause to consider the fact that when this National Women's

Organisation was formed five years ago on December 10, 1977 we were talking about 60 of the leading women of our country getting together. A few years later, on March 13, 1979, the dawn of our Revolution, there were only 120 women in the NWO. And even as late as December 1980 the figure stood at only 1,500 in 47 groups around the country. Yet by December 1981, as a result of the massive mobilisational drive that ran from July to December, we are able today to proclaim to the world that our NWO now stands at 6,500 strong.

### Sacrifice and Suffering Bought Achievements

And comrades, as Cde Phyllis [Coard] was pointing out, the achievement came about as a result of tremendous suffering and exploitation of the women of our country—exploitation from slavery, through colonialism, Gairyism, GNP-ism, neo-colonial independence, exploitation and suffering which saw the women of our country without jobs, with some 70% of them unemployed before the Revolution, exploitation which left our women without dignity having to subject themselves to sexual exploitation in return for work; exploitation which left our women without any security, without any maternity leave, without the right to join trade unions, without the right to equal pay for equal work; exploitation which saw the women of our country with no opportunity for developing themselves individually and collectively, with no opportunity to receive education, with no opportunity to participate in a democratic way in the running of their own country.

This exploitation left the women of our country with no peace, but only with harassment as a result of the brutal beatings of their husbands, sons and brothers and, as a result of the brutal humiliation that they themselves had to be subjected to at the hands of Gairy's green beasts, secret police and Mongoose Gang.

All of this exploitation and suffering never for one moment daunted the courage and fighting spirit of the Grenadian women who always came back fighting. At every stage of our history from slavery, through colonialism and Gairyism we have been able to see this struggle and fight on the part of our women.

Let's consider the recent past—the last 12 years. Who can ever forget the glorious marches of 1970 led by the nurses of our country, marches that were not called to get better wages for themselves but marches and demonstrations called because of their concern over lack of bandages and medicines and aspirins and basic facilities in what was being called a hospital, but could better have been described as the third department of La Qua's Funeral Agency. Who could ever forget that year and the struggle and courage of those nurses.

And who can ever forget 1979, when the women farmers of our country came out in their thousands protesting Gairy's attempt to grab their Nutmeg Board and Nutmeg Association from them.

Who could ever forget 1973 when the women of our country were in the forefront of the people's struggle against Lord Brownlow, that foreign parasite who believed he could come to our country and lock up our beach, claiming it was part of his property!

Who could ever forget the large number of our women who went to the airport in April, 1973 after Jeremiah Richardson, one of our first martyrs, was murdered by a police bullet, and faced the guns and pressures of Belmar and his henchmen.

Who can forget the massive turn out of our women at the People's Convention on Independence in May, 1973, and at the People's Congress in November of the same year! Who can forget their fighting spirit then when they called on Gairy to resign and when they elected a National Unity Council in order to effect a smooth transition to power of the new Government!

Who can forget the glorious saga of our fighting women in our streets in January 1974, when for 21 days one third of our population marched every single day calling upon the dictator to resign.

Who can forget January 21, 1974 when our women had to face the bullets, bullpistles and sticks of the Mongoose Gang and the criminal elements in Gairy's armed forces, and the courage and dignity with which our women stood up and fought back.

Who can forget throughout that period of 1974 and 1975, the daily acts of heroism that our women performed: hiding gasoline to ensure that the leadership could move around the country during those difficult months; ensuring that the newspaper of our party always came out regardless of its suppression by the Gairy dictatorship; week after week finding paper, moving the [printing] machine around from house to house to avoid detection; writing the articles and typing, producing and distributing the newspapers.

Who can forget all of that heroism! Who can forget the tremendous acts of self-sacrifice and courage displayed by one of our great national heroes, an elderly sister in her 60's, a sister who hid members of the party in the underground days, and who, every single Saturday morning would leave her house on Lucas Street and go outside with bundles of newspapers and pass those papers, in a hidden form to different bus drivers going to St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's!

And who can forget that fateful Saturday morning, while carrying out her usual revolutionary task of distributing the paper, how this sister was unfortunately crushed by a bus after having slipped and fallen! Who can ever forget the outstanding, unparalleled qualities of Sister Edith McBain, one of the main heroes of the Grenada Revolution!

#### **Our Women Played Their Role on March 13, 1979**

And as we know, comrades, such courage was shown not just before the Revolution but also after the Revolution. If the women of our country had not come out in their tens of thousands on Revolution morn, if they had not brought water and food to the revolutionary troops—the new troops freshly created, from the youth and unemployed in our country—if they had not come out and cooked the food and joined their menfolk in going to the police stations to ensure that the white flags of surrender were put up, maybe March 13th could have had a different meaning.

And who will ever forget after the Revolution, the historic rally on June 19, 1980, when we were commemorating Heroes

Day—as we know the women of our country were in the majority at that historic rally—and when the bomb went off, and those murderers who had planned to wipe out the leadership were able to sit back and count the totality of their destruction, what did we find: 97 of our people sent to the hospital, 80 of them women, 40 hospitalised, 36 of them women; 3 murdered, all of them women. Today, once again we salute the memory and the sacrifice of Laurice, Lorraine and Bernadette.

Today, comrades, we also think of the heroic role our women played in tracking down those vicious counter-revolutionaries who, not satisfied with their work on June 19, 1980, proceeded on November 17 of the same year, in one single night, to murder 5 of our patriots, all young sons of our Revolution. And when the People's Militia and the other sections of our Armed Forces under the leadership of General [Hudson] Austin decided to look for them, and when revolutionary justice was handed out to them, the women in our militia were again in the forefront (applause).

Today's first congress, therefore, symbolises and reflects the rewards and achievements for all of these sacrifices and struggles. And the reward is a very rich one, comrades. We have seen it in the regional and international support for this first congress and for the NWO in general which has come from all around the world from peace-loving, democratic and progressive organisations hailing the achievements of the NWO and welcoming this historic day.

We have seen it by the presence today of comrades from the socialist world, in particular from the Soviet Union and Cuba, by comrades who have come from Europe, and from Asia where the fighting people of one particular country, in February 1978, buried feudalism in their own country once and for all and began a process of socialist construction, and, since then have been harassed night and day—we welcome the delegate from the fighting people of Afghanistan (applause).

We can see this reward today, comrades, in the presence of our sisters from the United States and Canada, from Central America and from the Caribbean. So there is no doubt that the

NWO and the first congress have been amply rewarded by the presence of so many outstanding fighters, the finest representatives of the women of their own countries.

### **Widespread National Support for the NWO**

But we must also mention the great local support that the NWO and the first congress have received by our own people of Grenada—the massive number of solidarity messages from so many different organisations of youth, from state enterprises. All sections of our people have come out and demonstrated in a concrete and practical way their support and love for the women of our country and their leading mass organisation. They have also demonstrated their support, in part, through material offerings they have given to this congress.

Comrades, we can speak today with the fullest confidence, absolute honesty and the firmest conviction of the rise of patriotism amongst the women of our country, of the growth in consciousness among the women of our country, of their greater commitment and dedication, of their almost unbelievable unity.

We can also see the greater internationalism of our women, the growth in their self-respect and dignity, in their self-confidence, in their ability to express themselves, to give vent to their ideas and views and to give expression to their cultural and political creativity.

Today, we can certainly remark on the level and quality of organisation of our women and compliment them for the ever increasing exercise of people's power in our new democracy (applause). And what a fantastic training in democracy our NWO sisters have had over these past few months in preparing for this congress.

The NWO is a fully democratic organisation. This can be seen by the fact that entry into its ranks is open to any woman over the age of 14, as well as by its respect for the right of its members to decide its programme and policy. The NWO also insists that every three years all members have the right to elect their National Executive, and to ensure that these officers are accountable and responsible throughout their three-year term.



In every sense we have seen over these past months a fantastic exercise in democratic participation by the women of our country. This has not been a case where the President of the NWO suddenly descended on this conference centre one December morning and said that this is the programme for the next three years, as is the traditional pattern of many so called democratic organisations.

### An Activity in Democracy

Contrary to that approach, the executive of the NWO over a period of several months, firstly prepared a draft outline of the programme for the next three years, circulated this programme in typed form to every member of the NWO and then for a period of several months, hundreds of discussions at group, parish and delegate levels—analysing the document, criticising and evaluating it, searching for new ideas, for clearer formulations and more concrete perspectives were held.

The result of this activity in democracy has been such that the original draft programme has undergone tremendous changes and the final version which was read here this morning by Cde Phyllis Coard represents, in fact, a document that has been put under the microscope, subjected to numerous discussions by all NWO members and undergone a number of concrete changes. I would like now, comrades, to look at a few of the changes, because I think it is very important for us to see the practical importance and value of democracy and democratic participation.

In the first draft it was stated that the main problem facing women was jobs, but after very serious discussion at group, parish and national levels, the women had a closer look at that analysis and decided that instead they should speak of two main problems and two main tasks. The analysis that produced that change was fundamental, because what the sisters concluded was that it was not enough in our context and conditions to simply speak of unemployment as being the main problem. Rather, it was necessary to examine at the same time how to go one step further and look at how we can solve unemployment in a productive way that could benefit the country at large.

Coming out of that analysis, the sisters were able to go back and do a lot more concrete research, work out figures on the likely availability of jobs over the next three years, examine what kinds of skills would be required in the workforce over the next three years, analyse whether or not those women presently out of jobs were likely to fill the jobs coming on stream, and if not, look for the type of training necessary for those tasks: jobs for our women, yes, but because of the increasing complexity of the economy and the new skills needed, the second priority linked to the first priority must be training and education for the women of our country. That is how it came about that the programme speaks so concretely about political education, academic education, skills training and leadership training.

Comrades, our party and government certainly want to give our total support to this new formulation and analysis. It is our confident expectation that over the next few years we will wipe out unemployment in our country but in order to do that in a fully productive way we must ensure that as the new jobs are created, our people have the necessary skills to take up those new jobs.

The more than 23,000 people who were not at work before the Revolution have now become 5,600, four thousand of them being women, the vast majority of whom do not have primary school leaving certificates, or special skills, or training for most jobs.

But while on the one hand that is the reality facing us, on the other hand, the needs of the economy are very different. We estimate, for example, that in agriculture 2,500 jobs are likely to be created over the next three years—jobs for tractor drivers, soil scientists, farm managers, agricultural economists, accountants, co-operative farmers, extension officers and so on: jobs that demand skills for the modernised agriculture that we are in the process of building.

It is the same in construction, comrades. The 2,000 new jobs we expect to be created in construction over the next three years will require plumbers, electricians, masons, carpenters, painters, architects, mechanics, surveyors, soil testers, engineers, and so on. But the most cursory examination will show that



most of the unemployed women today do not have the necessary skills or training to take up these jobs.

It is not far different in tourism where at least another 500 jobs should be created in the next three years, particularly when the new international airport, and new hotels and restaurants come on stream. And again these new jobs will require a certain measure of skill.

With our industrial expansion too, we will be looking for people who cannot only read and write but who also have the ability to use modern equipment and technology. In all areas, therefore, it is quite clear that the answer is no longer to simply say that if we find jobs for the unemployed then the problem is over, because the question that will increasingly remain is what kind of jobs and what kind of skills.

Therefore comrades, if we are to scientifically prepare for the future, it must be correct that our main priority must be to provide the appropriate training and education for those still unemployed, in order to ensure that they are able to take up the jobs once they come on stream.

And, there are other examples of how the draft program was affected by thorough discussion. Another analysis was made by the sisters which I think is extremely important. They said that even if the training is provided we will still have the problem that many of those unemployed sisters have children, and most of them do not have the means to hire help to look after the children, and many cannot get voluntary help, and therefore, the question of the day care centres and pre-primary and nursery facilities also become major issues.

When they analysed the question in detail, they discovered that it was not just about the number of jobs and the type of training required for those jobs, but also about where the children would be put when those sisters take up jobs for the first time in their lives. And the answer to that question is not easy.

The sisters, therefore, concluded correctly that because day care centres are very expensive they would have to better maintain those that we already have. They would have to put more voluntary labour into maintaining the existing plants.

They are pointing out, secondly, that one way in which we can ensure that we build more day care centres is if the furniture and toys required for the existing ones are built by the women of our country on a voluntary basis. They are pointing out, thirdly, that in order for those we have to continue operating, and for more to come on stream, the women must give of their time voluntarily in order to look after the children in the day care centres.

Furthermore, they are pointing out that it is critically important to expand and deepen their international work and through these means, seek ways of receiving internationalist assistance in the form of equipment and materials for the construction and equipping of these centres.

### **Collective Input and Wisdom**

The point is, comrades, that out of the discussions a very concrete analysis resulted, and its concreteness shows that a realistic approach is being taken to this question of day care facilities. The democratic discussions have led to a more elaborate and concrete document and one that is much more valuable because it reflects the collective input and wisdom of all NWO members.

Also, as a result of the discussions, more concrete ideas have come up with regards to legal reform, the solutions to social problems, price control, culture and sports, all areas where women face problems. In fact, as the result of a national survey among 700 NWO members, a debate that was going on for some time within the organisations was finally answered. This survey established that the women of the NWO also wanted to be involved in sporting activities for the women of our country. And I feel that, too, is very important for our women (applause).

The discussions also revealed that a number of the problems faced by the organisation are problems which can be solved by the women themselves. They identified, for example, a shortage of quality, full-time workers for NWO's organising work.

And one of their creative solutions to this problem is the proposal to develop new committee structures at the national, parish and group levels. At the national level the approach will

be not just to rely on the members of the national executive who are greatly overworked, as they had done in the past, but to develop instead a number of national committees, with a national executive member leading each committee.

At the parish level the idea is not just to rely on the parish executive members of the NWO, but also to have those members develop and lead a number of parish committees that would share the work, and at the group level, to develop group committees also aimed at diversifying and sharing the work among more sisters.

As to the problem of inactive members, a problem faced by all organisations that have grown large, where you discover that very often it is a minority of women who are, every day, engaged in concrete work, the way in which our NWO sisters have handled this problem is to recognise that inactivity very often relates to a lack of interesting activities and a sufficiently exciting programme, and therefore ultimately, it relates to a lack of effective leadership at the group level.

#### **Proposed Training Courses**

Their proposed solution to this problem is to develop three new types of training in order to train the new political leadership at the middle and base level, the cadres required to get the groups with vibrancy and active participation of all members.

One of these training courses will concentrate on political education talks where, every month, 12 members of each group will be singled out and a political education talk will be given along with a written hand-out, after which it will be the responsibility of these 12 sisters to take this knowledge back to their groups.

A second method of training will be a two-hour leadership training programme every fortnight, over a 3 month period. And finally, a third method will be a combined political education and leadership training course over six months, utilising one weekend in every month.

I have absolutely no doubt, comrades, that if this programme is maintained, with its correct emphasis on political education

and leadership training, then by June of next year, already we would have seen a tremendous impact on the quality of work, and on the level of organisation, within the NWO (applause).

We are convinced that this programme, because of its seriousness and its correct identification of the major problems, will increase even more the quality of organisational skills that the women in the NWO already possess.

#### **Expansion of Woman's Human Rights**

Comrades, we see all this activity over the last few months, all this discussion as being genuine democracy, as being the way in which real democratic participation should take place. We see this as being a real expansion of the human rights of our women.

In many other ways, the NWO and the Revolution have expanded the human rights of the women of our country. The equal pay for equal work decree was an expansion of human rights. The prohibition of sexual exploitation by men in return for jobs was also a new human right. The Maternity Leave Law which stipulates that for three months during and just after pregnancy that women are entitled to such leave, and are entitled to have their jobs back at the end of such pregnancy, that, too, was another real expansion of the human rights of our women.

The Community Health Brigades that the women have been developing in order to improve the health conditions of their families and themselves, are, too, an expansion of the human rights of our sisters. The benefits received together with other workers, through the National Transport Service, the Rent Law, the increased women's compensation, the Third Party Insurance law which ensures that buses must now be insured for at least \$100,000 so that in the event of accident there will be reasonable compensation for the family, the free milk programme, the housing repair programme—all of these programmes which the women, together with the men of our country, have benefitted from are, in our view, real expansions of the human rights that the women of our country have been able to enjoy for the first time.

### New Class Formation

I want to focus for awhile on the question of jobs, looking at this question in the context of the growth, the role and the importance of the working class women of our country. Obviously, the more workers that come into the workforce the greater should be our production. The speed at which we can bring more workers into production will help to determine the pace at which we can make the transition [to] the path of socialist construction in our country.

As more and more women come in from the working class and assume positions of leadership in the National Women's Organisation, and receive scientific training as leaders, then more and more the new working class that develops will be a more mature, more class-conscious and more organised working class. So this question of the expansion of the women workers in our country is really a very, very important question for us here in Grenada.

We have done an analysis of 275 of the 300 plus delegates who are attending this congress. A poll was done of these sisters and they were asked to answer a questionnaire with various questions like: where they are working, how long they have been working there, their social class background and that of their families and so on. And from this analysis we have been able to discover that the 275 delegates who were polled 180 of them were employed in one way or the other, and of this 180, 67% of them were members of the working class. They are members of the urban working class, the rural working class or they are NWO part-time and full-time workers.

From the urban and rural working class there are 91 delegates in that figure of 180 who are employed. That is, 50.5% of all the employed delegates are from the urban and rural working class. Add to this 30 more delegates who are NWO part-time and full-time workers (16.5% of the total), and we have a grand total of 121 of these sisters coming directly from the working class, or 67% of all of the delegates who are present.

Now, comrades that is a highly significant development. These figures are extremely revealing because they confirm a

number of things which we have been thinking about more and more. They confirm, first of all, that the economy has in fact been growing, something that has been independently established by the World Bank, among others. They confirm too that many more jobs have been created for our unemployed people, particularly our women. And, most of all, they confirm, the development of new class formations in our country.

If we compare the social class background of the mothers of these delegates with their own, you begin to see how important these figures are. Because what these figures also show is that over one quarter of all the mothers of these delegates are housewives as opposed to only 4.7% of the delegates being housewives and that only 2.2% of the mothers were intellectual workers as compared to fully 25% of the delegates being intellectual workers.

In one short generation, we are able already to see a very fundamental change and development taking place in the overall class formations in our country and in particular, the working class. The development of the working class carries tremendous implications for increasing production and for building the new society.

Comrades, I want to end on a point that was raised by your comrade President—the question of the internationalist work that our women have to do and the critical question of peace. Women, just as men, and, perhaps women even more than men, because women are the childbearers, have a great responsibility to ensure peace (applause).

We believe the NWO has, in fact, begun to assume more of its internationalist responsibilities. More and more solidarity days are being held with different struggling peoples. More and more political education talks are being given. More and more members of the NWO are members of the Grenada Peace Council. For example, Cde Claudette Pitt, International Relations Secretary of the NWO is an executive member of the Grenada Peace Council. The NWO is a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the largest and most progressive international women's organisation. The President of the NWO, Cde Phyllis Coard is a member of the Continental Women's

Front Against Aggression, and earlier this year a National Solidarity Campaign with the peoples of El Salvador, Namibia and Angola, organised by the NWO, commanded a lot of enthusiasm and received a lot of support from our people. In fact, \$8,000 was raised for the struggling freedom fighters in El Salvador and 500 boxes of clothing were sent to the refugees of Angola and Namibia (applause).

It is our view in the Party and Government that this work has to be deepened and strengthened because it is extremely important for the women of our country. It is important because the National Women's Organisation wants progress and happiness for all of its members. It wants security, progressive development and long life for the children of our country. But all of this cannot come about in the context of an unstable peace, where threats are being made against our process and other revolutionary processes, where tension prevails in the region. Therefore, peace is the first requirement to ensure these objective needs are met.

### What Development Really Means

If we look at this question in terms of development, we can say that development implies a growing economy, more jobs for the people, more benefits in the areas of education, health care, housing, water and food. Development means more infrastructure for the country: physical infrastructure like the international airport, the main roads, the feeder roads, the new telephone plant, the new electricity generators and so on.

Development also means the social infrastructure where we can emphasise health and education; the political infrastructure where we have the democratic organs that allow our people to participate in running the country; the economic infrastructure where we have the planning mechanisms; the military infrastructure where we are developing a strong armed forces based, in particular, on the people through their militia.

But all of these aspects of infrastructure are really [not] very important when finally compared to the most important aspect of infrastructure—the peace aspect. Because if we don't have

peace, if world war descends on mankind, tomorrow, it would not greatly matter what work we've done on the physical, the social, the political, the economic or the military infrastructure. In the final analysis, all of those infrastructures could get wiped out in a few seconds.

### The Critical Importance of World Peace

And that is why it is so important for us to ensure that the women of our country concentrate in practice on raising the consciousness of all of our people on the critical importance of world peace; on the need to end the arms race, on the importance of disarmament and detente, on the need to ensure that those people who are manufacturing neutron bombs are completely exposed; on the need to support the people of the Soviet Union on their public declaration that they will never be the first to use nuclear arms (applause).

We need to support the Soviet Union and other socialist world countries in the tireless efforts which they have been making to promote the concept of peaceful co-existence, a concept developed by Lenin many years ago, a concept which was continued and developed further by the late Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, another foremost champion and stalwart for peace (applause).

We need, in practice, to get the women in our NWO to understand the importance of having this Caribbean declared a Zone of Peace, Independence and Development. They must understand that such a declaration means an end to military bases set up without the consent of the people in a particular country; an end to aggressive military manoeuvres that threaten the peace of the region; an end to the use of mercenaries against other people's processes; the right of all peoples to build their own process in their own way, after their own image and likeness, free from all forms of outside dictation: free from all threats, free from the bigstick.

This must be something that is concrete in the minds of our women. Because, if we are able to get these aspects of the Zone of Peace principle accepted, in practice, think of what it would

mean for Cuba, Nicaragua, for the revolutionary process in Suriname, and for our own revolution in Grenada.

### **Real Necessities for the Present**

We have to begin to see these concepts not as abstractions but as real necessities that the present period demands. Establishing a Zone of Peace, Independence and Development means guaranteeing the right of all colonial peoples to become fully independent and free. If that was fully accepted, think of what it would mean for the patriots of Puerto Rico who are today still fighting for their independence.

If the right of a people to shake off oligarchs, and dictators, as part of their right to self-determination were accepted, think of what it would mean for the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; people fighting against military and other dictatorships, who although oppressed, yet see tremendous support being given to their oppressors by the United States, in particular.

Think of what it would mean for us if this Zone of Peace declaration really became accepted in practice, and put an end once and for all, to all forms of propaganda destabilisation, economic aggression and destabilisation, political and diplomatic isolation, military threats and the use of military force against any other country.

Think of what that would mean for the prospects and possibilities of peaceful and progressive development for all of our people in Grenada.

So comrades, this question of peace, of getting to understand more and more what is meant by the Zone of Peace, of getting the women in the NWO to really internalise all of its concepts and begin to speak more and more to our people about its importance, is something that we can never underestimate.

### **Importance of Ideological Pluralism**

Linked to the zone of peace is the important question of ideological pluralism. What this concept of ideological pluralism really says is that everybody has a right to choose their own

way of developing their own country, that everybody has the right to decide their own social, economic, cultural and political forms and to develop their countries in their way. A major struggle is still being waged to get these concepts accepted.

The recent Caricom Heads of Government meeting was a classic example of the difficulties of getting these concepts accepted, because there were people at that conference who were opposed to these fundamental principles. And some of these people, having been exposed before public opinion in the Caribbean, are now pretending that they never had any disagreement, and that Grenada is making up something on them.

But as all of our people know, comrades, we in the People's Revolutionary Government and the New Jewel Movement never tell lies. We rely only on the facts and the truth (applause).

Some of these elements today are trying to get some of their friends in the so-called free press to pretend that at the conference the questions of a Zone of Peace and of ideological pluralism (and I expect that soon they will add the question of the University of the West Indies) were never discussed.

But the fact is that these matters were discussed. And it is important for the people of Grenada and the people of the region to insist that all of their representatives make a public stand on these critical questions. The people have a right to know where their leaders stand on this question of a Zone of Peace and on the right of all people to develop their own countries in their own way. This kind of exposure therefore must be done (applause).

We certainly continue to say in Grenada: yes to the Zone of Peace, yes to the principle of ideological pluralism, yes to the need to keep the University of the West Indies as a regional institution, and we have no doubt that all of our people, all of our workers, farmers, youth, and women will fight for these principles.

We know that our people will reject all attempts at ducking and covering up. We know that our people are going to insist that our party and government continue to demand that the Caribbean is in fact declared a Zone of Peace.

We are confident that our people and, among them, our women, will continue to support the just struggles of the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti and Chile. Our people will continue to support the revolutionary processes going forward in Cuba, Nicaragua and Suriname; will continue to give our fullest support to the fighting people of Mozambique and Angola who are today facing the threat of direct invasion from South Africa, will continue to support the people of Palestine in their just claim for their own territory; will continue to support the people of East Timor, the people of the Western Sahara, the people of Namibia, the people of South Africa and all of the National Liberation Movements around the world fighting for peace, independence, justice and social progress for their people (applause).

We have absolutely no doubt that the free, fighting women, of revolutionary Grenada, with pens in their hands when necessary, with machines and tractors when necessary, with cutlasses and forks when necessary, with their organs of people's power when necessary, and with their guns when necessary, will fight to safeguard our revolution, to build it and push it forward (applause).

### Confidence in Our Heroic Women

We know that we can rely with the greatest of confidence on the heroic fighting women of Grenada. We know we can rely on them to safeguard and defend every nutmeg pod in our country, every cocoa tree in our country, every single saponilla in our country and the grains of hair on the heads of all the elderly and young people in our country (applause).

Today, we salute the National Women's Organisation and their First Congress. We salute the work of our women over the years in production, our women agricultural workers, our women farmers, our women construction workers, our women in cooperatives and our women teachers. We salute the tremendous work the Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs has played over the years and in particular the role which has been played by Cde Jacqueline Creft as Minister of Education (applause).

Today, we salute the creation of the new Ministry of Women's Affairs for the first time in the history of our country and the history of the English-speaking Caribbean. We also salute the outstanding leaders of the NWO for their tremendous courage, discipline, dedication and self-sacrifice. We commend them for their outstanding organisational qualities, for the scientific work which they have done over the months and years to ensure that the NWO is today what it is. And in particular, we salute the tremendous work that has been done by Cde Phyllis Coard, the President of the National Women's Organisation (applause).

We salute today, comrades, the memory of Edith McBain, of Scotilda, of Laurice, Lorraine and Bernadette, and so many unknown and unsung martyrs and heroes who died in the cause of justice and freedom over the years (applause).

Today, we are confident that the National Women's Organisation will go forward with the tasks which you have set, that you will continue to make progress in production, education and training; that the priorities which you have set in political education, skills training, and academic education through the CPE will be followed; that the internationalist work which you have outlined for yourselves will strengthen your responsibilities not only to the Grenada Revolution but to the world revolutionary process and to the struggle for peace and progress and against imperialism. We are confident that our women in the fighting NWO, conscious of their duties, will go forward and will carry out these historic tasks (applause).

Long live the National Women's Organisation!

Long live the women of free Grenada!

Long live the women of the Caribbean, Latin America and the World!

Long live the common struggle of women and men to destroy imperialism!

Long live the struggle for world peace!

Long live the unity of the workers, women, youth and farmers of free Grenada!

Long live the Grenada Revolution!

Forward ever!

Backward Never!  
(Prolonged applause).

*FWI*, December 11, 1982

### NWO CONGRESS

The long months of preparation by the National Women's Organisation (NWO), now makes way for the most important event in its short but interesting history, the first NWO Congress.

The NWO has, since its formation five years ago, been a motive force behind the nation's women, ever inspiring them to recognise themselves as integral to the process of genuine people's development and social progress.

The NWO, which boasts of a membership in excess of 8,000, has, since the revolution of March 13th 1979, been in the forefront of building peoples' participation. The nation's women have been urged to enter in areas of productive work which society had formerly considered to be open only to the men.

Never before, in Grenada's history, have our women sought to involve themselves in non-traditional areas of work. The woman who today operates the Caterpillar at the airport site, with distinction and pride, is indeed an inspiring example of the new Grenadian Woman, coming out of the NWO experience.

The number of co-operatives which have developed as a direct result of the NWO's work, such as the Bakery Co-operative in Byelands and the Co-operative which processes local fruit at Pope Paul's Camp, are trailblazers in a Women's movement that commits itself to the type of economic construction which is a distinctive feature of the revolutionary process taking place in Grenada.

The keenness with which the NWO has delved into the area of Day Care Centres, is indicative of the growing consciousness by which its members are continually motivated. There has been full recognition that the children are the future leaders of our society, and hence the very best elements of our society have been deeply involved in the process of Early Childhood Education.

The school books and uniforms programme for which the NWO is also responsible, has been the medium through which several of the poorest sections of the Grenadian society have been able to benefit from a sound education.

The readiness with which the NWO has responded to regional and international disasters, is indicative of the high spirit of internationalism which prevades that organisation. Whether the assistance is needed by Nicaragua in the time of flood, or any other country, the NWO has been among the first organisations to show profound solidarity by working seriously to help in whatever ways possible.

There can be no doubt that the Congress which begins tomorrow will seek to review the organisation's performance over the past few years in a manner which seeks to critically analyse its strengths and weaknesses.

It is this approach which alone will enable the NWO to plan the way forward for the coming period. Already, the draft constitution has been discussed by several delegates, throughout the length and breadth of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

The seriousness of the delegates to the Congress as exhibited by their performance over the past weeks, indicates quite clearly, that the Congress will be filled with discussion of a nature which will serve as the basis for a more vibrant, dynamic NWO in the coming period.

*FWI*, December 4, 1982

### MATERNITY LEAVE LAW, 1980

The Women's Desk wishes to advise all employers and all women workers of the following main provisions of the Maternity Leave Law, 1980:

All pregnant women employees are entitled to three months maternity leave, and the right to return to work at the end of that leave.

An employee who has worked for the same employer for at least 18 months previously is also entitled to receive full salary for two of her three months maternity leave. The exact amounts

of maternity are: two months for monthly-paid workers; four fortnights or eight weeks for fortnightly paid workers, and one-sixth of the previous year's pay (a little more than two months) for daily-paid workers.

The worker can claim her maternity pay either as a lump sum to be paid on the first day of her maternity leave, or as wages to be paid in the usual manner.

It is the worker's right to choose the dates of her maternity leave. She must give her employer at least two weeks' notice of her maternity leave requirement and her intention to return to work afterwards. She must also notify her employer two weeks before she returns to work. She has the right to choose to return to work before the three months are up, but her employer does not have the right to order her to do so.

Maternity leave must be granted, in addition to any vacation leave due to the worker.

An extension of maternity leave for two extra (unpaid) months must be given if the worker produces a medical certificate postponing her return on grounds of her health or that of her baby.

A worker who has maternity leave rights both under a trade union contract and under this law may choose whichever right is more favourable to her (but may not exercise both rights).

After the first maternity pay claim, a worker is only entitled to claim maternity pay after two years have passed, and not for more than three births in all. However, all women workers must, whatever the circumstances, be given at minimum three months unpaid leave.

An employer who fails to grant the maternity leave, or the required maternity pay, will be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of up to \$1,000 or six months' imprisonment.

An employer who fires a worker simply because she is pregnant will be liable to a fine of up to \$2,000 or one year's imprisonment. It would be the responsibility of the employer to prove that the worker was not fired because of pregnancy.

An employer who is ordered by the court to reinstate an employee and refuses to do so will be liable to a fine of up

to \$50 for each day during which the worker remained out of work.

In the two previous cases, the worker will be entitled to receive all salary owed to her for the period during which she remained unemployed.

Every employer must keep records for each female employee showing the employer's and the worker's name and address, the date when the worker was first employed by him, the normal pay and working week of the employee, and the dates of any maternity leave granted and maternity pay paid to the worker. An employer may be prosecuted and fined up to \$500 for not keeping such records.

Employers of household help can claim income tax exemption of half the maternity pay they have paid out, provided that the employer's income, (or income of husband and wife as joint employers) is not above \$20,000 per year.

The law does not apply to the wife and children of an employer, nor to casual workers (working an average of less than two days per week).

This law applies to ALL CATEGORIES OF WORKERS—agricultural workers, factory workers, teachers, civil servants, police, prison and army employees, store and supermarket workers, nurses and nursing students, road workers, manual and domestic servants.

This law was passed on October 10, 1980.

If you believe that your rights under the law have been or are being denied, contact the Women's Desk, the Labour Commissioner or the Ministry of Legal Affairs for advice.

**KNOW THE MATERNITY LEAVE LAW  
RESPECT THE MATERNITY LEAVE LAW  
RESPECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Women's Desk  
Ministry of Education and Social Affairs  
Young Street, St. George's



### PRG SHOWING AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S ROLE, SAYS CIM HEAD

Grenadian women are conscious of their social and economic roles in society, said Dr. Julieta Jardi De Morales Maceda, president of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the women's body sponsored by the Organisation of American States (OAS).

At a press conference on Saturday, she expressed satisfaction with the new Ministry for Women's Affairs set up by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), since it shows the PRG's awareness that women are important and its desire to improve their lot. She pointed out that not all governments are that conscious of women's role, and there are only two other such ministries in the region.

Dr. Morales felt it was good that attempts are being made here to train women in nontraditional areas and expressed pleasure at seeing an almost equal representation of men and women students at the new Bocage Agricultural Training School in St. Mark's, which opened Friday.

She held Vice-Minister of Women's Affairs, and CIM's delegate here, Phyllis Coard as an example for women to follow, because of her hard and dedicated work.

Grenada is on CIM's executive committee with five other countries: Colombia, Chile, the United States, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic.

CIM was formed at the OAS's sixth assembly in 1928 to recognize the political and civic rights of the women of the Americas, and has since then extended its role to include education, training, health and housing.

One representative from each of CIM's 25 countries comprises the organisation, which meets every two years in its general assembly to elect a president, vice-president, and the six countries that form its executive committee.

Research and training for women and support for projects such as improvement of nutrition, are some of the services which CIM extends for women in member countries.

Since 1979 Grenada has benefitted from CIM's assistance. In 1979 it sponsored a national conference for women, in 1980 a series of parish seminars for women on organisation and leadership training, and their role in building Grenada, and in 1981 two trade union seminars for female agricultural workers, which 120 women attended.

The Early Childhood Unit of the Ministry of Women's Affairs will benefit for the next two years from CIM's assistance. It has just given a grant to pay for a specialist in early childhood care to direct an in-service training programme for pre-primary school teachers, for the next two years.

Dr. Morales is from Uruguay and is a lawyer and specialist in educational training. CIM is based in Washington.

While here, she met Minister of Education and Women's Affairs, Jacqueline Creft, and visited the international airport project and the asphalt plant.

She arrived here Thursday and left Sunday for Dominica. She has already visited Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados.

Dr. Morales was elected CIM's president in 1980 at its 20th assembly and her term of office will end in November.

*FWI, September 25, 1982*

### WOMEN'S FRONT FORMED

A new solidarity organisation called "Women's Front Against Intervention" (WFAI) has been formed at the Continental Meeting of Women, held in Nicaragua from March 24 to 26.

The National Women's Organisation's (NWO) President, Phyllis Coard, was chosen to represent the English speaking Caribbean on this nine member front, which aims at protecting existing revolutions and revolutionary processes wherever they exist, and which specifically opposes aggression against Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

The WFAI will spearhead the formation of broadbased anti-intervention fronts in the countries where they don't exist, and strengthen them where they already exist. These fronts will comprise farmers, workers, youth, students and all patriots.

One of the concrete tasks of the WFAI is to publicise the gains brought to the Cuban, Nicaraguan and Grenadian people from their revolutions.

The members of WFAI will meet as often as is necessary to coordinate its work.

To form a local front the NWO intends to approach the Trade Union Movements, the National Youth Organisation, and other patriotic movements, to form a Grenada Front Against Intervention.

The meeting expressed solidarity with the revolutions in Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada, and the liberation struggles in El Salvador and Guatemala. The women pledged to do everything in their power to stop the United State's "Ocean Venture '82 Manoeuvre" being held this April. One of the ways they will try to stop it, is through WFAI staging mass demonstrations in all the countries represented.

The WFAI declared May its month of solidarity with women political prisoners in fascist countries, particularly South Africa and El Salvador and with their mothers, sisters and children.

It also declared it a month of solidarity with the 500 political prisoners of El Salvador at present on a hunger strike. . . .

The representatives at the meeting accepted the PRG's proposals to make the Caribbean a zone of peace, and were all united on the point that no armed intervention should be allowed in Nicaragua, that the Grenadian and Cuban revolutions be free from attack and finally, that the people of El Salvador must be free.

The women represented a broad range of political ideologies, trade unions, socialist parties, religious groups, civil and religious parties, and women's organisations representing different types of women.

Representatives came from North America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, the European Parliament, Asia, Africa, Arab countries, the Socialist countries and Socialist International.

The meeting was organised by the Nicaraguan Women's Organisation, and the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF). Grenada was represented by Patsy Romain,

Tessa Stroude, Gardenia Louison and Phyllis Coard, all members of NWO's executive.

*FWI*, April 3, 1982

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Amidst loud cheering from the approximately 4,000 strong crowd of mainly women, at the International Women's Day (IWD) rally in Cuthbert Peters Park in Gouyave last Sunday, a cheque of \$8,000 was handed over to a representative of the freedom fighters of El Salvador.

The money, handed to Sylvia Martinez by National Women's Organisation's (NWO) president Phyllis Coard, was part of a campaign launched by the NWO six weeks ago to help the freedom fighters. Some 250 cartons of clothing was also collected in the campaign for the people of Namibia and Angola.

According to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, the money showed that approximately eight per cent of Grenada's population contributed \$1.

Sis. Coard said that NWO's campaign had begun at the same time that the Ronald Reagan administration of the United States had stepped up its military aid to El Salvador. Reagan, she said, is not interested in freedom and democracy, but in profits and power.

On women's participation in the budget debate, Sis. Coard said they had made six important suggestions on how they could be involved in economic construction. These are expanding backyard gardening; playing a major role in production through their involvement in workers' production committees; producing more craft for Grencraft; by unemployed women forming agricultural and agro-industrial co-operatives; being involved in a campaign to urge Grenadians to grow local, buy local and eat local; and ensuring that there's no corruption and waste in Government workplaces.

Another highlight of the rally was the address by Angela Davis who had been expected at IWD rallies for the past two years.

Sis. Davis described Grenada as an enormous beacon of light for oppressed people the world over.

Reagan, she said, has the worst record as an opposer of women's rights in the history of U.S. presidents. He is the only president to oppose the Equal Rights Amendment which attempts to secure equal rights for women and he has cut back on welfare benefits particularly to women. His reaction to women, she said, reflects his overall reactionary position.

She outlined the plight of workers and poor people in the U.S. The economic situation in the U.S., she said, is worse than 40 years ago, with some five million people having lost their jobs.

PM Bishop referred to Grenadian women as roses in full bloom. But, he said, imperialism must remember that although roses are sweet, they have thorns and "our women will deal with them when they land."

He described women as the best all-rounded force in the Revolution. They are creating, he said, a revolution within the Revolution. Women today, he said, are 10,000 times more organised than a year ago, and are involved in building new organs of popular democracy.

*FWI, March 13, 1982*

### OUR WOMEN IN ARMS

Women in the Armed Forces, including the militia, on Thursday marched from the St. Patrick's courtyard to Fir Pasture, as a build up to the National Women's Organisation's first congress, Sunday.

At Fir Pasture, the most outstanding women were given emulation awards by the NWO, and these were handed out by Prime Minister Bishop.

A squad from the People's Revolutionary Army put on a display which thrilled the expectant people from St. Patrick's. The squad ran on the pasture camouflaged with pieces of bush, and took up firing positions, firing blank shots at an imaginary enemy.

The parade, led by Officer Cadet Magdalene Duncan of the Police Service, presented arms in salute to PM Bishop, who later inspected them.

Chairperson of the evening's session, and NWO executive member, Lana McPhail, said the parade was a reflection of women's role in the armed forces. One quarter of the armed forces were women, she said, and they did the same training and participated in the same manoeuvres as the men.

Captain Chris Brown, who presented a solidarity message on the armed forces' behalf, pointed out that women were making important contributions in developing all the pillars of the Revolution.

NWO's President, Phyllis Coard, told the women the NWO was proud of women standing firm in the vanguard of the country's defence.

General Hudson Austin in addressing the parade, said it was the first time in his life he had seen a woman commanding a parade of that magnitude, and congratulated OC Duncan.

Before the Revolution, he said, women would run from gun-fire, now, whenever they heard gun-fire, they run to the front line to fire too.

Women have done outstanding work particularly since the Revolution, Cde Austin said, and pointed to Minister of Education Jacqueline Creft, Cde Phyllis Coard, and past coordinator of the Centre for Popular Education, Valerie Cornwall.

Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, PM Bishop, in delivering the feature address, said the parade was a tribute to the NWO's Congress, to the organisation itself, and the Grenadian women.

He outlined the role women played before the Revolution and listed such women as Edith McBain who died while selling "Jewel," the organ of the New Jewel Movement, and others who turned out on the morning of the Revolution, first to feed the soldiers, and later to fight.

Women in Grenada have played an outstanding role in bringing about the Revolution, and in pushing it forward, he said.

After the short rally, the women, along with onlookers from St. Patrick's, took to the streets in a jubilant march.

*FWI*, December 4, 1982

### DESSIMA WILLIAMS: OUR WOMAN IN WASHINGTON

She is known as one of the most popular, most outspoken diplomats at the Organisation of American States in Washington, and is considered by many to be the keenest.

This view is shared by her Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, who describes her performance as ambassador as "truly remarkable."

"She is doing an excellent job," he says, "especially when you take into consideration the odds with which she's faced. She's really one of the best."

"She" is Dessima Williams, Grenada's 29-year-old ambassador to the OAS, and one of the youngest diplomats in Washington.

Amb. Williams was appointed in April 1979 by the People's Revolutionary Government, making Grenada the only Caricom country with a woman ambassador at the OAS.

At that time there was—and still is—considerable hostility towards the Grenada Revolution overseas, particularly in North America. Amb. Williams was therefore faced with the difficult task of convincing North Americans that the revolution of March 13, 1979, was for food, housing, education and human rights for all and that it was supported by the majority of the people.

The U.S. State Department has, so far, refused to grant her credentials as ambassador to the U.S. on the grounds that she is too young, too inexperienced and too outspoken—mainly in her criticisms of U.S. foreign policy in the region.

In the early stages of her appointment, Amb. Williams made one thing clear: "Our foreign policy is based on the principle of respect for sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. We reserve the right to steer our own destiny."

At a recent OAS session, when a resolution was moved to condemn Cuba for human rights violations, as thousands of Cuban anti-social elements flowed into the U.S., Amb. Williams was one of the first delegates to object.

Her objection was that since Cuba was no longer a member of the OAS, having been expelled in 1962, Cuba's internal affairs should not be discussed within the OAS. The resolution was rejected.

Amb. Williams also has an impeccable record of achievement, prior to her appointment at the OAS.

Born December 22, 1950, she was educated at St. Joseph's Convent where, after graduation, she taught English literature, religious knowledge, and physical education.

She studied international relations, business administration and economic development at the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in international relations. She later received her master's degree in the same field from American University, Washington.

In Minnesota she was founder and chairwoman of the Caribbean Association, and chairwoman of the International Students' Association and the National Association of Foreign Students.

Since her appointment, Amb. Williams has been mobilizing the Grenada community in Washington, and has helped to set up the Grenada-U.S. Friendship Society which has donated hundreds of books to the Grenada Public Library.

When bonds for the International airport at Point Salines went on sale last November, Amb. Williams immediately sought assistance from the Washington community, through a party at the Grenada mission, to announce the sale.

Some \$480 worth of bonds was sold at the party.

Recently in Washington, she hosted a benefit performance, featuring the Mighty Sparrow and Paul Keens Douglas, to raise funds for a day-care centre and other children's services in Grenada.

Amb. Williams is the second Grenadian woman to have been appointed ambassador. The other is Jennifer Hosten-Craig,

former high commissioner to Canada—a post she held prior to the revolution.

*FWI*, November 1, 1980

### JACQUELINE CREFT—FIRST WOMAN IN CABINET

Her style is as casual as her clothes—blue jeans, cotton top, sandals. Neither suggest that, at age 34, Jacqueline Creft has a lot on her plate—as the first woman minister in the People's Revolutionary Government, she's responsible for education, youth, women's and social affairs, culture, community development and sports, besides being mother of an infant.

Always on the go and totally at ease wherever she goes, whatever she does, she's well known as simply "Jackie" to public servants and the masses, teachers and pupils alike.

It's clear why. Whether she's padding around in her office, answering the phone, taking part in a committee or Cabinet meeting, chatting with visiting citizens, driving from her office to keep an appointment, hurrying along the streets and hailing the folks she knows, or taking out her three-year-old son, her manner is down-to-earth.

Jackie's natural, spontaneous approach probably comes from her own background. In the late 1960s, during the height of political awakening among young people, manifested in the protests against the United States' war in Vietnam and rising black consciousness, she was a student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Returning to Grenada in late 1971, armed with a B.A. degree in political science, she was one of those radical, articulate, conscientious and courageous young people who joined together to form the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and oppose the tyrannical, corrupt Eric Gairy regime.

Since then, her work has been mainly dealing with the masses, particularly youths. From 1976 to '77, she was the regional coordinator for youth affairs, with the Christian Action for Development in the Eastern Caribbean (CADEC), an arm of the Caribbean Council of Churches.

Based in Trinidad, Jackie was responsible for subregional affairs, until her Trinidad work permit was revoked in late 1977, and she had to return to Grenada.

"Gairy refused to give me work, and as I was a new mother, I had another life to think about," she said.

So Jackie packed again, picked up her baby, and headed for Barbados, to work with Women In Development. She was there when the People's Revolution, led by the NJM, overthrew Gairy on March 13, 1979.

Jackie came home, and was first adviser to Minister of Education George Louison on youth and community development, and then Secretary for Education, before becoming Minister herself, during the Cabinet reshuffle in late July.

Though her portfolio is many faceted, it is well-integrated. The NJM believes that only an educated, aware people can participate in the democratic process of building a new society.

Jackie's role is to provide the means to help create the new personality—youth, woman, man—to form the new society. Harmonious development and all-round education—developing the mind, physical, artistic and creative capabilities, the ability to use the hands—is as important as building the community to suit the people's needs.

Helping to build this vibrant, participative society requires some adjustment from Jackie herself. "One of the things about having a child," she points out, "is that subjectively, one feels so close to him, but objectively, he's another child, and all one's energies cannot be directed towards him."

A great deal of Jackie's energies must go on seeing that the population of 110,000 and not just her own son, is educated and equipped for life.

In Grenada today, education has become the right of all, rather than the privilege of a few, Jackie noted, pointing out that in colonial times, education was "elite-oriented." It was not in the interests of the colonial bureaucracy to educate everybody. They needed only some people to service the bureaucracy, and so education was white-collar oriented,

divorced from production and from the creation of a material basis to lift the standard of production."

Then Jackie noted, the children of the working people or peasants who got any education, did so despite the system. The majority of people remained illiterate or semi-literate.

The Revolution has sought to reverse this trend. It has made education an ongoing, all-round, participatory process with the mottoes: "Every worker a student, every student a worker" and "Those who know, teach; those who don't know, learn."

It has made secondary school free, is providing scholarships for advanced training and technical skills abroad, and has initiated work-study projects, the "sports for all" concept and the Early Childhood Division, so that the child comes to school with a good background.

In addition, it has launched the Centre for Popular Education (CPE) in which volunteer teachers—workers or students—have gone out into the communities to teach the illiterate to read and write. In the next phase, they will soon begin teaching basic subjects, such as arithmetic and geography.

Most of these ideas are based on the teachings of Paolo Friere, the Brazilian educator who believes that "Education is Liberation"—it must provide freedom of consciousness and the ability to think, challenge, interpret and analyse in a creative and relevant manner.

Her main concern now is "the terrible condition of the primary schools. Gairy had them in a state of disrepair, with bad plumbing, lack of furniture or teaching equipment, everything broken up.

"Education is a package. The physical plant, the environment, is important for learning. And some of these schools belong to the 19th century. They need a lot of work. I would really like to see the schools fixed, and have them become centres of learning for the masses."

Finally, being the first woman in Cabinet, Jackie commented, was really no big achievement in Grenada today.

"It's a natural development, given the full participation of women in all the Revolution's programmes and in the society,

the new laws ensuring women's rights and the deliberate efforts by the PRG, which is predominantly male, to involve women at all levels in production and defence."

But, she conceded women are happy about her appointment, "because they see it has wider implications for their advancement and status in the society."

*FWI, December 5, 1981*

### ALIMENTA BISHOP— MOTHER OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Like many mothers, she has gone through trying times. But few women have faced her emotional strain and emerged with such resolve and courage to face the future.

Alimenta Bishop, born 66 years ago in St. Paul's, where she still lives, is the mother of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his sisters Ann and Maureen, now in Barbados.

"We all worked hard while growing up," recalled Mrs. Bishop. Her father, an industrious farmer, who "loved the lands and the animals," had 10 children, three of whom died at a tender age, leaving Alimenta with one sister and five brothers.

Young Alimenta received her education at St. Paul's Government School and St. Dominic's R.C. School in St. David's. "We used to walk three miles to get to school," she said. But now children don't even want to walk three-quarter mile."

Most times, she recollected, "I used to accompany my father to the garden, because I like the land myself." And although her mother was a seamstress, she too, worked the land very hard.

Mrs. Bishop also talked about the agonies which her family faced during the days of the Gairy dictatorship.

She recalled the grief and shock she felt when her only son was beaten and jailed by Gairy's secret police, on November 18, 1973, and her husband Rupert was murdered a few months later, on January 21, 1974, by a police bullet, during a popular demonstration against the dictatorship.

"I was present on the scene the day my husband was killed," Mrs. Bishop said.

Speaking about women's role in Grenada today, Mrs. Bishop commented: "Some of them are very conscientious and patriotic. I think that young women growing up today have lots of opportunities we did not have."

But Mrs. Bishop is not merely enjoying a quiet life now.

With her daughter, Ann, Mrs. Bishop is an active member of the Airport Development Committee (ADC), a group of women volunteers, who are raising funds to assist construction of the international airport at Point Salines.

*FWI*, March 7, 1981

### ANGELA DAVIS IN GRENADA

She is 38 years old, black, female, and an American Communist.

A member of the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA), the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and Women for Racial and Economic Equality, Angela Davis's life has been one of struggle, not only for the rights of the minority races in the U.S. and the working class, but against the repressive U.S. legal system.

Sis. Davis was herself a victim of this system when she was unjustly arrested in 1970 and charged with three capital offences, murder, kidnapping and conspiracy.

In a Woman's House of Detention in New York City, she was put in solitary confinement and isolated in a "Psychological ward" away from her fellow prisoners, and placed under 24-hour surveillance and harassment.

She received this treatment because Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California, feared her powerful ideas would reach the other women in detention.

Before her arrest she actively defended the Soledad Brothers, three black prisoners unjustly accused of killing a prison guard. Jonathan Jackson was shot and killed when he attempted to rescue his brother George, author of "Soledad Brother," by holding a judge at gunpoint. Sis. Davis was then arrested and charged with conspiracy in the crime.

The worldwide protests her arrest stirred up made her name a household one. Because of the support she received from Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Socialist countries, it was impossible to convict her for crimes she did not commit, and she was later released.

Since then, Sis. Davis has continued to speak out against political oppression, and other forms of capitalist repression aimed at suppressing the rights of workers and racial minorities.

After her release from prison, she was involved in another court battle to regain her rights to teach in the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), after having been fired by Reagan just before she was arrested. She won this battle, and is now teaching at San Francisco State University, in California.

When Sis. Davis came to Grenada on March 6, for the National Women's Organisation's (NWO) International Women's Day (IWD) rally, she said that because of her precarious position in her job, she was unable to visit Grenada for the first two IWD celebrations after the Revolution.

She explained that when she was fired by Reagan, he had said she would never again be able to work with the state. Her victory over Reagan in the courthouse is one she must guard, because he is now in an even better position, as U.S. President, to victimise her. She was, therefore, careful not to aggravate the situation by coming here without proper leave.

Sis. Davis, however, said she has looked forward to visiting Grenada since the March 13, 1979 Revolution. She described the struggles of the Grenadian people as an inspiration to people all over the world.

She said that although the U.S. people have to contend with imperialist propaganda against Grenada, more and more people are beginning to find out about Grenada through the work done by the friendship societies there.

She was also absolutely astounded to see the progress made by the Grenada Revolution in three years, she said. And when she returned to the U.S., she would tell the people about the new international airport being constructed, the new Ramon



Quintana asphalt plant, the bus system which will make transportation easier for the people, and the new medium wave radio transmitter carrying Grenada's voice throughout the country and to the Caribbean.

She compared this to the U.S., where there isn't even a mass transport system that working people can use.

On the IWD rally, she said it was inspiring seeing the people's energy and attention. She pointed out that they stood up for four to five hours, with rapt expressions on the faces of some of the older women and even the children. She was also impressed with the Young Pioneers, the poetry and calypsoes, and the political speeches.

Sis. Davis visited Grenada with her sister Fania Davis-Jordan, a lawyer, who has stood alongside her through her political struggles since the 1960s.

*FWI*, March 27, 1982



Ambassador to the OAS, Dessima Williams, receives the key to the city of Detroit from Deputy Mayor, J. S. Simmons, 1980.

*Free West Indian*





Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Bernard Coard. *Free West Indian*

## 10 Trade Unions

### Introduction

The NJM's experience with organized labour was not very different from that of other West Indian governments. It was able to ally itself with some unions and faced sporadic opposition from others. It upgraded labour laws to wipe out backward aspects of the Gairy legacy. As in the case with other segments of the society, the PRG sought to raise the consciousness of workers by staging international conferences of workers.

### AGRICULTURAL AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

Tomorrow, the Agricultural and General Workers' Union (AGWU), the country's second largest trade union, will celebrate its second anniversary with a day of fun and festivity for its members at the historic La Sagesse beach site in St. David's.

Fitzroy Bain, AGWU's president, anticipates a turnout of more than 1000 members. Members of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) will be present and the general public is invited.

Sporting competitions, tug-o-war games, cultural performances and speeches will all form part of this gala social occasion.

With the task of organising the island's agricultural and road workers, AGWU is increasingly becoming a powerful working class force and one of the country's most influential unions.

It has replaced Eric Gairy's disorganised, sell-out and corrupt Grenada Manual and Mental Workers' Union, (GMMWU), which for many years existed in name only.

The union began as the Agricultural Workers' Council a few weeks after the Revolution of March 13, 1979, which overthrew Gairy. At that time, it was headed by Caldwell Taylor, now Ambassador to the United Nations.

Bro. Bain described it then as an "interim organisation" that sought to "keep the workers together," and prepare them for the actual formation of a solid, broad-based union.

Many down-trodden agricultural and road workers joined the Council during that period, since it clearly identified its interests with theirs.

However, Bro. Bain explained, the Council had to act within limitations, because it was not legally registered as a trade union.

It had no office, but operated instead from New Jewel Movement offices in different parishes, where workers came to air their grievances and complaints on issues affecting them on the estates.

The Council responded by speaking to groups of workers, raising their collective consciousness, and even settled trivial issues.

On November 27, 1979, AGWU was officially registered and launched as a trade union, an historic milestone in the process towards the genuine liberation of Grenada's agricultural working class and rural poor from centuries of brutal economic exploitation.

Having gained authoritative rights and headed by a grassroots revolutionary executive, AGWU has wasted no time.

It has won all 40 recognition polls held on estates, and now serves workers on some 70 estates and on any agricultural holding of over 100 acres. Over 500 of the union's 2000-odd members are agricultural workers; the rest are roadworkers.

Among AGWU's many revolutionary objectives are to get workers to increase production, to ensure that they receive greater material benefits, to make them aware of their role in Grenada's socio-economic development by raising their level of consciousness, involving them at all decision-making levels through workers' parish council meetings, defending the Revolu-

tion by joining the People's Militia and becoming involved in community work.

To reach every agricultural and road worker and be a nationally effective force, AGWU's work is structured in three zones: North—St. Andrew's/St. Patrick's; South—St. David's/St. George's; and West—St. John's/St. Mark's.

Within the union itself, there is the general council, comprised of two workers from every estate, who discuss every major decision before action is taken. Two general membership meetings have been held this year, and there are plans for a third, Bro. Bain disclosed.

AGWU, in its mere two years of existence, has struggled for and won a few benefits for its members, but the major struggles lie ahead.

It has played an instrumental role in getting agricultural and road workers' wages to be increased from \$6.80 to \$8.50 for men and from \$5.80 to \$7.50 for women.

Similarly, at its request, some of its members were able to obtain materials to repair or rebuild their homes under the PRG's house-repair programme.

It has also seen to it that workers on state farms receive one-third of the farms' profits, an idea instituted by the PRG for application to both public and private estates.

And over the last two months, AGWU instructed its members to take industrial action when demands for public holiday and incentive pay and sick benefits were not met.

*FWI*, October 3, 1981

### COARD ON THE WAGES ISSUE

Workers of the Public Service have decided to re-open negotiations with the government on the question of wage and salary increases.

The decision to go back to the government was taken on Saturday, January 17 at a meeting which was attended by over four hundred workers.

The meeting was called after the two bodies, government and the three unions as one unit, decided to go back to their principals for a mandate.

The unions are demanding that the government pay public servants a 90 per cent increase in wages, a position which was later revised to 70 per cent.

This, they said was in the light of inflation in Grenada and the subsequent rise in prices.

The government on the other hand has rejected this demand saying that the present state of the economy could not afford such an increase.

The government has made an offer of twelve and a half per cent increases for 1981, and five percent in each of the two following years.

Meanwhile, at a public meeting in St. Patrick's recently, Finance Minister Bernard Coard outlined the PRG's position on the salaries issue. Below, we carry excerpts of Bro. Coard's speech:

"First of all, what are the Public Workers' Unions asking for? They are asking for overall salary increases that amount to a 70 per cent increase over the next two years. Their first demand was for a 90 per cent overall increase. They reduced it to 70 per cent.

"What is the PRG offering the Public Workers at this time? The PRG is offering the public workers increases of 22½ per cent over the next 3 years, broken down as 12½ per cent this year, another 5 per cent in 1982, and another 5 per cent in 1983.

"The next question we must ask ourselves is: What is the normal length of Public Workers agreements in Grenada? How many years is it normal that the agreement should run for before the next agreement has to be worked out?

"During the last 10, there have only been 2 agreements between governments and public workers unions in Grenada. In other words, the agreements, in practise, as I understand it, have been running for 5-year periods. But legally, they are only to run for 4-year periods.

"The Public Servants' Union is saying that they want 70 per cent over the next 2 years, and when the time is up, they want to ask for more money again.

"The normal thing is 4 years, and the government has offered to make a compromise, and to have the agreement last for 3 years. We offer a 3-year contract, and the PRG believes that this is a reasonable period of time, which is shorter than the present period where the agreements run for 4 years.

"The next question we must ask is: When did negotiations start, and in what spirit have they been conducted?"

"Where have things reached now?"

"We are taking this opportunity to outline to our members, namely the taxpayers of Grenada, what the position is, in terms of the economic realities of life, which we face as a people, so that we would come to an understanding of these issues in a reasonable manner, and so that we can come to an understanding of what needs to be done in the interest of all Grenadians.

"And so, we said to the Workers Representatives: Inspect the books; this is not a government with anything to hide; look at all the figures; call whoever you want; question them; double-check everything; satisfy yourself that everything we say is true; make sure you are satisfied about that; and let us together see how we can find extra money to ensure that public workers get some kind of reasonable salary increase, because we recognize the cost of living has gone up, we recognize that it is important for public workers to get an increase; we recognize it is important for the morale of public workers; we recognize we have to do something; so let us together see how we can do something about the situation within the objective limitations of the financial state of the country.

"So this was done."

"We take a principled approach to these questions: a principled approach; an approach of honesty; an approach of letting people have the facts; of letting them examine the figures and books for themselves; we take an approach of saying let us together solve the problems of Grenada."

"We do not take an approach of bringing down thousands of people from the countryside threatening to kill other people with cutlass and gun, and staff, and spade, and fork in their hands.

"So we looked at facts and figures.

"And I want to tell you what the facts and figures are. I want to give you the facts and figures that we have already given to the Public Workers representatives.

"Now, in 1981, this year, the Ministry of Finance estimates that the total revenues to be collected by the government in all forms of taxes put together will be \$67 million. Yet, when you add up the amounts that the different ministries, and departments have asked for in order to spend on different aspects of providing services to the people of Grenada and running the administration of the country, the different ministries and departments have asked the ministry of finance for \$83.8 million dollars to run the country.

"When the ministry of finance ran through the proposals of the different ministries and departments they cut back this figure of \$83.8 million down to \$75 million.

"Then we realised that \$75 million is still too high."

"So we had to go back to the figures and chop here and there, but this time we had to chop more brutally, until we brought the figure down to \$71 million."

"But the reality is, \$71 million is the lowest we can cut, because if we cut below that, we would have to lay off workers or we would have to cut back on services we provide to the people.

"Yet, we still have a \$4 million gap, because revenue is only \$67 million while expenditure is \$71 million. We have a \$4 million gap to plug, before we can find \$1 to pay salary increases. That is how serious the financial situation is.

"Now, sisters and brothers, in the negotiations with the unions we pointed out to them that fundamentally, there are 8 ways, and only 8 ways in which increased salaries for public workers can be found. And we invited them, saying, that if they could think of a 9th or 10th way, please let us know, we would be only too happy to hear about it. We have only been able to

figure out 8 ways, and I might add that not all of these 8 ways make sense. These are 8 theoretical possibilities. But not all of them make sense.

"The first way is to increase taxes on the people. Charge more on food, on licenses, and other things. That is one way. Tax the people more to find more money to pay public servants higher salaries. That is one possibility.

"The second possibility is to leave the present rate of taxes just where they are, but improve the efficiency with which taxes are collected. In other words, make the civil servants in the customs more efficient so that they collect more customs duties which they are supposed to collect under the existing law. Same thing for the people in inland revenue, they would not have to increase the rate of tax, but make those who are not paying enough pay more taxes.

"A third possibility of getting more money to increase public servants' salaries, is to cut back on the social services to the people. In other words, stop the free medical services to the people; go back to the days when the roads were not being repaired at all, affecting the people and the farmers who could not get their crops to the market; cut back on scholarships for people to go to university; instead of reducing and abolishing school fees, increase them like under the days of Gairy.

"A fourth way we can find money to increase salaries is to cut back on waste and corruption within the different ministries and departments. We invited the union leaders to assist us in that respect, so that together, we can eliminate waste, eliminate corruption, and all the money we save from that, we could use it to pay higher salaries to the public workers. That too, is a way in which we can find more money to pay higher salaries."

"A fifth way we can find the money is to lay off some public workers in order to find the money from their salaries to pay the salaries of those who don't get laid off higher salaries. In other words, if you cut the public service in half by laying off half, then you can pay the other half twice as much. But you know what that means. It means the other half are on the streets

with zero, and they have families to support too; they have people who depend on them for a livelihood, and that is a very serious matter not to be treated lightly."

"Number 6 is to really go back into the days of Gairyism and bring into Grenada a money machine. We can bring in a money machine and print dollar bills. This sounds like a joke, and in one respect, it is a joke, but I want you to know that some countries have done this.

"Number seven way is also ridiculous and unacceptable. But some countries have done it occasionally, with disastrous consequences: the debt trap; borrow money to pay those salary increases. Now when you borrow the money to pay the increases this year, what will you do next year? Borrow more money to pay next year's? And the year after?

"The eighth and final possibility by which the money can be found is for all of us as a people, including public servants, to expand the size of the economic cake. In other words, increase production and productivity. That is the surest way in which we can build the country, can solve the problem of unemployment, and give everybody a bigger slice of the cake and increase the salaries of everyone.

"The reality is, brothers and sisters, that this employer, the government, is nothing but the representative of all the people of Grenada, of all the taxpayers of Grenada, so when you say you don't care where the money comes from, what you are saying is that you don't care how much hardship the taxpayers of this country have to bear, so long as you get your money."

*FWI, January 24, 1981*

### PRG FIRES PUBLIC WORKER

Responding to persistent calls by the masses of Grenadians for "firm action" against public workers who headed a "sick out" call by their unions, the PRG yesterday dismissed one senior public servant, transferred another, suspended 10 with half pay and issued 70 "warnings," more than half of which went to school principals.

At the same time, the PRG reiterated its desire "to resolve this dispute speedily and in the best interest of all concerned."

Hundreds of public servants turned out to work Tuesday and Wednesday, in defiance of their unions' call for a two-days off sickout.

Leaders of the Public Workers' Union (PWU), the Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) and the Technical and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU) called the sick-out during negotiations on the People's Revolutionary Government's 12.5 per cent pay increase offer for this year.

This increase, Finance Minister Bernard Coard announced in his 1981 budget speech, would cost the country \$3.5 million, which would come mainly from increased taxes.

At the last meeting with the unions on February 27, the PRG raised its offer from 24 per cent over the three years 1981-83, to 36 per cent, by increasing its offer for 1982 and 1983 by five per cent each.

The unions demanded 35 per cent this year, 15 per cent next year and 10 per cent in 1983, a culminative increase of 70.8 per cent, which is one per cent below their original proposal.

Without officially notifying the PRG, the unions then called the sick-out, which got support from only about 40 per cent of the public workers.

Most seriously affected were the schools, with a number of teachers staying away; but senior pupils did a magnificent job of carrying on classes for the younger ones.

The majority of the workers' decision to work normally showed their understanding and support of the PRG's position, their unwillingness to pressure the young government and their eagerness to disassociate themselves from their unions' "greediness."

Those that showed up to work were quite angry with their colleagues who didn't and felt that the PRG should take firm action against the opportunist union leaders, who were misleading rank and file members.

In a statement Monday, the PRG said it viewed the unions' unofficial and "premature" sick-out call "with dismay," because negotiations had not yet closed.

It also warned of the adverse implications of the "irresponsible call."

Public services would be disrupted, it said, resulting in a loss of revenue from Customs and Excise and taxes, which account for 85 per cent of the state's daily collections.

Certain important government programmes would also have to be curtailed, causing inconvenience and hardship to the public.

Since the sick-out would cause a shortfall in revenue collected, the PRG warned that it would be "hard put to meet the existing payroll, let alone increases."

To honour its normal obligations, the PRG said it may be forced to resort to serious measures, such as further increasing taxes which the people cannot afford, cutting such essential social services, as the school-feeding programme, and upkeep of the hospital, health and dental clinics, and retrenching certain workers to bring the payroll within limits it can afford.

"Naturally, this would result in terrible misery for the families that depend on those unfortunate comrades who have lost their jobs," the PRG said.

In another statement Wednesday, the PRG said that while "it recognises the rights of all workers to take legitimate and reasonable industrial action," it felt that these rights carried an equal obligation to protect the country's interests.

Noting the poor response to the unions' "unprincipled and irresponsible" call, the PRG commended the patriotic workers who carried out their civic duties, for "their understanding of the present economic situation—which is not unique, but is integrally linked to the present world economic crisis."

Attempts to intimidate workers to walk off their jobs, the PRG described as "part of a plan by certain unpatriotic and counter-revolutionary elements to disrupt the second anniversary celebrations of our glorious March 13 Revolution and embarrass the PRG and the Grenadian people in the face of our numerous friends and well-wishers."

Pointing out that it was the unions' team which walked out of negotiations, the PRG stressed its willingness to continue

negotiating and its obligations to defend and protect workers' interests.'

*FWI*, March 7, 1981

## WORKERS OF THE REGION UNITE IN GRENADA

Hundreds of Grenadian working people joined leaders of the Grenada Revolution and representatives of progressive forces throughout the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States yesterday, at the opening of a three-day conference on "The Condition of Workers in the Caribbean" at the National Convention Centre (Dome), Grand Anse.

It was impossible to distinguish workers from delegates, as everyone participated enthusiastically.

Opening remarks were made by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and Tim Hector, chairman of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement.

In a two-hour address, PM Bishop outlined the present international situation, and gave a balance-sheet account on the Revolution's achievements.

He revealed that several attempts in the past to convene such a conference of progressive opinion in the region, had been aborted. He hoped that this opportunity would be grasped to achieve the aims of the conference.

Reaction in the region and internationally, PM Bishop said, has become bolder and more aggressive with the election of Ronald Reagan as U.S. president, as was manifested in the recent attacks against Grenada by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Reaction, the PM said, wants to turn the clock back 200 years, to practise its outmoded economics.

"In light of this, we need to develop strategies and tactics that would ensure the continuation of the successes of the progressive forces, and to ensure that the recent setbacks are not turned to defeats."

Capitalism, he said, is "like a worn-out tube with over 25 patches, and cannot take any more. It is in deep crisis and des-

perate, and as such, it is a fallacy to disbelieve in military intervention against progressive forces today."

To underline the desperate nature of international capitalism today, PM Bishop quoted from a "secret" document prepared by Zbigniew Brzezinski for President Carter in March 1978, which called for CIA and FBI operations to create and maintain division and confusion between the black population in the United States and progressive movements in Africa.

If they can put out such a document on a purely hypothetical situation, he said, they would do much more to turn back the course of events in the Caribbean, which U.S. imperialism sees developing as the "number one trouble-spot" in the world.

Because of this view, the PM said, all progressive leaders in the region whether in or out of political office, are living in danger of assassination.

PM Bishop also spoke on the unity among Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua. He said that imperialism is aware of the nature of this unity, and that is why they are trying to disrupt the strong relations between Grenada and Cuba.

However, he said, if Cuba is the beacon of the Caribbean revolution, and if Nicaragua is the beacon of the Central and Latin American revolution, then the Grenada Revolution "is the hope of the struggling masses of the Caribbean."

The PM reiterated the firm anti-imperialist position of the Grenadian Revolution which, he said, "is firmly anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-hegemonist, anti-backyardist, and anti-Uncle Tomist."

"WE do not believe we are in anybody's backyard, and we will not allow the reactionaries to make us abandon our principles or our relations with Cuba."

PM Bishop said that no revolution can call itself a revolution if it does not have the capacity to defend itself with guns, and in this respect, the Grenada Revolution stands true.

He pledged that it would continue to stand firm in its principles, to consolidate the revolutionary process, and to ensure that whenever any of those present returned to Grenada, they would find the revolution "safer, stronger and healthier."

He also said that the best way Grenada would assist other progressive forces in the region is by strengthening the revolution and ensuring that it goes forward.

Antigua's Tim Hector paid tribute to the presence of Guyana's former Premier, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, whom he called "the first Marxist political leader to be elected throughout the region." PM Bishop called Dr. Jagan "the Dean of the socialist movement in the region."

Hector also paid tribute to the historical significance of the Cuban revolution, which he said, "alerted the entire world that the working people in the region are ready to take control of their destinies."

"The Cuban revolution is a mighty contribution to the emancipation of the people from class oppression," Hector said.

He concluded that "solidarity among the progressive forces is crucial for 1981."

In the afternoon, delegates from Jamaica, Guyana, Dominica, St. Vincent and Antigua presented reports on the progressive forces in the electoral process in their respective countries.

Samori Marksman of the Caribbean People's Alliance, co-sponsors with the New Jewel Movement of the conference, said Grenada was chosen as its site, "because, in view of imperialism's attempts to isolate Grenada and stifle the Revolution, we felt that one way of countering these moves was to bring these many fraternal groups to demonstrate their solidarity."

On January 20, when Reagan takes over the U.S. presidency, he said, there will be a turning point in U.S. policy towards the region. This was another reason for holding the conference in Grenada.

The conference was originally scheduled to take place in Jamaica a month before the October 30 election last year, but had to be cancelled because of the terrorism and CIA-sponsored violence there at the time.

Marksman said Grenada provided an example to progressive forces in the region, and this they had to reciprocate by stepping up whatever assistance they could give to strengthen the Grenadian Revolution.



The conference continues with a number of workshops today, at the Grenada Boys' Secondary School (GBSS) in Tanteen.

Expected to arrive today is heroine of the U.S. progressive forces, Angela Davis.

Thirty-one delegations from 26 countries are attending the conference. However, a number of delegations had not yet arrived yesterday, because they were stranded in Barbados, after being delayed by harassment from airport officials.

The conference ends tomorrow with a mass public rally at the GBSS auditorium, at which a number of overseas delegates will speak.

Among the Caribbean leaders present was Nesa Santana of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. She said she was extremely impressed with the morning's proceedings and with PM Bishop's address.

"It was really inspiring. I am out of breath. This address must have inspired everyone struggling for liberation, starting with me," she said.

Leon Cornwall, central committee member of the NJM and a leader of the National Youth Organization, said he saw the morning's event as an example of Caribbean solidarity and unity and a recognition of the important role Grenada has to play in the liberation process in the Caribbean.

"We are united, as the Prime Minister said, although the imperialists try to divide us through colour, language, culture and other ethnic separations."

Dr. Bill Riviere of the Dominica Liberation Movement said, the conference was extremely important. "Imperialism is desperate and so it is of extra importance that we organize ourselves and coordinate our efforts for defence.

"Imperialists always coordinate their attacks; we must coordinate our defence."

Dr. Riviere said the opening was fantastic and that the PM's address "had really great content and gave me much hope for Dominica."

John Ventour, general secretary of the Commercial and Industrial Workers' Union, said the workers' movement will be

trying to find out more of the struggles of workers in the Caribbean and what strategies they are using to better the lot of working people in the region, "and what we could learn from it."

FWI, January 10, 1981

## BGWU RE-ELECTS NOEL

Nobody, anywhere in the world, will give a people solidarity unless they are prepared to help themselves. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said this in his feature address on Sunday to the Bank and General Workers' Union (BGWU) third biannual convention, held at Holiday Inn's East Wing in Grand Anse.

Speaking against the background of an invasion threat against Grenada by U.S.-backed forces, he urged the workers to join the People's Revolutionary Militia to defend their homeland.

Other highlights at the convention were the election of officers, a report from BGWU president, Vincent Noel and an emulation ceremony. . . .

In his report, Noel revealed that some anti-trade union elements in Barclays Bank are working to undermine BGWU's representation there. BGWU intends to enforce People's Law Number 29, which gives workers the right to join the trade union they choose, he pointed out.

He also called upon workers to enroll with the Centre for Popular Education's (CPE) second phase so as to improve their educational levels and thereby raise production.

The BGWU was formed in late 1978 during a period of intense struggle with Barclays Bank's management, which refused to recognise it as the official bargaining agent for the bank's workers.

Despite the workers' overwhelming acceptance of the new union, the Eric Gairy dictatorship openly sided with Barclays and frequently harassed Noel and some of the more militant workers.

The struggle continued until the March 13, 1979 Revolution, after which Barclays soon recognised the union.

FWI, April 1, 1983



# 11 Sports

## Introduction

The history of sport in the West Indies is fraught with racism and class antagonisms. One could traditionally tell a person's colour and/or social status simply by knowing what cricket or football team he played for. Blacks made it into big league baseball and football in the United States long before a Black player was allowed to captain a West Indian cricket team. Some sports (such as golf, tennis and swimming) were for long the preserves of the privileged. Even in the less exclusive sports, such as football and cricket, players from rural areas and smaller islands faced restricted opportunities for playing in the major leagues.

The Grenada revolution set about diligently to wipe away whatever lingering vestiges there were of this colonialist legacy in sport. "Sports for all" became the new slogan and some early successes were achieved, notably in netball and track.

Grenada, not surprisingly, took an uncompromising stand against players, West Indian or otherwise, who had played in South Africa. Its own national players were on occasion subjected to harassment in politically unfriendly countries.

## SPORTS FOR ALL

Government's policy for sports development and promotion is "sports for all" the overall aim of which is to encourage and assist participation by everyone, regardless of sex or age, in sports, in its broadest sense of free spontaneous physical activity during leisure hours.

According to an official of the Department of Sports in the Ministry of Education, physical education is considered a national priority and is regarded as the right of all our people, hence the effort to organise physical education and sports, so as to facilitate mass participation, beginning in the home, through the village and parish, to the national level.

Exercise is also important to physical well-being, for developing strong, healthy bodies with quick reflexes, which is so necessary for production and defence.

A National Sports Secretariat headed by the Director of Sports Blondell Church, is to be set up and will be responsible for coordinating and developing physical education and sports throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

According to Bro. Church, there will be sufficient qualified physical education teachers, coaches and sports administrators by the time the programme gets into high gear.

Adequate facilities will be available for implementing "sports for all" throughout the nation, and there will be village and parish committees responsible for encouraging and facilitating maximum participation in the various activities, as well as ensuring that sporting facilities are properly maintained and secured.

In an effort to keep the cost of sporting gear and equipment within everyone's easy reach, the PRG has promised that duty on sports items will be minimal.

The priority given to sports stems from the PRG's view of it as a means of fostering friendly relations, cooperation and exchange, with other countries throughout the world, excluding apartheid South Africa.

*FWI, March 13, 1981*

## POLITICAL EDUCATION— A MUST FOR SPORTS PEOPLE

Recently the South African authorities pulled yet another of their political tricks from out of the bag, when they had Lawrence Rowe interviewed by the Press Trust, one of their media.

The statements made by Rowe, serve to illustrate the soundness of the decision by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), in declaring 1983, "The Year of Political and Academic Education." For Rowe's statements highlight great political naïveté on his part, and an abominable failure to even understand the very history he sought to quote.

In the interview, Rowe said, "I cannot understand how a population of 24 million blacks cannot overthrow a population of three-and-a-half million whites since 1910 when the British granted self-rule to the whites."

Obviously feeling proud to be in South Africa, and receiving the large sums of "blood money" extracted from the oppressed labour of the very blacks to whom he referred, Rowe added, "You people seem to make a lot of noise but do little."

It must have hurt every sane-thinking, honest person, fully or even partially aware of the South African reality, to hear a former West Indian cricketer, who possessed such great talent, and who earned the admiration of cricket lovers throughout the Caribbean, make such a downright stupid and simplistic statement.

Obviously, had Rowe even the benefit of some sense of human dignity, some sense of even the barest of political awareness, he could not have turned his back so easily on the South African blacks.

One can readily imagine the readiness of the white minority South African regime, to give Rowe's interview the widest possible international coverage. For they found in Rowe, a ready and willing "black skin, white mask," a true "uncle Tom," eager to castigate his ethnic brethren struggling each day in a long, protracted struggle, to overthrow the South African racists.

Rowe has exposed himself to be a mercenary of the worst kind. He reveals himself totally devoid of any understanding, even commonsensical, of the nature of the struggle being waged by the blacks in South Africa.

Obviously, the few whites who control South Africa, have been controlling and will continue to control the blacks, because of the military-industrial complex, which they were able to

build with the kind assistance of the United States of America, who defied the United Nations' sanctions on South Africa, to do so.

The stance taken by Rowe, with the silent complicity of the other West Indian cricketers in South Africa, reveals quite clearly that many of the sportsmen of the Caribbean are still a long way from being sufficiently conscious, politically.

The PRG's call for political education has indeed been timely. For the struggle of the oppressed masses in South Africa is at a stage, presently, which commands our firmest solidarity and support.

The action of Rowe and his fellow mercenaries must be seen as the greatest betrayal of all time. Their actions and mouthings in South Africa, at the behest of those who finance their presence there, reveals the extent to which they have swallowed all sense of pride and human dignity. They must be seen for what they are, shameless traitors of a cause that is most just, and which will eventually emerge victorious, much to their dismay.

FWI, February 9, 1983

### SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT GAINS

The most welcome piece of news for sportsmen since the March 13, 1979 Revolution has been the PRG's unambiguously declared policy that sports-for-all will rank among its priorities.

Local sportsmen and women have already started to savour the fruits of this commendable attitude.

Their successes, small as they might seem, have nonetheless been significant.

Maurice "Bull" Williams etched out a notch for himself and his country in the 1981 Carifta Games: boxing has not only been revived but young boxers, were able to better Barbados in an amateur competition; just one basketball club was able to go to St. Lucia and outrun the very best that island had to offer: and there can be no question about Grenada's supremacy in athletics with competition from Cuba, Guyana, St. Lucia, Barbados and Martinique at Queen's Park in the 1981 Whitsuntide Games.

Meanwhile, this year's Carifta team, comprising Jacintha Bartholomew, Anthony Charles, and Godfrey Augustine, all returned home with medals—a commendable performance.

There has been a marked change of attitude towards sports on the part of government and participants alike. There has been a Revolution. In sports, the seed has not only taken root, it has already begun to blossom. . . .

*FWI*, May 5, 1982

### ODDS WERE AGAINST US

True, the National soccer side must do something more than "getting exposure" in their encounters with the other countries they meet. True, there could be little excuse for their crushing 3-1, 5-1 defeats in the two warm-up matches they played in Trinidad last week against that country in preparation for the latter's participation in Caribbean Football Union finals in Puerto Rico. But the dice were loaded against our boys.

Their preparation was inadequate—not their fault, nor indeed was the fact that they were relatively new to floodlit football.

To have added to this poor, if not literally had accommodation, abominable transportation arrangements, and a generally inhospitable atmosphere displayed by the officials was really to have asked a lot of the boys.

Grenada's performance in the first game was of very high quality and to some extent did capture the admiration of a large sector of the spectators.

The biggest hindrance to the Spice Isle boys in the match was in fact the deportation of star right-back player John Patrick who faced first-degree humiliation all because he overstayed his time on a previous visit.

But the Grenada Football Association knew the situation and should have sought immigration [approval] before including him on the squad. As to the second game Grenada was a frustrated team even before the game began.

The accommodation was so poor that in fact Coach August Wooter and the management of the hotel came within an ace of "bodily contact."

Even worse was the transportation of the players to the playing field. One batch of them had the dubious honour of making the approximate 48 mile trip in transport provided by the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (T&TFA) to Skinner Park, San Fernando.

The remainder, however, were not so fortunate and after hours of futile waiting had to make their own way to the game in two taxis for which they had to pay.

Neither was the performance of the referees and linesmen in both matches the best one could have hoped for, nor the official attitude of the T&TFA as friendly as one might have expected.

T&TFA is expected to host Canada on Monday 12. One wonders if the same treatment would be meted out to them.

All these factors, plus the deportation of Patrick engendered an atmosphere of frustration that was most sombrely reflected in the performance of our goalkeeper who was consistently and so uncharacteristically beaten through the air.

The first goal in the 22nd minute came from an attempted "centreball" by Trinidad's Brian "Rasta" Williams, the second by Garfield De Silver with a powerful shot from 35 yards out which again seemed to deceive Paul through the air.

On the resumption Trinidad's next two goals once more came from goalkeeping blunders, but from Roberts this time. Only their fifth goal, a penalty, could be said to have been scored without some error on the part of a down-spirited team.

Grenada's face-saving lone goal came from Jerold Joseph when Trinidad had already been 4-0 up.

Another humiliating factor was the elevation of national flags. A certain sector of the spectators asked for Grenada's flag to be removed.

*FWI*, October 10, 1981

# 12

## Religion

### Introduction

The NJM seizure of power was generally greeted with approval by church groups throughout the Caribbean. Maurice Bishop's attitude to the church, as contained in the document which follows, was a masterful exposition of a kind of liberation theology. He argued that spiritual fulfillment could not come in a climate of oppression. The church therefore had a duty to support a government struggling for the same goals of social justice proclaimed by Christianity.

Documents released in the wake of the United States invasion of 1983 suggest that ultraleft elements within the PRG may have advocated a harder line towards the church.

### CHURCH HAS ROLE IN HELPING REVO

The People's Revolution has brought justice to the poor and weak of Grenada, and the church here has a critical role in assisting the People's Revolutionary Government in its struggle to improve the quality of life of the masses of this country.

So declared Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in his feature address at the opening of the Christian Peace Conference at the Dome, Grand Anse, last weekend.

PM Bishop said there is the backward church and the progressive church, and that in countries where the people are being oppressed by their leaders, the role of the progressive church is to stand side by side with the people in their struggle against those leaders.

"But in a liberated country, the role of the church is to complement the work of the revolutionary government," he said.

Addressing the delegates from Nicaragua, El Salvador and other Central and Latin American countries, as well as from West Germany and the Soviet Union, the PM said that while the church built 11 schools here, imperialism has built only one.

Thus, he said, the progressive church in Grenada should support the Centre for Popular Education (CPE), the house repair programmes, the educational programmes, the agriculture and fisheries programmes and other programmes of the Revolution aimed at improving the people's quality of life.

All these have been within the central principles of Christianity for hundreds of years, and as such, "the church must complement the PRG."

Continuing his address, the PM said, "there is a logical relationship, and no contradiction, between material fulfillment and spiritual upliftment." A hungry man, he added, has no time or state of mind for inner reflection, and thus cannot achieve spiritual fulfillment.

It is time for the church to act in the spirit of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, he said: the concept of "pie in the sky" must be complemented by "paradise on earth."

"If man must live by the sweat of his brow, as the Bible says, and if to work is to pray, then it means that he must raise production, and all attitudes aimed at increasing production must be encouraged," the PM added.

The saying that "the poor will always be with us" was being used cynically to justify neglect of the poor, PM Bishop felt, but the time has certainly come for "justice to come to the poor, and for the meek to inherit the earth."

Peace in Grenada, the region and the world, he said, will only come when the needs of the poor and oppressed masses are met.

PM Bishop said it was "a signal honour" for the conference to be held in Grenada, because it was at a time when the world is going through a difficult period of tension.

The themes of the conference, "for peace and justice," he said, are inter-related and particularly appropriate now.

He called on all Christians to struggle for peace, because, "without peace, we cannot build a progressive or peaceful society in Grenada or the other countries of the region."

*FWI, May 16, 1981*

### CHURCH GROUPS DENOUNCE U.S. THREAT

A number of draft anti-imperialist resolutions, acknowledging the Grenada Revolution and supporting the progressive and struggling masses in the Caribbean, were passed by Christian delegates at the Second Encounter of Human Rights and Solidarity in the Caribbean, held here last week.

The resolutions denounced U.S. plans to blockage Grenada, the continuous threat of U.S. direct invasion and the libellous propaganda against the Grenada Revolution, spread in the region by the privately-owned mass media.

They further denounced the use of Puerto Rico as a military base and the threat that such a base would pose to the peoples of the Caribbean, the general militarisation of the Caribbean area and the strengthening of the military apparatus of imperialist countries for repressive ends, in particular, the planned establishment of a base in Haiti; the bacteriological warfare which the U.S. has been using as a weapon for economic and psychological destabilization against Cuba, and the commercial blockade and embargo against Cuba, maintained by the U.S.

The resolutions supported the Puerto Ricans in their struggle for independence and self-determination; the consolidation of the Cuban Revolution, recognised the democratic and revolutionary forces of El Salvador as the representatives of the Salvadorean people and condemned the direct military intervention by the U.S. in El Salvador.

They celebrated Belize's independence and recognised the right of the country to defend its sovereignty.

At a press conference held by the delegates last Saturday, Sister Eunice Santana of Puerto Rico said that the ecumenical group looked at the foreign policy of the Ronald Reagan admin-

istration with concern for what it means to Grenada, Nicaragua and Cuba.

It presents, she said, a threat to people involved in struggle throughout the Caribbean, and intimidates the process within the region, and Grenada in particular, with its threat of possible military invasion. It also shows the U.S. intention to increase its hold on the area through the militarisation of the Caribbean and the establishment of more bases here.

In response to a question on the liberation role of the church in El Salvador and Nicaragua, Sis. Santana said that the church should be on the side of liberation for the oppressed, because God is on the side of both the people and liberation.

The church, she continued, has to be involved in society because the people make up the church and are involved in society. The church must therefore have a clear option for the oppressed and poor in society. The church's role, she said, should be like that of the prophets—to analyse society, denounce injustice and announce a different order not for a later afterlife, but here on earth.

The church has to be present in the revolutionary process that upsets the order of things, putting down the oppressors from thrones and lifting the poor. Sections of the church in Nicaragua realised this, along with the Grenadian masses, she said.

On the church in Grenada, she observed that it is involved in the Revolution, because at a parish council meeting she attended, she witnessed people there who were believers and Christians involved in the decision-making process with great zeal.

A Catholic priest, Cherubin Celeste of Guadeloupe, said before visiting the island, he had got the impression from radio reports that Grenada was a problem to the U.S., but he had no idea what was really taking place in Grenada.

His impressions of Grenadians, now that he has visited, was that the people were united. The PRG ministers are ordinary people who unite with the people as one. This, he said, leaves a lasting impression on the mind because it is not common to see a country's leaders so young and mixing with the youth.

International chairman of the People's Popular Movement of Trinidad and Tobago, Michael Aberdeen, answering a question on his impressions of Grenada in view of the anti-Grenada propaganda evident in Trinidad newspapers, said the "reactionary media" in Trinidad reflects the view of the capitalist class in the society.

Grenada, he said, is a truly free country. There are no incidences of violation of human rights and people here are involved in the democratic process.

In Trinidad, he said, 17 shootings by police within 10 days showed that the rights of Trinidadians were not respected.

*FWI, October 17, 1981*

### CHRISTIANS CONDEMN IMPERIALISM

The Christian Peace Conference has passed a declaration which calls on the Church in Grenada to support the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in its attempts to complete the construction of the country's international airport.

The declaration was read at an ecumenical service held at the St. George's Anglican Church on Thursday evening to mark the close of the week-long conference.

The declaration reads:—

"The Continuation Committee of the Christian Peace Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Movement for Peace, Independence and Progress of the Peoples and the participants in the 11th Theological Continental Encounter meeting in Free Grenada from 10th to 15th May, 1981, express:

1. Strong condemnation as Christians towards military and economic aggressions of U.S. imperialism and its allies in the region against Free Grenada and its revolution; at the same time, they demand the immediate cessation of such aggressions. The people of Grenada have the right, like all the peoples in the world, to free self-determination, sovereignty and independence.
2. Support for the Government of Grenada in the arrangements

it carries out to achieve the construction of its international airport, vital to break the isolation they want to impose upon the island, and that will contribute to the economic development of this sister nation. We reject the manoeuvres of the agencies for international assistance aimed at blocking Grenada from obtaining the necessary funds to complete this important work.

3. Solidarity with Free Grenada and the hopes that its Government and people attain the highest achievements in the development and consolidation of the People's Revolution that this small but great nation is building.
4. Commitment to bring to the churches and peoples the strenuous efforts that are being made by the heroic peoples of Grenada and its Government to solve urgent economic, social and cultural problems and the extension of such efforts to preserve its sovereignty, progress, independence and the building of Peace."

**FORWARD EVER! BACKWARD NEVER!**

The conference was held in Grenada to express solidarity with the revolution.

In another resolution the Christian Conference said:

"We reiterate our solidarity and firm support to the struggle for liberation of the peoples of Haiti, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands, and we ratify our conviction that all these efforts and sacrifices will not be in vain and that the Caribbean will be a free and peaceful area.

"We call upon all Churches and Christians to unite in the search for peace through a consequent way of justice, to make real and genuine principles of the Gospel which reads: 'The Lord has come to give us life, life more abundantly (John 10:10).'

"We reject the imperialist policy led by Mr. Alexander Haig from the U.S. State Department, against the Republic of Cuba, using some Latin American and Caribbean governments onto which imperialism bears pressure in order that they may break

diplomatic relations with the Cuban government trying to create another continental headache against such people, violating in all aspects the fundamental human rights."

*FWI*, May 16, 1981

# 13

## Carriacou and Petit Martinique

### Introduction

As poor and economically backward as Grenada was, it still suffered from the common Third World problem of development of the core at the expense of the outlying areas. The tiny island dependencies of Carriacou and Petit Martinique were, prior to the revolution, without such basic amenities as adequate electricity and resident medical services.

### CARRIACOU AND PETIT MARTINIQUE—MORE PROGRESS IN THREE YEARS THAN IN A LIFETIME

Since the March 13, 1979 Revolution, Carriacou and Petit Martinique have seen more changes than they had seen in a lifetime, and 1981 was probably the year most of these changes took place.

Last year saw resident doctors and dentists in Carriacou. Carriacouans no longer need to go to Grenada to extract, clean or fill their teeth. Doctors and dentists now go to Petit Martinique on a regular basis to attend to patients there.

The immunisation programme has been stepped up for mothers with babies, and mothers can go to clinics to learn how to feed and care for their babies properly. There are better and more medicines in the hospital.

Milk is now distributed regularly, along with buttermilk for pregnant women.

Petit Martinique is soon to have a resident nurse, when the new clinic is completed later this month.

Renovation on the Windward clinic is complete, with quarters installed for a dentist, physician and nurse. Behind the clinic a sports complex is being constructed and excavation work on the site has already begun.

Some eight Carriacouans are on government scholarships, seven of them in Cuba, their studies ranging from fisheries, physical education, deep-sea captaincy, and agricultural science, to public health. The island has also benefitted from free education, and its Hillsborough Government School, on which renovations began early last year, is now complete.

Driving for Carriacouans will soon be smoother going. In a rehabilitation project designed to repair and open some 15 miles of road, one mile has already been fully surfaced, two fully sub-based and 12 fully graded and surfaced.

Numerous inverts, long drains and culverts have been constructed to make drainage easier in the road leading to Camp Carriacou, and those to Harvey Vale and L'Esterre, and Lauriston and Windward. A small retaining wall was constructed at Windward.

Some four miles of road have been maintained, including the road from Lauriston airport to Hillsborough. All this is done outside the rehabilitation project.

The Windward jetty has been lengthened by 60 feet, making it 240 feet long.

More light will make Carriacou brighter. Four villages, Mt. Royal, Top Hill, Mt. Pleasant and Grand Bay, will receive electricity next week, as part of a new electricity project. Street lights have been installed in Windward, Bogles, Belvedere, Mt. Pleasant, Brunswick and Six Roads.

The power station in Hillsborough is being renovated.

Petit Martinique will not be left out. Two generators are already here for the island. Work has already started and the poles are there.

By July a new telephone system is expected to link Carriacou and Petit Martinique to Grenada.

In Limlair, the black belly sheep project designed to produce meat locally, is progressing. There are plans to set up a school at Dumphries to train youths between 16 and 18 years old in theoretical and practical means of farming and rearing animals.

One of the areas which has probably reached the farthest in 1981, is politics. In March 1981, there were no mass organisations in Carriacou, and only a few New Jewel Movement (NJM) Support Groups. Now, there are some 460 women in the National Women's Organisation, and close to 150 National Youth Organisation members. There are now 365 Young Pioneers. All these achievements came about with the establishment of a Political Committee, on March 31.

According to Secretary for Carriacou Affairs, George Prime, the NWO is by far the most forceful organisation in Carriacou with the Pioneer movement behind. This is evident in the many activities they organise.

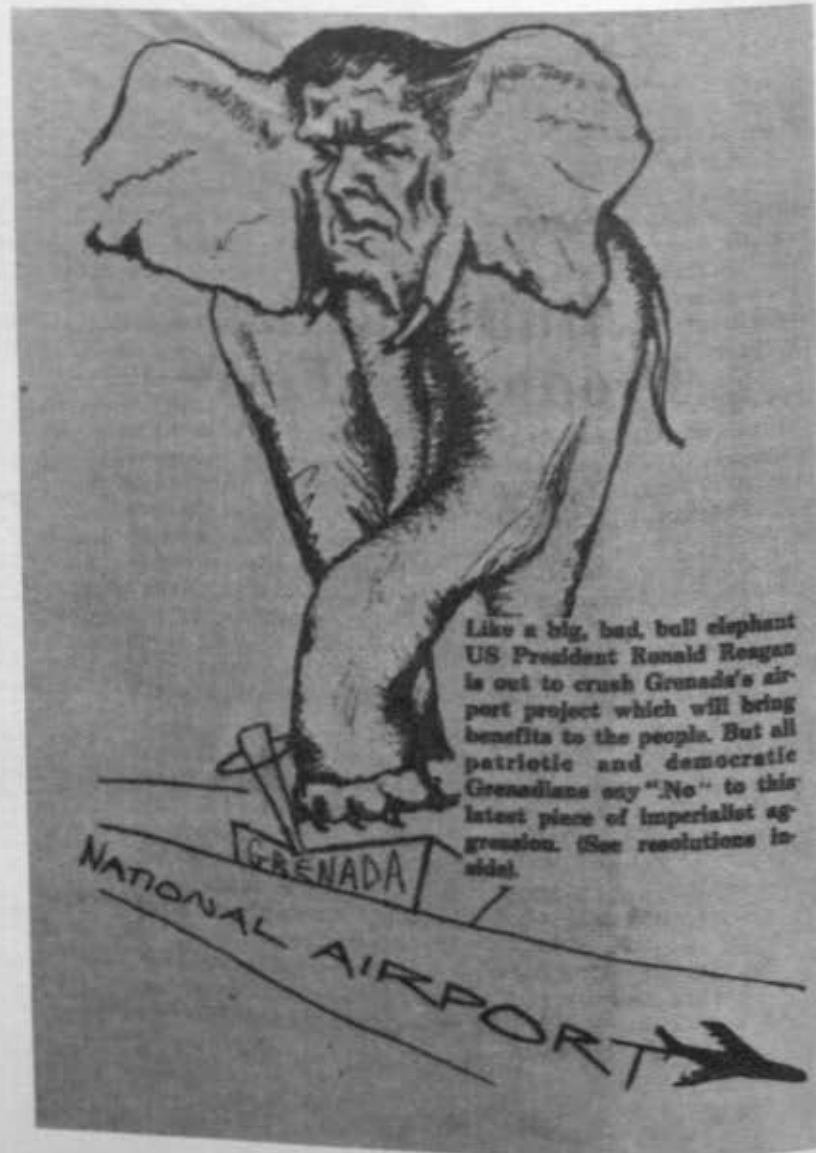
Parish and zonal councils have been broadened to allow for more democracy. Carriacou and Petit Martinique are now divided into six zones and zonal councils are held every month.

*FWI, March 13, 1982*



**PART IV**

**Building the  
Productive Forces**

*Free West Indian*

# 14

## Economic Development

### Introduction

The ultimate objective of the revolution in this area was loosely defined as a socialist economy. For most of the period of PRG rule, however, the pace towards this objective seemed to be moderate and in keeping with the objective realities facing the new government. Here, as in other areas, the revolution inherited backward conditions.

One of the PRG's major initial tasks was the development and repair of the country's economic infrastructure. The international airport (see Chapter 15) played a vital role in this endeavour. A road improvement program was attempted, idle agricultural lands were brought into production, and a variety of job training programs was launched. New projects were also undertaken, notably in agro-industries and fisheries. The PRG struggled with deteriorated utilities, notably water, electricity and telephone service.

By 1982 the PRG thought that it had established enough control over immediate problems to announce a three year economic plan. This mild concession to socialism was matched by PRG purchase of some foreign corporations, including a Canadian bank and the telephone company. Such actions were already commonplace in some of Grenada's "capitalist" neighbouring states. Indeed the name chosen for the PRG-controlled bank (National Commercial Bank) had already been adopted by similar government banks in Trinidad and Jamaica.

The new democracy made itself felt in economic policy making. The budget, in particular, became a lengthy process of consultation with all sectors of the country.

The PRG remained committed to private enterprise in a mixed economy. Where it departed from its predecessors was in its attempt to establish a strong and dominant state sector. This in turn facilitated a diversification of trading partners. Cuba, Eastern Europe, some Arab nations and the European Economic Community all assumed new importance as trade partners and aid donors. The PRG's activist diplomacy was particularly successful at attracting aid at very favourable terms from new sources.

The revolution was very proud of its record in the economic sphere and often cited the favorable World Bank report of 1982. Despite widespread recession and negative growth in the Western world it was able to maintain positive growth while simultaneously significantly reducing unemployment.

### SOCIALISM AND PRODUCTION

This has been proclaimed the year of Production and Education, a People's Revolutionary Government decree which has been embraced with conscious and vigorous revolutionary zeal by the working people of this country.

It seems most fitting, as we enter the second quarter of this year, that we embark upon an extensive and serious discussion with concrete, detailed analyses of the role of science and technology in production, industrial development and more generally, in the construction of socialism.

Our main focus will be in the context of the popular revolution being carried out by the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique under the leadership of the New Jewel Movement. But nonetheless, it is anticipated that such a discussion will raise questions for the development of the entire mass of the Caribbean's and world's dispossessed, who are today step by step in every corner of the globe, rising up to take the beast of imperialism by the horns.

The present article is the first in a series by the "Free West Indian" on the subject. Several of the issues outlined here are to be further developed in depth: the general overview here presented is solely for a foundation, to give direction and to initiate discussion.

It is hoped that the questions raised will be discussed in as wide a range of the working population as possible: throughout the ranks of the urban workers, the rural workers, farmers, and small farmers, patriotic businessmen, women's movement, the armed forces and of course, in the ranks of the New Jewel Movement and in every government office.

At the same time, our discussions must proceed with the utmost democracy and unfettered participation, wherein lie the very genus of development.

By democracy, we mean of course, the democracy of the working people won by the masses through revolutionary struggle with its subjugation of all comprador bourgeois and petty bourgeois ambitions.

We shall now pose in a bare skeletal form what we conceive to be the general questions perplexing our development. In posing these questions, we shall need to refer to certain basic concepts surrounding production, which although familiar to the more politically advanced members of our population, need to be refined for total clarity. Again these definitions are for the moment only suggestive, and will be further elaborated on in the future.

The "means of production" of any given society refers to the sum total of all material resources, tools and machines which are used for production.

Thus for example the tools of production could range from primeval means such as cultivable land, water resources, seeds, shovels, pick-axes and cutlasses, up to the most modern mechanized or automated means such as tractors, sugar mills, aeroplanes, computers and nuclear reactors.

The "forces of production" refers to the combination of the means of production and the total labour power of the entire working population.

Thus the application of the sum total of all productive labour in the society to the means of production is what we shall call the forces of production, the total productive capacity of the working population.

The "relations of production" refers to the manner in which this labour power is organised in relation to the means of pro-

duction and in relation to the social and political structure of the society.

Thus for example, under capitalist relations of production, there is private ownership and control of the means of production: all decisions as to what is produced, how much is produced and how products are marketed is controlled by a small elite, the capitalist class. With such relations, the basic function of production becomes that of this class benefitting which may be either local, foreign or a combination of both.

In contrast one of the main aspects of socialist relations of production is the abolition of private ownership of the means of production. The means of production is collectively owned through the state and the fruits of production benefit all who labour.

Historically, we know that only socialism can concretely replace capitalism as a world system of production, to the benefit of mankind: either socialism or barbarism.

The general questions at hand for us are how to accomplish three things at the same time, for our further development:

How can we concretely break the inherited "imperialist relations" between our nation and the capitalist world and why must we break them?

How can we raise the level of production in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, with constant expansion, refinement and efficiency of the forces of production, to meet the material, social, cultural and spiritual needs of the people?

How can we, while raising the level of production, institute and maintain relations of production, which will focus Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique on the path to socialism?

To understand fully these seemingly simple questions which are themselves deeply interrelated we are led immediately to an additional three.

How does our nation fit into the world economy and in particular, the world capitalist economy and in what direction is our relationship with the world economy changing in view of our revolution?

What are the dominant relations of production today in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, and into what types

of relations of production are the present relations of production developing, in view of our revolution? What do we want them to be?

How can we measure the means of production, forces of production and the resulting level of production in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique today and how will we measure them in the future?

History has taught us that the level of production in societies on the path to socialism and thus the general standard of living and quality of life can only be raised by immense investment in science and technology. How this is to be achieved is our present problem.

It is only with science and technology and not obeah and UFOs that the means of production and forces of production can be expanded, refined and made efficient. In fact, this has been both the role of science and technology, and historically the main driving force in the development of science and technology in human society, even capitalist society.

*FWI, April 19, 1980*

## IMPERIALISM, A BLOOD SUCKING SYSTEM

Third Anniversary Speech by PM Maurice Bishop

Comrades, in the name of our party, our government and our people, I want to welcome you all and to welcome all our invited and overseas guests to this historic and massive third anniversary of our People's Revolution.

Today, three years have passed since our people's will and giant determination finished with tyranny and fear forever in our country, and these last three years have brought us many transformations, many massive changes.

But seeing this huge assembly before me now, understanding how many of you have come from so many places on the earth, from up and down our Caribbean necklace of islands and right through our continent of America, from all over Europe, from Africa the land of the fighting Angolans, Namibians and Seychelles Islanders, through Asia to the heroic, struggling nation of Korea, whose shores are washed by the Pacific Ocean, from

Australia and the fighting people of the Pacific Islands, all of this great presence has rammed home an extraordinary truth.

In the old days—and now when we speak about the “old days” in Grenada we speak of just three years ago, because we have all matured that much—in the days of darkness that are gone forever, you would find Grenadians leaving their country in their thousands, emigrating by sea and by air to far-off shores to escape the dead end of Gairyism.

Our people were locked inside a mentality of visas, migration and despair. Grenada was a place to leave, a place to run from, a point of departure to the United States, to Britain and to Canada.

But our country today has become a symbol of a new reality to oppressed people. No longer are we a point of departure. Today we are a point of arrival for people from all over the world, who have come to celebrate with us our third anniversary of our glorious Revolution.

We are certainly proud of what we have achieved over these past three years, but we realise also that we are still on the threshold of the real changes that we want to see in our country. We have only taken the first steps, and we have no room in our process for complacency or premature satisfaction.

Our people, through their history, have always struggled and craved for real transformation, have organised, fought and died for real transformation, and there is no rest for us until we have built a new life in Grenada that will fulfill all the enormous potential of our people, for our people deserve nothing less.

All of this will of course depend upon how quickly we can expand our economy and build the necessary wealth to construct a new life. For we are embarking upon our Year of Economic Construction at a time when the capitalist world which surrounds us, and with whom we trade, has created for itself a whirlpool of economic devastation which is today becoming an economic crisis of world-wide proportions.

Their crisis affects us like a leech, because we are still reliant upon them for exports and imports, and historically, we have been shackled to their economies through a 400-year imposition of colonialism and a quarter-century of neo-colonialism.

Our success must, therefore, be measured in how much we can cut through the chains that have bound us to their system, how rapidly we can immunise our economy from their recessions, how quickly we can create our own economic self-reliance that will keep us strong, no matter what happens to the capitalist world.

For, of course, the terms of trade which are favourable to the industrialised countries are inevitably unfavourable to us—that is the great inequality upon which imperialism bases its power. They control the prices at which we sell our crops which have meant life or death for us: our bananas, our cocoa, our nutmegs. And they also control the prices of the goods we buy from them. So we are squeezed from both ends.

We are in a vice, and our only way out is real and concrete economic construction. We import their rising prices, we import their inflation, we import everything unhealthy about their economy, and it affects our economy like a cancer.

I know that when I speak to you today of these economic matters that more and more you are able to understand them. Our last two months of budget consultation have laid bare the economic truths of our country, and the new economy-consciousness that has risen so massively among our people has created a new popular understanding of our economy, the second great pillar of our Revolution.

If we take the present situation with our nutmegs, for example, we will see that 10 years ago, one ton of nutmegs could bring us enough money to buy a car. Now, for a car of the same value, we would have to sell at least five tons of nutmegs. So our nutmeg today is worth only a fifth of what it was worth five years ago. You could imagine how serious that is for our foreign exchange and our imports situation.

And if we look at nutmegs from another angle we can make an even more important point. A sister cracking nutmegs at a receiving station in Grenada receives a small wage of \$7.10 a day, and that sister would need to crack about 150 pounds of nutmegs in order to earn that \$7 for the day. Those same nutmegs are sold to a broker—a middle man—and taken off to Europe. Then they are re-sold to a miller, cleaned, blended

and packaged, and put on the shelves of European supermarkets.

And when one of our sisters or brothers or aunts living in Shepherd's Bush or Brixton or Hammersmith in London goes to buy a one-ounce carton of Grenada nutmeg, the price of that one ounce of nutmegs is about 20 pence or one of our dollars. One ounce for \$1, but a 150 pounds of cracking for \$7.

So, our worker here earns \$7.10 a day cracking 150 lbs. of nutmegs in Victoria, Gouyave or Grenville, but our families in England and the British working people in London pay the equivalent of the same money for seven ounces of the same nutmegs. Those seven ounces represent approximately one-third of one per cent of what the Grenadian sister earns during one day at one of our receiving stations.

Or to put it another way, the real value of the nutmeg worker's labour is 300 times what she receives in a day's wage. That is what we mean by imperialism at work.

You can see, therefore, what our working people are fighting against every day of their lives, and why we in Grenada are so committed to struggling for the Global implementation of the new international economic order.

But all of us know that that struggle will not be finished overnight, and that struggle will be a long and hard campaign, conducted by our comrades all over the developing world, whose peoples are oppressed and battered by the same blood-sucking system of imperialism.

What, therefore, can we do at this moment to wrestle ourselves free of such a stranglehold on our economy? Clearly, we can no longer rely upon our traditional crops alone. The fickle world of capitalist trade owes loyalty to no poor and exploited country, particularly one like ours, which is struggling for its economic independence.

So, we have to find new crops, new products, new exports. We have to diversify. And this is where our people's initiative and creative genius has been, and will continue to be, so vital.

Throughout our weeks of budget participation, we have heard suggestions which our agro-scientists and researchers must take

very seriously. We have heard good reasons for processing and canning new products, from callaloo to sprats, and we have seen over the last three years how neglected fruits have been taken up by our people and cultivated to real economic value and effect.

All those mangoes that used to lie on the ground and rot, that we used to pelt at each other when we were children, those mangoes are now in tins of nectar and jars of chutney! Some people used to think there was no potential for eggplant, but now we are exporting thousands of dollars of egg-plants to Britain every year and increasing every month. And we have had a world-winner and international prize-winner in our own nutmeg jelly which won in our first year of competition abroad. It took the Revolution to achieve all this.

For the revolution knows that the richness of our soil is a huge asset to us, and we have as yet only just begun to realise the wealth it can bring to us. Our earth is our treasure, and if we work with it, respect it, love it and enrich it, it will repay us a thousand times over!

And as we diversify our products and look for more and more ways of making even more appetising and delicious nectars, jams and jellies and other agro-industrial products—so that when the people of the world just hear the name "Grenada" they must begin to smack their lips and their mouths must begin to water. To this, we need simultaneously and scientifically to search the world for the new markets for our products.

Grenada's "Spice Isle" label must be seen in shops in every continent, and we are asking our internationalist friends here to spread the good news of our tasty products. Take home samples, comrades; for we are not just the Spice Island any more, we are now also the nectar island, the island of vegetables, of fruits, of sauces, of jams.

Tell the world that, and add that our beaches, our hotels and the hospitality, friendliness and dignity of our people are always ready to receive our overseas guests.

Over the last year we have spoken much about the 'social wage' and we have defined it as all those concrete benefits

This is an impressive infrastructural list to try to bring out in one year but again, it all has a price, it all has to be paid for. Over the past three years, we have seen magnificent fraternal contributions from our international friends and comrades. Several of these countries are poor, developing countries like ourselves, but that has not affected their generosity.

It is clear that we would be much further back in our development process without this direct help of our sisters and brothers from many nations: from Cuba, from Iraq, from Algeria, from Syria, from Libya and from other countries in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC), from Korea, from Tanzania and Nigeria, from Mexico and Venezuela, from Canada, from Kenya, from the European Economic Community (EEC) and from the socialist countries. All of this assistance has been very, very welcome and heart-warming to our people.

These nations have reached out to us and supported us because they know that we are an honest government, a serious government, a government that will tolerate no corruption, a government that places the welfare of its people as its first overwhelming priority, a government that makes the fullest and most economical use of every cent of assistance that our country receives.

And while we thank these countries from the depths of our hearts, on behalf of all of our people, we are quick to add that none of these countries, not one of them, has ever tried to compromise our freedom or put conditions on their assistance, none of these countries has ever tried to undermine our economic process or pervert our development for their own ends. . . .

*FWI, March 20, 1982*

#### WORLD BANK 1982 REPORT—EXCERPTS

8. The development problems facing Grenada are formidable and the great achievement of sustained growth will be possible only with a great effort. The Government which came to power in March 1979 inherited a deteriorating economy, and is now

addressing the task of rehabilitation and of laying better foundations for growth in the context of a mixed economy. The Government's economic strategy centers on the following goals:

- (a) to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and add to Grenada's infrastructure investment;
- (b) to stimulate productive investment both on the part of the private sector and through stepped-up public investments;
- (c) to improve the efficiency of the public sector and maintain sound public finances;
- (d) to emphasize agriculture and tourism.

9. In an economy as small as Grenada the principal focus of attention must be the ability to earn sufficient foreign exchange to finance import requirements. Since these requirements are directly linked to the rate of overall growth, the long-term growth of the economy is determined largely by its ability to earn foreign exchange. It is fortunate that Grenada possesses a good potential in both tourism and export agriculture. It is fortunate too that both these sectors have a good employment potential so that the goal of increasing exports should be compatible with the goal of increasing employment. Thus Government objectives are centered on the critical development issues and touch on the country's most promising development areas.

#### Agriculture

16. The Government that assumed office in March 1979 emphasized five areas for attention. Analyses of the current status and inventories of assets of the twenty-six state farms were made. Most of the farms were badly run down with, in many instances, cocoa, and banana lands turned to bush and pasture. New management teams for virtually all of the estates were brought in and these were asked to make proposals for the urgent rehabilitation of the estates, so that each farm could become self-sufficient during or, at worst, at the end of a five-year planning period. So as to effect overall efficiency in management, promote interdependence, effect crop specialization in relation to

comparative advantage, provide mutual assistance in recultivation and reconstruction, capitalize on economies of scale, and provide overall guidance, control and monitoring, all twenty-six farms were consolidated into the State Farms Corporation in 1980. Analyses indicated that four of the farms were inherently unviable and these were subsequently disbanded as separate units. With improved management, the Government expects the current deficit of the State Farms Corporation to decrease from EC\$0.6 million in 1981 to EC\$0.2 million in 1982, and to be eliminated altogether in 1985.

17. The Government is also attempting to enhance and upgrade extension services and technical assistance to individual farmers, and to provide larger flows of financial assistance for banana and cocoa rehabilitation. The Government has formulated a Banana Rehabilitation Project administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and is obtaining CIDA financing for a Cocoa Rehabilitation Project administered by the Cocoa Project Management Board. The establishment of private cooperatives of small farmers was also undertaken with financial and technical support from the Government.

#### Tourism

31. Even in decline, tourism contributed about one-half of Grenada's total foreign exchange earnings in 1981.

32. The foundations are now being laid for a more dynamic tourist industry. A public relations campaign was launched in 1982; a budget of EC\$700,000 or a 300% increase over 1980 was earmarked for tourism promotion. Market diversification was attempted, particularly European markets.

33. The main economic purpose of the international airport expected to come on stream in late 1983 or early 1984 is to attract an increased flow of tourists to Grenada. Several airlines have expressed an interest in servicing Grenada when the new airport is opened. Plans are afoot, with private sector participation—both local and foreign—to expand existing tourist facilities

such as hotels, water and sewerage systems, roads, tourism services and tourism attractions.

#### Construction

39. Construction has also been a critical element in the expansion of educational facilities throughout the country. Over EC\$5 million have been spent in this area over the last three years in a five-year program and EC\$9.6 million are earmarked for further expansion as the secondary school population increases as a result of the introduction of free education. A pre-fabricated unit plant for construction of houses with a capacity for the production of five hundred pre-fabricated houses per year is expected to become operational before long. The Grenada Housing Authority, attached to the Ministry of Housing, was established to provide housing facilities. In 1980, the Authority constructed 32 houses at a cost of EC\$1 million. In 1982, 50 houses are expected to be constructed by the Authority at a cost of EC\$2.3 million. In 1982, a National Housing Repair program was launched in order to assist low-income home owners in house repairs and maintenance. In health, an ambitious program is now underway including provision of free health services. The facilities at the General Hospital have been upgraded and improved and additional health centers are being built so as to decentralize the availability of proper health care.

#### DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

51. As noted, Grenada has a mixed economy, comprising the state, private and co-operative sectors. Ownership of the economy is mainly in the hands of the private sector which dominates agriculture, manufacturing and the distributive trades, commercial banking (four out of five banks being privately owned), and tourism (owned mostly by local and foreign businessmen). In addition, the insurance industry is almost totally owned and controlled by branch operations of privately-owned foreign firms.



**Private Sector Role**

52. Some productive sections of the private sector have expanded over the period 1979-1981, and continue to expand in 1982. The figures on loan requests to the Grenada Development Bank by the private sector indicate the desire of that sector to expand operations and/or enter new lines of production. Many areas of light manufacturing have been revitalized. Beverages, garment and flour production as well as furniture-making, are some of the areas in which investment has been increasing. As noted, the garment industry continued to record impressive growth, and so did flour production.

53. The Government has sought to encourage private sector confidence in a number of ways. There have been regular consultations between the Government and the Private sector. These consultations have involved soliciting private sector responses to proposed Government policies (i.e. Investment Code, National Budget/Plan 1982), clarifying doubts (i.e. import licensing system, Marketing and National Importing Board) and working out cooperative solutions to problems of mutual interest (i.e. marketing of primary product exports, identifying cheaper sources of agricultural inputs). Many of the private sector's suggestions have been taken into account by the Government. In general, the relationship between the Government and private sector has improved considerably during 1982.

54. The Government continues to provide incentives to encourage private sector investment. These include incentives under the Fiscal Incentive Act geared primarily toward the encouragement of manufacturing activities by providing duty-free concessions, and tax holidays. Additional incentives are made available under the Qualified Enterprise Act and the Hotel Aid Ordinance.

55. More recently, a draft Investment Code has been prepared on the basis of discussions with private enterprises operating in Grenada. This Code articulates the economic support and other available incentives, which are in keeping with the Government's stated policy objectives. The draft Investment Code also lists areas of economic activity available for private sector in-

volvement and outlines the basic principles governing joint venture operations between the Government and private enterprises.

**Balance of Payments and Growth Prospects**

63. The projections in this report assume that the Grenadian Government will be successful in stimulating exports. The volume of major traditional exports (cocoa, bananas, nutmeg and mace) is targetted to resume, by 1986, levels achieved in the mid-1970s. This will involve continuing efforts at agricultural production increases as well as continued export promotion efforts in the purchasing countries. Tourism is expected to pick up substantially as a result of the new international airport's completion. By 1986 the projections assume a return to the number of tourists who came to Grenada in 1973.

64. Under these assumptions the share of exports in GDP would rise gradually to about 47% in 1986. Most of the improvement would occur in 1985 and 1986. Until then Grenada's capacity to import will continue to depend largely on its ability to attract foreign savings. Public capital inflows will remain high during the completion period of the international airport but declining as a share of GDP in 1983. Thereafter, it is projected that at a minimum capital inflows will decline to historical levels of about 9% of GDP. As against this projected outcome, the Government hopes to attract foreign capital inflows of the order of 20% of GDP per annum in both 1984 and 1985. To the extent that the Government is able to attract larger inflows, the country's capacity to import will improve correspondingly. Because of the small size of the absolute amounts involved relatively small aid inflows can have a substantial effect on the capacity to import.

65. Grenada has been able to attract highly concessional aid flows and its debt servicing burden is consequently light (below 4% of exports). With the stepped-up public investment expenditure of recent years and in particular the borrowing associated with the completion of the new international airport, there has

been a substantial increase in the share of public inflows in the form of borrowings rather than outright grants. The debt service should be in the order of 10% of export earnings by 1986.

66. Grenada has been one of the very few countries in the Western Hemisphere that continued to experience per capita growth during 1981. It is virtually meaningless to project GDP growth rates precisely for a small open economy depending heavily on foreign savings, because additional inflows in the order of US\$10 million per year would probably increase GDP growth by several percentage points. What can be said is that if a determined effort is made to increase the volume of exports (and the recent sharp increase in garment exports is highly encouraging in this respect) and if the flow of tourists responds to the existence of a new international airport, Grenada should be able to continue to achieve modest per capita growth. This growth rate would, as noted, be increased to the extent that additional concessional capital flows as well as private investment flows are attracted to Grenada. The availability of sufficient domestic savings to serve as local counterpart funds to additional aid inflows may become a crucial precondition for obtaining such aid. The present targets of the Government for 1982 are encouraging in this respect as noted earlier in the description of the Government's effort to increase public sector savings. For the 1983-85 period the Government plans further substantial increases in public savings. It is also the hope of the Government that through reform of the financial system Grenada would be able to retain a larger share of domestic financial savings than is the case in the present framework.

*From press package, Embassy of Grenada, on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of Grenada, His Excellency Maurice Bishop to the United States. May 30-June 7, 1983*

### ECONOMY'S GROWING

An indication of the Revolution's progress is the growth of the economy. Since 1979, the economy has grown steadily. Last year, despite objective problems in production coupled with the crisis

in international capitalism, into which system Grenada's economy is woven, the economy grew by two percent.

Altogether agriculture, fisheries and forestry went up by five per cent which represented a significantly speedy recovery from the poor negative growth in 1980.

One reason for this positive growth was an increase in the domestic agricultural production of nearly eight per cent in physical terms. A large percentage of domestic produce was grown by the state farms, agriculture co-operatives, and small farmers, who took advantage of the favourable rainfall throughout last year.

The agricultural sector is the most important in the Grenadian economy, employing about 40 per cent of the workforce and comprising about 40 per cent of all lands. It has always been the most important contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP) and will remain so for a long time.

In 1980-81 its contribution rose from 24.3 per cent to 29 per cent of the GDP.

The Agro-Industries Plant at True Blue earned nearly \$300,000 from the sale of nectars, jams, jellies, hot sauce, tumeric, among others, all of which were produced from local farmers' products.

Some of the products were sold in the region, to the United Kingdom, and parts of North and Latin America. The coffee plant at Telescope also recorded relatively good success.

In fisheries the National Fishing Company which started operating in April last year, made \$164,000 through the sale of fish and lobster, despite serious shortages in both equipment and ice.

The Fish Processing Plant at True Blue is also well underway in processing salted and smoked fish. Although the saltfish has not been distributed throughout the country, some were exported last year to neighbouring Dominica.

Last year, the forestry division took a step forward with the establishment of the Forestry Development Corporation. At present, it produces about 35,000 cubic feet of timber, most of which is used to make furniture and boats.

There was a continuing dramatic increase in construction too. Construction grew by nearly 15 per cent last year, after an astronomical increase of 208 per cent in 1980, a clear indication of the priority it is given by the PRG.

However, last year, both hotel and restaurant activity, together with wholesale and retail trade, declined. This was attributed to a regional drop in the number of tourists, about which the other islands also complained.

Grenada's gross domestic expenditure increased by 8.8 per cent, from \$324.3 million in 1980 to \$352.8 million last year. Domestic investment by the PRG increased considerably, moving from 41.5 million in 1980 to 73.8 million last year. On the other hand, private sector investment was a mere \$2 million, falling from \$2.7 million in 1980.

In the debate on the economy over the past six weeks, concern was expressed about the dramatic fall in private sector investment since the Revolution, and in answer to this, measures were announced last Tuesday in the budget speech to stimulate the private sector to invest.

The National Commercial Bank (NCB), the people's bank, and now the second largest bank in the country, made a profit last year of \$1.4 million, or three times as much as it made in 1980, its first year of operation.

NCB now has branches throughout the island, and one is soon to open in Carriacou. The Grenville branch of the Royal Bank of Canada is now part of the NCB, after the Canadians sold it last year as a going concern.

In foreign trade last year, cocoa earnings went up from \$18.1 million to \$20 million in 1981, banana went up from \$10.8 million in 1980 to \$11.3 last year, nutmegs dropped from \$8.6 million in 1980 to \$8.4 million last year. Earnings from mace did not increase, it remained at \$1.9 million.

There was a dramatic increase in clothing from \$2.2 in 1980 to \$5.4 last year, furniture remained at \$8 million as in 1980, fresh fruits went up from \$.8 to \$1.1 million last year, and other goods went up from \$1.4 to \$2.8 million last year.

Exports went up from \$44.6 million in 1980 to \$51.1 million last year. However, last year, as in other years, Grenada was unable to balance its trade deficit. Some \$159.9 million in goods were imported, mostly food. Imports for 1980 amounted to \$151.8 million.

A significant part of the money spent on imports last year went into capital investment, such as on the international airport at Point Salines, which will in turn generate money to boost the economy.

Grenada's budget of \$160 million last year was a record. The budget this year is close to \$215 million, a new record.

A significant development in the formulation of the budget since the Revolution is the involvement of more people in decision-making. Before the budget was formulated last year, it was forwarded to the major trade unions in the country for discussion.

This year the budget touched every nook and cranny of the country, involving the mass organisations, the private sector and other individuals. This year's budget reflects, their ideas on how they want the country to move in the "Year of Economic Construction."

While Grenada's economy grew last year, some of the economies of major Western European countries fell back. Italy for instance, had an inflation rate last year of 19½ per cent while France recorded an inflation rate of over 13 per cent.

In the powerful United States itself, unemployment continued to soar with the inflation rising to unprecedented levels.

Since the Revolution, Grenada has attempted with some success, to lessen its dependence and ties with the shaky capitalist economies, which makes her vulnerable. As Finance Minister Bernard Coard always says: "Whenever the big maco, U.S.A. sneeze, we catch cold."

Attempts have been made over the past year to diversify trade relations with West European countries, other than the traditional trading partners, and with East European countries. Trade is also being developed with friendly progressive countries

in the Middle East from which Grenada is beginning to get grants and loans with favourable terms.

Markets for Grenada's traditional export crops, especially cocoa and nutmeg, are increasingly becoming a problem. Nutmeg, for instance, bore an unprecedented crop last year, but most of it is still in the country because of marketing and shipping problems. New markets are vital for the survival of those industries.

*FWI*, March 13, 1982

### PRG MOVING TO END UNEMPLOYMENT

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is embarking on a major long-term programme to create more jobs and eliminate unemployment completely.

The programme started yesterday, with a national four-day census of the unemployed throughout the country.

It will reach a high point on May 16, with a national conference on unemployment comprising about 1,000 delegates from the mass organisations, trade unions, the armed forces, training institutions and the private sector.

The drive to provide more jobs is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs, and the National Youth Organisation (NYO).

Minister of Agriculture George Louison explained that the census will give accurate figures on unemployment in the country. A survey done two years ago, he said, estimated the number of unemployed at 10,460 or about 27 per cent of the population.

Of these, about 60 per cent were youths, between the ages of 16-30 and about 68 per cent were female, meaning that young women are the people most likely without work.

The census, Min. Louison said, will gather basic information on unemployed in the country, to compile a register, showing the age and sex of the unemployed, areas of the country in which they live, their education and skills, the jobs they want, their expectations and the training they need.

With the data from the census, he said, the national conference will convene to discuss ways of creating new jobs and eliminating unemployment and to come up with a concrete plan of action.

"We are seeking to involve the entire people in our country in a series of actions to take place in 1982 and beyond," said Min. Louison.

After the plan is formulated and discussed in May, he said, "we will have the rest of the year to move towards implementation." During the course of the year, the programme would have already produced some jobs. . . .

As Min. Louison noted, "we cannot afford to have 40,000 acres of land lying idle when we are importing food." However, jobs will also come in agro-industries and fisheries.

The programme, he said, will help strengthen NACDA, which has already been helped by this being declared the Year of Economic Construction, the national debates on the budget and the economy, and the earlier moves to marry "idle lands with idle hands" spearheaded by the Land Reform Commission and the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA).

There are already a number of economic programmes coming on stream this year, which will provide more jobs, Min. Louison said.

Most of the jobs created will be on the land. . . . Moreover, "we are not mystified by unemployment. We view it as a feature of capitalism and as part of the whole legacy of slavery, colonialism and imperialism. Therefore, we see unemployment as a necessary basis for the new society we are building."

The ground work will come from the NYO, which will be conducting the census, and will be mobilising their members and unorganised youths, to see the importance of cooperating with the census, of taking part in the conference and zone council discussions, and of finding solutions to unemployment.

With Min. Louison were Secretary for Youth Affairs and NYO chairman Leon Cornwall and NYO general secretary Major Tan Bartholomew, who will head the committee that will do the groundwork.

*FWI*, March 27, 1982

**MORE YOUTHS ARE TURNING TO THE LAND**

The marrying of idle hands and idle lands brought tremendous improvement in agriculture, agro-industries, fisheries and co-operatives during the past year.

More bananas, cocoa and nutmegs were produced, as well as more Spice Isle products from the Agro-Industrial Plant and more fish for the masses.

More co-operatives were formed too, and more youths began to work the land, doing away with the old notion that there was no future in agriculture.

In fact, 150 youths saw the need for a scientific approach to agriculture and attended the Mirabeau Agriculture Training School.

A recent agricultural census shows that the average age of farmers was 51 years, a reduction of 11 years, from before the Revolution. This indicates clearly that more young people are becoming interested in agriculture.

The agricultural sector, the most important sector of the economy, employs about 5,000 full-time farmers and between 4,000 and 5,000 part-time farmers.

Several major projects were launched and included State Farms Corporation, a sheep and pig farm in Mt. Hartman, spice grinding plant, sheep production in Carriacou and the CARDI Field Station.

Harold Patrick, a backyard gardener of Fontenoy, St. George's, has seen agriculture's importance to man and is concentrating more on gardening. He was pleasantly surprised when he dug up a 5-foot 6-inch red yam, from his kitchen garden.

The co-operative movement is growing fast, with 15 co-operatives being established last year and 17 co-ops being trained during the same period. There are now 24 co-ops. These include 14 agricultural, three fishing, two bakeries, one craft, one food processing, one publishing, one construction and one shipping.

Over 200 persons between the ages 17-35 belong to these co-ops and 35 per cent are females.

The majority of the agricultural co-ops formed last year are realising earnings from their crops and are able to pay their wages, [maintain] bank balances and purchase farm inputs. From this year, the co-ops will begin repaying their loans.

Martin Joseph, president of Jams Co-operative in Perdmontemps, St. David's, said he became interested in the co-operative movement when he went to seek financial assistance from the Agricultural Development Bank and was told by the manager that it would be much easier for him if he formed a co-operative.

This co-op, with five members, produces salad bowls, bread and cheese boards, waiters, plates and food dishes among other handicraft items, on one lathe in a small workshop.

Bro. Joseph said that three of the five members were graduates of the Government Handicraft Centre and the other two were learning the skills.

There are plans to build a bigger workshop and the Government has already given them a plot of land for that purpose. He said that the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA) is helping them to obtain finance for the building and additional equipment.

*FWI, March 13, 1982*

**LAW ON LARGE IDLE LANDS PASSED**

To enable the Land Reform Commission, set up around the middle of last year, to increase agricultural production, jobs and income from agriculture, the PRG has passed a law to ensure that agricultural lands in excess of 100 acres to not remain idle or underutilised.

After being made public on August 14, some of the wording of the Land Development and Utilization Law was amended last week Saturday, and announced over Radio Free Grenada by Acting Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Since then, there has been no negative feedback.

The law provides that it is the responsibility of the occupier of farm land of over 100 acres or more, to farm the land to a

practicable extent, having regard to its character and situation and other relevant circumstances.

If the occupier should fail in his responsibility, the law gives the Minister of Agriculture the power to lease the land or any part of it, compulsorily to the exclusion of any other tenancy, lease, license or other right to use or occupy the land.

In determining whether the occupier of any agricultural unit is fulfilling his responsibility to farm the land, consideration would be given to the way pasture is being maintained, the way arable land is being cropped; and how the unit is stocked, in the case of livestock farms.

The PRG has set up a seven-man commission with special powers to ensure that occupiers of land over 100 acres fulfill their responsibility.

If the commission is satisfied that the land is not being utilised according to the law, it may, after giving the occupier the opportunity to be heard, declare the land idle.

An appeal against the commission's decision may be made to the Minister of Agriculture and if the appeal fails, the commission may call on the occupier to submit a development plan for the land.

If the occupier fails to submit such a plan, or if after his plan is approved by the commission he fails to carry it out to the commission's satisfaction, the Minister has the power to lease the land or any part of it compulsorily.

The lease may be for a maximum of 10 years, with the Minister having the power to renew it for another 10 years, the annual rental being the equivalent to one per cent of the unimproved value of the agricultural land when the lease began.

If the land is mortgaged, unless there is an agreement with the Minister, interest payments on the mortgage must be paid by the Minister while the occupier is responsible for payments towards the capital.

The law also forbids the owner of agricultural lands over 100 acres to sell, lease, let or otherwise charge for the land or any part of it, without the commission's approval.

The owner should also not transfer or assign his interest in the land without the commission's approval.

This policy will therefore prevent the breaking up of large areas of agricultural land into small and unproductive lots, thus enabling the PRG to pursue a more meaningful agrarian reform and bring more arable land under cultivation.

*FWI, October 3, 1981*

### PEOPLE GET \$215 M BUDGET

After two months of extensive but in depth discussions, the final draft of Grenada's 1982 budget and first national economic plan was officially presented to the people on Tuesday by Finance, Trade and Planning Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, in a mass ceremony at the Dome, Grand Anse.

This budget, totalling some \$214,819,741, is correctly referred to as a "people's budget." Over the past two months, following the historic conference of mass organisations on the economy, thousands of Grenadians have helped in its formulation through suggestions and opinions, made in numerous zonal and workers' parish councils.

In his over two-hour long presentation, Min. Coard briefly reviewed Grenada's economic performance since the Revolution, outlined the capital projects that will be undertaken this year, elaborated on the national plan and commented on the significance of the people's participation in the discussions and the contribution it made to the final draft.

The capital budget for this year, Min. Coard disclosed, amounts to \$134 million, while the recurrent side stands at \$67.9 million. He projected a revenue income of \$68 million for this year.

Agriculture has taken the largest share in the capital budget, receiving \$428 million. Of that sum, \$1 million will be spent on crop diversification, and another \$1 million will go towards upgrading the Mirabeau Farm Training School.

The Agro-industrial plant in True Blue would be expanded during this year and a spice-grinding factory will be built, Bro. Coard disclosed.

He said that \$16 million is to be spent on the international airport project, in Point Salines, the country's largest capital undertaking. Most of that would go on constructing the terminal building, on which work is expected to start from next month.

About \$2.2 million, he said, is also down to be spent on the Eastern Main Road (EMR) project, the island's second largest capital undertaking.

Among some of the areas Bro. Coard announced that have been allotted funds for investment and increased productivity are the fishing industry with \$2m; forestry with \$4.3m; the Grenada Resorts Corporation (GRC) with \$.5m; Grenada Electricity Services (GESL) with \$1.5m, mostly for the purchase of new generators; Grenada Port Authority with \$2m and the Central Water Commission (CWC) with \$2.8 million, which will be used to develop new water supply systems.

On recurrent revenue and expenditure, Min. Coard said that most of the money for recurrent expenditure will be spent in education and health, 14 per cent on health services, and 23 per cent on education.

Based on the people's suggestions about ways of increasing revenue income the Minister announced increased taxation on certain items which they singled out:

- \*A 10 per cent consumption duty has been placed on imported aerated soft drinks.

- \*10 per cent consumption duty on foreign fruits, jams and jellies.

- \*15 per cent duty on clothes imported from non-Caricom Countries

- \*5 per cent on alcoholic drinks

- \*1 percent on cigarettes.

Increases have also been placed on luxury items such as large refrigerators, speakers and amplifiers, air conditioners and TV sets, whose holders will also have to pay a \$25 annual fee.

To provide incentives for the private sector's participation in the economy, Min. Coard said that companies which invest in productive areas, will get a tax reduction of 15 per cent. An additional five per cent has been placed on the standard company tax, bringing it from 50 to 55 per cent.

FWI, March 13, 1982

### PATRIOTIC PEOPLE'S BANK— Message From PM Maurice Bishop

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is very happy to salute the management and staff of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) on the significant occasion of the second anniversary of our people's bank.

Considering that only two years have passed, it is extraordinary that the NCB has already begun to play such a very critical role in the revitalisation and promotion of our country's economy. It is noteworthy and praiseworthy that the NCB, after just two years, has emerged as the biggest lender to the very important agricultural sector, accounting for 69.1 per cent of all loans to that vital sector as of June 30, 1981, a truly remarkable increase of 52.9 per cent from the 16.2 percent of June 30.

The figures for loans to the manufacturing sector, the tourism, entertainment and catering sector, and the construction and land development sector, are also extremely impressive, as they reveal substantial increases in lending to these very key sectors.

This shows that the NCB is not narrowly business-oriented but is also very patriotic and has committed itself to providing much-needed funding to the most important productive sectors of the economy. The management and staff merit the highest praise for their strict adherence to this enlightened policy in particular and for their hard, diligent, committed work in general.

We also extend our congratulations for the NCB's outstanding achievement in increasing the share of the total deposits on the island. This increase from 19.8 per cent at the end of June

1980, to 22.2 percent by June 30, 1981, is no mean feat, especially as the increase in deposits necessarily signifies the NCB's greater ability to lend.

On behalf of our Government, party and people, I wish our people's bank continued success. Long live the NCB's important contribution towards building the Revolution and advancing socio-economic progress, as we move along the road towards a strong and self-reliant economy.

*FWI, October 31, 1981*

### \$7.1 MILLION FOR FISHERIES PROJECT

A \$7.1 million Artisanal Fisheries Development Project designed to benefit the fishing community has begun.

Minister of Industrial Development and Fisheries, Kenrick Radix, making the announcement at the graduation ceremony of the Grenada Fishing School last Thursday said that an agreement was reached with the United Nations International Agricultural Development Fund and the Venezuelan Investment Fund.

The IADF is providing a loan of \$3,982, 245 over 20 years at a four per cent interest, VIG a loan of \$2,048,489 for 40 years at two per cent interest and the People's Revolutionary Government is contributing \$1,090,775.

Minister Radix said that not only would the financial base of fishing be improved and extra employment created for fish vendors and boat builders but that there would also be an improvement in the protein diet of the people.

Former manager of the Guyana Fishing Company, Fred Peterkin, will be in charge of the project which will have its headquarters in Grand Mal. Renovations of the building have already begun.

Dr. Williams Allsopp, a fisheries consultant attached to the International Research Centre in Canada will also be assisting the project.

The project will include the renovation and building of six fishing markets in Grenville, Gouyave, Victoria, on the Carenage

and Melville Street in St. George's and in Hillsborough, Carriacou. These markets will have ice making equipment with a capacity of three tons per day.

Two fishing sheds will also be constructed in Sauteurs and Windward, Carriacou and two fish collection points will be built in Carriacou at Lestelle and Windward.

About five refrigerated vans would be bought to distribute fish to the inland communities and the Ministry is also looking at the possibility of building refrigerated points inland.

Radix explained that fishermen would now have the capacity to catch as much fish as they wanted and that they would be guaranteed a good price and market.

He disclosed that co-operatives would be established around these markets allowing fishermen to buy in bulk and get duty free concessions.

Fishermen would also be able to get loans from the project ranging from \$271 to \$27,100 to purchase boats and equipment.

"The Government has made one step forward by improving the lives of fishermen," he said.

*FWI, December 4, 1982*

### OCTOBER DECLARED "TOURISM MONTH"

October has been declared tourism month in Grenada by the Ministry of Tourism.

The month will be officially declared open by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard on Saturday, October 1 in an address on Radio Free Grenada and will be observed under the theme "Tourism is everybody's business."

According to the Director of Tourism, Jane Belfon, one of the main reasons for observing the month was that of getting ready for the opening of the international airport next year. Belfon said the month is also being observed to create a greater awareness among the public about the tourism industry, its operations and how it relates to the community.

One of the main features of the month's activities will be the Caribbean Hotel Association Training programme which will be



held in Grenada from October 15-27. The programme will involve seminars and workshops for hoteliers and other persons involved in tourism.

Other activities will include talks at zonal and parish councils and worker education classes, an audiovisual presentation on Grenadians in the industry and how it fits into the economy, a panel discussion on Radio Free Grenada and a drawing competition among schools. Competitors will be expected to draw their idea of the international airport. The prize for the winning entry will be sponsored by one of the international airlines scheduled to operate at an international airport.

The Ministry plans to observe tourism month in October each year.

*FWI, September 28, 1983*

# 15

## The International Airport

### Introduction

The Point Salines airport was the single most important undertaking of the revolution. In the economic sphere its actual and potential impact was enormous. It stimulated new technological skills and increased employment. It spawned ancillary industries, such as a stone crushing plant and ancillary infrastructural development, such as feeder roads. It was designed to impact greatly on the tourist industry by opening up the island to direct flights from North America and Europe. Money which tourists spent overnighting, often against their will, in Barbados or elsewhere, would now be spent in Grenada. The airport would also stimulate agriculture and other sectors of the economy by providing speedy access to markets.

On a political level the airport demonstrated Grenada's determination to choose its own friends. Cuban support was massive and indeed the most critical element in the project's success. This support came in the way of technological expertise, heavy equipment and other materials and hundreds of internationalist construction workers.

The airport soon also became the focal point for United States attacks on Grenada. Unsuccessful attempts were made to block international financing for the project. Washington saw it in strict cold war terms as a military facility for Cuban warplanes. U.S. attacks reached a crescendo when in March 1983 President Ronald Reagan used national TV to dramatize the "threat" posed to U.S. interests by Grenada's international airport. The Grenadians braced themselves for the invasion which they had long predicted. No one could have guessed that

when it did come, six months later, it would be facilitated by the internal destruction of the revolution. To heap insult upon injury, the still unfinished commercial airport of the Grenadian people saw its first action as a military airfield for the invading U.S. forces.

### WE AIN'T GIVING UP OUR AIRPORT

The international airport being built at Point Salines continues to be the primary target of the Ronald Reagan administration, in his attempt at justifying an invasion in Grenada.

The entire Grenadian population remains well aware that the new airport constitutes the Revolution's single most important project.

It is the airport which has the tremendous potential of bringing more economic benefits to the people of this country.

Grenada's incomparable tropical beauty will undoubtedly become more accessible to tourists the world over, who, through our new airport, can fly directly to and from Grenada, completely free of flight-changing hassles.

Additionally, the new airport, capable of receiving large flight services, will be of great use to the agricultural farmers and all our productive enterprises since markets would be more accessible.

Several new jobs will be coming on stream with the opening of the new airport, thus making yet another stride in solving the problem of unemployment.

Generally, therefore, the entire country stands to benefit immensely, in the economic sphere, with the new airport.

However, we need to understand that the size of the Grenada airstrip is well short of those existing in the region, some of which are readily put at the service of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The continuing economic progress being made by Grenada is the key factor which forces the Reagan administration to clutch at straws, in an effort to hold back Grenada's progressive thrust forward.

Reagan's attempts to use our new airport as a justification for his military manoeuvres, and his insane rantings and threats, will undoubtedly fail, just as his attempts at sabotaging the European Economic Community's (EEC) assistance for the same airport failed previously. The truth was what served to convince the EEC.

Reagan's mad ravings are gradually becoming even more incredible, even to his own U.S. people, who, after watching his performance in El Salvador and Nicaragua, are beginning to raise their voices in protest against his cowboy designs.

The Grenadian masses will continue to make the airport site, their most treasured outing spot, until its full completion. They will continue to support its continued construction, fully aware of its tremendous revenue-earning potential, particularly in Tourism.

Visitors will continue to come to Grenada, as they have been doing in the past years since the Revolution. For they too recognise that their presence here is testimony to the progress Grenada is making, as an example to other small poor states, of optimum use of scarce resources.

It is the example that Grenada provides to other small poor states that irks Reagan. Each year of economic growth is another thorn in his side. Now it seems that the thorns are too many, and already his mind boggles.

Grenadians must stand firm for principle, for justice, and for peace. A tired weather-beaten Reagan will have to retire hurt.

FWT, April 1, 1983

### THE SHIFTING SANDS OF POINT SALINES

One year ago, it was mountainous overgrowth, with secluded beauty spots.

Today, it looks like a vast desert of sand dunes and oases. In two years, it will be Grenada's first international airport, complete with 9,000-foot runway and terminal building.

Turning Point Salines into a modern international airport is the most ambitious project undertaken by the People's Revolutionary Government, so far.

It requires mowing down trees and rocks, flattening mountains, dredging and filling up bays and ponds. It will be three years of work, and will cost over \$100 million.

The airport's quick materialisation from paper to near-reality is a tribute to Caribbean solidarity and joint action between Grenada and Cuba.

Since World War II, when Pearl's was being built, Point Salines was recommended as the best spot for an airport. But it was clearly a major construction job, because of the topography.

In 1969, an economic and technical feasibility study by British civil and structural engineers with the Economist Intelligence Unit, again named Point Salines as the best location.

In all, three feasibility studies recommended Point Salines. But the Eric Gairy regime sat on them, waiting to see U.S. dollars before beginning.

After the March 13, 1979 Revolution, a full-sized airport was seen as a priority for external communications, trade and tourism, and decreasing Grenada's dependence on her sometimes hostile neighbours.

The Cubans did their own feasibility study and found that there was no better place for the airport; it would have been more expensive to lengthen Pearls' 5,250 feet. And because of the wind direction, the airstrip had to run from east to west, or it would be unusable during high winds.

From the moment the decision was made, action began. Within one month, equipment, such as trucks and bulldozers arrived. Cuba is donating 29 million dollars worth of heavy equipment, which is the biggest single expenditure.

Cuba is also supplying the labour of about 270 workers, including laboratory technicians for testing the durability of the soil, engineers, construction workers, even a doctor.

About 160 Grenadians are also working at the airport. Foremost is project co-ordinator Bob Evans, the top administrator.

Evans left his job as manager with a private construction firm because he felt proud to be involved.

The PRG is footing half the airport bill. It immediately began selling airport bonds and seeking assistance abroad.

It got grants from Libya, Algeria, Syria and Iraq and 10,000 barrels of deisel from Venezuela, representing one year's supply for running trucks and bulldozers.

In the first six months, Evans said, \$.75 million was spent on fuel alone, and the operation was still small.

The airport will be in use by next December, when a 5,500 foot runway will be surfaced, to allow night landing by LIAT's small planes.

Two dykes are being built, to pump out the silt and fill back the area with tiff or sandstone.

An armour of sea defence will then be constructed from stone, to prevent erosion from the sea.

The stones will weigh around four tons each, and they are coming from a quarry in Mt. Hartman, about three miles from the airport site.

Right now, a new stone-thresher from Cuba is being installed at the quarry, which, in one day, uses over 500 pounds of explosives, mainly gelignite, and yields over 60 cubic yards of stone.

Right now, the lighthouse hill is being blasted, to reduce it from 24 metres to 10 metres above sea level, a task that will require seven tons of explosives.

The explosive itself is novel. It is made from ammonium nitrate, mixed with molasses and was developed in Cuba. This is the first time it is being used outside Cuba, and Evans comments that it is very inexpensive, compared with gelignite, "and very effective."

The blasting is being supervised by two engineers, Hillman Schmidt, an East German explosives expert who has been working in Cuba and Victor Rodriguez, a Cuban.

They give advice on safety measures, the quantity of explosives needed and the angle for drilling.

The residue or the blasted hill is being used for filling, so it must be the right texture. If too little explosive is used, rocks remain. If too much is used, it turns to powder.

Work, mainly blasting and filling, is now in full gear, with two shifts, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. The nightwork is done with floodlights operating with generators.

The airstrip will be 20 feet above sea level, and under it will have a nine-foot high culvert for drainage, with three feet of filling over it. The culvert is being built with cement blocks, which have been tested for stress and strain.

This year, 13,000 tons of cement will be needed just for paving part of the strip, which will be mainly asphalt, with only the turning area at the head and some of the shoulders in concrete.

A temporary terminal building will be set up, while work on the final version [progresses].

This will be a beautiful but functional building, to accommodate about 300,000 passengers annually, the number of passengers expected in 1990, and satisfy the requirements of wide-bodied jets, which carry about 400 passengers. It will have shopping centres, hotels and restaurants.

According to Ramon Garcia, national airport director of Cuba, who visited Grenada recently, the masterplan of the airport includes runways, apron, buildings, telecommunications system, lights and everything that would accommodate wide-bodied and small aircraft.

All the aircraft will have parking space and there will be a special area for parking private light planes.

An inter-ministerial unit has been set up, which is, among other things, looking at the needed navigational, measuring and fire-fighting equipment.

By 1983, Grenada will have one of the most modern airports in the West Indies.

*FWI, January 1, 1981*

### THE PRG'S GRANDEST UNDERTAKING

It has been a main target of United States' destabilisation attempts, rumour-mongering and speculation. There have been

direct attempts to deny it funds and to sabotage operations.

Yet, work at the new international airport at Point Salines keeps rolling on, day and night, towards completion around the middle of next year, despite obstacles from man or nature.

The reasons for imperialism's hostility are the airport's obvious role in opening up Grenada to the rest of the world, and its importance in strengthening the country's economy. It is the PRG's grandest undertaking, its greatest investment, and it is expected to bring returns in the two mainstays of the economy—tourism and agriculture.

The urgency towards completion is emotional, as well as practical. The airport is a source of pride for Grenadians, who have had to suffer indignities or inconvenience in transit through Trinidad or Barbados, while watching other equally small Eastern Caribbean islands acquire their own direct link with the outside world.

Now Grenadians organise transport to spend their Sunday evenings touring Point Salines, to see how work on their airport is progressing.

The airport, when completed, will be a monument of defiance against imperialism's might, of tribute to internationalist co-operation, and of hope in the future.

Imperialism has claimed that the runway is too large for Grenada's needs and will be used for military purposes. Yet, the runway will be just 9,000 feet long—the same length as those in Antigua and Saint Lucia, and far smaller than that of Barbados, which is 11,000 feet.

Cuba's invaluable assistance in designing and constructing the airport is being twisted too. But, project engineer Ron Smith, like most Grenadians, recognises that without Cuban help, there would be no airport.

Cuba is contributing half the cost of the \$200 million airport in labour and materials. But, Smith observes, that \$100 million in cash could not have accomplished what the Cubans have.

The Canadian-educated engineer feels that if the airport was being built by Western contractors, it would have cost at least \$325 million and would not even have begun yet.

Besides Cuba, aid for the airport has come from Venezuela, Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Syria and the European Economic Community.

The airport is already helping the economy by providing jobs for about 350 Grenadians—250 on the actual airport, and another 100 on its related operations, the asphalt mixing and concrete batching plants, both gifts from Cuba.

At Point Salines, Grenadian, Cuban and U.S. workers toil together. The 30 Americans are employed by a U.S. dredging firm, contracted for \$6.75 million, to dredge and backfill that portion of Hardy Bay, through which the runway will pass.

Dredging has finished, but the backfilling—picking up sand from the ocean between the bay and Glover Island, running it through a pipeline and depositing it to form a layer on the dredged portion—is being held up by rough, surging seas.

However, work continues on the runway. The first 5,000 feet, ending at Hardy Bay, already has two layers of paving and needs three more. Drilling, blasting and levelling is also continuing on the second portion, which ends opposite the Calliste school.

Work on a modern, airy, two-storied terminal building, designed by Cuban architects, is expected to start soon.

In the meantime, the PRG is examining bids from two or three companies for radio and navigation equipment.

When completed, according to Clairmont Kirton, adviser to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the airport will have an allround impact on the economy, since it will help generate more jobs, more agriculture and more trade in perishable items.

Its main advantage will be bringing larger planes, more flights, day and night, and therefore, more people coming directly into the country.

Bro. Kirton noted that last year alone, 29,000 tourists over-nighted in Barbados, at a cost of \$230 a night. If that money were spent here instead, it would be an extra \$6.6 million for local hotels.

And, if efforts are made to combat the negative propagananda and organise more package tours and educational group excursions, that figure can increase tremendously, he said.

This will create the need for more hotels, restaurants, and night clubs, and mean more jobs there, and more work for taxi-drivers and vendors.

The cargo planes that will be able to land will allow Grenada to exploit the markets abroad for fresh fruit, vegetables and sea food. This, in turn, will help stimulate farmers and fishermen to produce more.

At the airport itself, there will be jobs for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, from air traffic controllers to bellboys.

Moreover, the airport has laid the foundation for Grenada's helping to satisfy some of its own construction needs.

The Ramon Quintana complex at Mr. Hartman, named after the Cuban internationalist worker who accidentally lost his life there, is already providing asphalt for the Eastern Main Road with bitumen imported from Trinidad.

After the airport is completed, the stone, concrete and asphalt will obviously go towards building sturdier roads, bridges and homes in Grenada.

*FWI, March 13, 1982*

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT— CONSTANT TARGET OF U.S. ATTACKS

Since it began construction in January 1980, the international airport at Point Salines has been a consistent target of United States government officials who, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, keep insisting that it is to be used for military purposes by the Cubans and the Soviets.

Now that the airport is three-quarters complete, the attacks are increasing in frequency and venom. The latest came Wednesday night from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on a nationwide radio and television broadcast on the U.S. Defence Budget that was transmitted worldwide.

Showing an aerial "spy plane" photograph of the international airport, Reagan said: "And on the small island of Grenada, at the southern end of the Caribbean chain, the Cubans, with Soviet financing and backing, are in the process of building

an airfield with a 10,000-foot runway. Grenada does not even have an air force. Who is it intended for?

"The Caribbean is a very important passageway for our international commerce and military lanes of communication. More than half of all American oil imports now pass through the Caribbean. A rapid build-up of Grenada's military potential is unrelated to any conceivable threat to this island country of under 110,000 people and totally at odds with the pattern of other Caribbean states, most of which are unarmed.

"The Soviet-Cuban militarisation of Grenada, in short, can only be seen as power projection into the region."

Reagan's verbal onslaught shows an amazing disregard for the truth, that regrettably seems to be typical of U.S. administration officials.

For one thing, it ignores the fact that, at slightly less than 9,000 feet, the airport runway is the same size as those in Antigua, Saint Lucia and Aruba, and smaller than those in Trinidad, Barbados and Curacao, none of which countries have an air force.

It ignores the fact that this Cuban-built, Soviet-financed airport is actually being financed by the sale of airport development bonds and grants from friendly countries such as Venezuela, Nigeria, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Libya and the European Economic Community.

Or that a Miami firm, Layne Dredging Ltd, won the contract to dredge Hardy Bay, over which the runway passes, and actually brought 30 U.S. workers here to do the job.

Or that two European companies, Plessey Airport Ltd of Great Britain and Metex of Finland, are providing equipment for the airport.

It fails to mention that an international airport at Point Salines was proposed by the British Government some 30 years ago when Grenada was still a colony, and the idea abandoned because it was too costly.

Or that the U.S. government was the first to be approached by the PRG in 1979, for aid in building the airport, and that

U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz's response, as quoted by Stephen Kinzer of the Boston "Globe" was: "This is not the type of project that the U.S. could pay for."

Reagan apparently does not know that the airport project managers are two very non-militant Grenadians: chief administrator Bob Evans, who once ran his own private construction firm and calls the airport "the biggest project I'll ever witness in Grenada in my lifetime," and civil engineer Ron Smith, who in 1966 recommended the airport to his boss, Eric Gairy, and now sees this as "my dream come true."

Reagan also does not know of the nearly 100 other Grenadian workers who with the Cuban internationalists, work, eat and sleep on the airport site.

Nor does he know that the airport site is bordered by elegant, large homes of wealthy Grenadians and foreigners.

But, more interesting is that Reagan seems totally unaware of his own citizens' close familiarity with the airport.

For example, he may not know that the True Blue campus of the U.S.-owned St. George's University School of Medicine is a few yards from the airport site, and that its students go driving or jogging around the area and swimming in the nearby beaches.

*FWI, March 28, 1983*

### WHICH ISLE HAS LONGEST RUNWAY?

The table below gives a comparative look at the length of the runway at Grenada's new international airport, with those of other Caribbean islands.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>RUNWAY LENGTH</u>
Grenada	9,000 ft.
Antigua	9,000 ft.
Aruba	9,000 ft.
Bahamas (Nassau)	11,000 ft.
Barbados	11,000 ft.

COUNTRYRUNWAY LENGTH

Curacao	11,187 ft.
Guadeloupe	11,499 ft.
Martinique	10,827 ft.
Puerto Rico	10,002 ft.
Saint Lucia	11,070 ft.
Trinidad	9,500 ft.

FWI, April 1, 1983

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# In Nobody's Backyard

*The Grenada Revolution  
in its Own Words*

*Volume II: Facing the World*

*Edited by*  
**TONY MARTIN**

*With the assistance of* **DESSIMA WILLIAMS**

*On Grenada, No. 2*



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## ON GRENADA

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Responses



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*To Maurice Bishop, Unison Whiteman, Jacqueline Crest,  
Norris Bain, Fitzroy Bain, Vincent Noel and all the  
heroes and martyrs of October 19, 1983.*

*Poor rags and all tatters  
My portion might be,  
And yet robbed in Manhood  
No slave dwells in me:  
The world's dearest mantle  
Is true liberty!*

*—T.A. Marryshow*

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## General Principles

### Introduction

The new direction of the revolution could perhaps be most clearly seen in its foreign policy. Built-in constraints to rapid change perhaps seemed less formidable than in the case of domestic relations. The threat of mercenary attack or United States invasion provided an added impetus for the diplomatic offensive launched by the new government.

Grenada's foreign policy was marked by a fierce independence. The PRG joined the Non-Aligned Movement (headquartered in Cuba in 1979), almost immediately. Despite close and growing friendship with Cuba and the Communist world, the PRG somehow managed to maintain membership in the Socialist International. Whether this was a deliberate reflection of its non-alignment, a simple transitional feature of a changing organization or a tell-tale sign of ideological differences within the movement, can only be the subject of speculation at this time.

Nowhere is the independence of Grenada's foreign policy better demonstrated than in its defiance of the United States. Against Uncle Sam's warnings and threats, revolutionary Grenada mobilized its people, built its army and militia, stockpiled arms, embarked on a diplomatic offensive and engaged the Colossus of the North in a war of words. "No, we are not in anybody's backyard," said Prime Minister Bishop. "The Caribbean is not an American lake," echoed an editorial in the Free West Indian; "We will decide our own destiny."

The PRG's foreign policy was also marked by deep solidarity with liberation movements around the world, including the struggles of Black peoples in metropolitan countries.

These new emphases were not developed, however, at the expense of traditional groupings. Grenada retained its membership in the British Commonwealth, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), among others. Caribbean integration remained a dominant foreign policy objective.



Left to right: Arnaldo Tamayo of Cuba, first Black person in space; Prime Minister Maurice Bishop; President Fidel Castro.  
Free West Indian

**THE FOREIGN POLICY OF GRENADA—  
Statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, May 1981**

**Principles**

Grenada's Foreign Policy is guided by four basic principles.

- 1) Anti-Imperialism and Non-Alignment
- 2) Creation of a New International Economic Order.
- 3) Pursuit of Regional Cooperation and Integration.
- 4) Promotion of World Peace and Cooperation.

**Anti-Imperialism and Non-Alignment**

One of the fundamental principles of Grenada's foreign policy was first formulated in 1973 in the Manifesto of the New Jewel Movement, and it is in this context that a major aspect of the People's Revolutionary Government's policy is that of anti-imperialism and non-alignment.

Grenada's firm commitment to the principles of non-alignment informs its policy of resolute opposition to colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism (including Zionism), fascism and imperialism; full support for peaceful co-existence and the principles and aims of détente. Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs Maurice Bishop in addressing the 34th U.N. General Assembly categorically stated that:

"Non-alignment does not imply for us that we must be neutral in the sterile and negative sense, nor does it imply that our country must regard itself as a political eunuch in the conduct of our international affairs. Our non-aligned policy will certainly not lead us to surrender our independence of judgment in world affairs, or to retreat from our right and duty to fully participate in international forums and discussions concerned with issues vital to our interests, concerns and principles. On the contrary, non-alignment for us is a positive concept characterising a vigorous and principled approach to international issues. It is an affirmation of that fundamental attribute of all peoples and states to sovereignty, independence and the right to freely determine their own domestic and foreign policies."

Furthermore, Grenada's policy of non-alignment and anti-imperialism is manifested by our determination to freely choose our own political and economic system free from all forms of domination and to establish control over our natural and national resources. These remain the foremost objectives of our foreign policy.

**New International Economic Order**

Grenada regards the present distribution of world economic power as manifestly unjust, especially since the accumulation of such power derives from the long history of imperialist expansion and control of the Third World. The small-island developing countries are especially disadvantaged in this situation, and we regard it as our special responsibility to work for the creation of a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

In clarifying Grenada's conception of this New International Economic Order, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in his address to the 34th Session of the U.N. General Assembly stated,

"By the New International Economic Order, we mean the assertion of national sovereignty over the ownership and control of our economic resources. Further, we mean the establishment of the freedom to determine the disposition and use of our resources in whatever ways our people wish, in furtherance of their own aspirations for economic development. We mean the creation of an equitable system of international trade based on just prices for our exports. We mean the opening up of markets internationally, in particular in the wealthy countries to facilitate the growth of exports in the Third World. We mean the establishment of an international agreement on the exploitation of the resources of the sea which would secure a just share of the resources and the wealth generated therefrom for the developing countries.... We desire a new system of international inter-dependence, based on mutual respect for sovereignty and a collective will to put an end to imperialist machinations designed to disrupt our unity and purpose."

Grenada's economy is based on four pillars, namely, agriculture, agro-industries, tourism and fisheries. As a result, the solution to the problems of limited markets, limited resources, lack of skilled manpower resources, underdeveloped money markets and infrastructure are critical to the development of our nation. It is in this context that we resolutely support the North-South Dialogue and continue to work vigorously for the development of economic cooperation among developing countries.

**Regional Cooperation and Integration**

Because of geographical location and shared historical and cultural experiences, Grenada is naturally linked to the Caribbean and the broader Latin American region. We are therefore firmly committed to strengthening the existing ties in this region.

For us the Caribbean includes not only the English-speaking islands, but in fact all those islands washed by the Caribbean Sea, including the Dutch, French and Spanish-speaking islands together with Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Cayenne.

We are convinced that the Caribbean as herein defined has a natural and close connection with the Continental Caribbean and also the rest of the Latin American region.

This Caribbean and Latin American perspective therefore accounts for our consistent efforts over the past two years to maintain and develop principled and good neighbourly relations with the entire region.

As an expression of our commitment towards deepening and strengthening integration in the region, we have continued to work towards further developing the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a regional grouping of thirteen English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Our commitment towards sub-regional cooperation was clearly demonstrated in the Declaration of St. George's signed in July 1979. Through this Declaration, the Governments of Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia undertook to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between the people and Governments of these three nations.

This commitment had also influenced our position towards the creation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a sub-regional grouping of seven of the smaller islands of the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean, which will be formally inaugurated on July 4, 1981. We believe that this new organisation will be a positive force in strengthening the regional integration movement.

Grenada insists on legal equality for all nation states, mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, ideological pluralism, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and the right of every country to develop its own process in its own way free from all forms of outside dictation and pressure.

### **Peace and Cooperation**

World peace and cooperation is an important aspect of Grenada's foreign policy. This derives from Grenada's realisation that without peace and cooperation there can be no progressive development. When tension prevails, it means that a tremendous amount of resources is diverted to unproductive and often dangerous and destructive military purposes.

These enormous resources can be much more gainfully employed in the provision of material goods and services for the upliftment of society and the improvement of living conditions of the people of this world.

Since the New Jewel Movement and the People's Revolutionary Government are firmly committed to the improvement of the material conditions of the people, it is logical that our policy be rooted in the principles of peace and cooperation. For this reason the People's Revolutionary Government has pursued an active policy of principled relations and cooperation with all countries of the world.

It is also for this reason that at the 9th General Assembly of the Organisation of American States in La Paz, Bolivia, in October 1979, Grenada took the initiative to secure the passage of a resolution that the Caribbean Sea be declared a Zone of Peace. Subsequently at the 35th session of the U.N. General Assembly in October 1980, Grenada proposed specifically that the Member States adopt measures to:

- 1) Prohibit the introduction of nuclear weapons in the region;
- 2) Stop all military manoeuvres in the region;
- 3) Dismantle all foreign military bases that exist in our area;
- 4) End the colonization of all territories once and for all;
- 5) Establish machinery to end all forms of aggression, including assassinations, mercenary invasion, propaganda intervention and diplomatic and economic pressure.

### **IN NOBODY'S BACKYARD**

"No, we are not in anybody's backyard."

This fact, stressed by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maurice Bishop, aptly sums up the PRG's foreign policy. It is realistic, active, consistently principled, uncompromisable, and an outgrowth of the national, grassroots democracy formed by the Revolution.

Shortly after the Revolution, Grenada was accepted as a member of the anti-imperialist Movement of Non-Aligned Nations, which represents the interests of two-thirds of humanity.

Speaking at the Movement's sixth summit conference in Havana on September 6, 1979, PM Bishop stressed that Grenada shared the Movement's core principles: "A firm commitment to the establishment of an international community, based on the principles of opposition to colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism (including Zionism) fascism and imperialism."

Despite increasing hostility and pressure from imperialism, and faced with three forms of destabilisation—propaganda, economic and violence—the PRG has not bent.

This has brought Grenada international prestige and esteem, new friends worldwide and given Grenadians greater national identity, dignity and pride.

"Forward Ever" expresses a concrete direction against imperialism and towards greater self-sufficiency and genuine national independence. It expresses the desire for friendships based on mutual cooperation, respect for national goals and on non-exploitation.

Denying the right to exploit is tied directly to the principled anti-imperialist stance and the deepest desire for friendship with all peoples, including those ruled or misled by unfriendly regimes.

The PRG repeatedly stresses its fervent desire for and incessantly works towards, fraternal relations with all governments, including the United States, based on respect for sovereignty. Detente is also seriously urged.

Grenada's foreign policy asserts that the right of self-determination must be respected, fought for and protected. It recognises and advocates that the region's peoples are moving to build one united Caribbean and one united Latin America.

The PM's call for the Caribbean to be declared a zone of peace would not only reduce militarism, but would help local peoples accelerate their badly-needed economic take-off and subsequent social development.

Grenada, for instance, must now divest scarce funds, resources and personnel for defensive purposes, because of the ever-lurking menace of invasion and violent counter-revolution. This slows down the rate of overall development projects, and also puts extra financial burden on an economy already strained by previous corruption, mismanagement and the bitter tailwinds of capitalism's aggravating global crisis.

Solidarity with the struggles of oppressed everywhere is an important plank in the PRG's foreign policy. Yet Grenada does not "export" revolution; non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations is a sacred, defended principle of PRG policy.

The PRG's anti-imperialist stance is based on the sensible need to reduce what the PM calls "truly frightening" world tensions. Recognising that peace is the life-saving business of all, and that developed countries and rich war-mongers, for whom war is good business, cannot be left to decide humanity's fate, the PRG struggles for peace.

It understands that peace and justice are indivisible, and that world peace depends on reversing uneven, unequal, parasitic development. Thus Grenada joins the world's peoples in calling for a new international economic order and a new international information order, that would end imperialist manipulation of finances, resources, information, news, values and resulting attitudes and lifestyles.

Imperialism vainly tries to create the myth that Grenada is a "Cuban pawn" and the latest "casualty" of "Soviet adventurism." This is designed to obscure the genuine progress and advances that Grenada is making, with the generous and unselfish assistance of countries, organisations and individuals throughout the world.

"Don't listen to foreign propaganda. Come and see for yourself," the PM advises.

In response to its positive foreign policy role, Grenada now finds itself the site of numerous conferences and visits by special interest groups and organised tours.

It also actively participates in prestigious international fora. With a population of only about 110,000 its representatives sit on important bureaux and committees of regional and international organisations.

Since the Revolution, a number of friendship and support groups have been formed abroad to give moral and financial support and material and human assistance.

Grenada has signified its willingness to accept aid from any sources, provided it is principled, and does not come with strings or unacceptable conditions.

It has also stressed that ideological pluralism must be respected in practice, as must self-determination, and the sovereignty, legal equality and territorial integrity of the region's nations.

Exploited and developing countries must be free to organise and unite to facilitate their economic and social development, it insists.

Grenada's foreign policy is an extension of its domestic policy. The people cannot be free from exploitation and foreign domination, unless the government adopts a principled, progressive and non-aligned world policy.

Similarly, no one nation can be truly free, unless all are free. And so, Grenada's Revolution belongs not only to Grenadians, not only to the Caribbean, but to all struggling peoples.

*FWI, March 13, 1981*

### WHY THEY WANT TO CRUSH US

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop last Sunday night gave to over 5,000 Grenadians, a number of reasons why imperialism is bent on crushing the popular Grenada Revolution.

He was addressing a rally at the Market Square, St. George's, to commemorate the 94th birthday of Jamaican national hero Marcus Garvey.



and to demonstrate Grenada's defiance to the threat of U.S. military invasion.

The rally was co-sponsored by the Media Workers' Association of Free Grenada (MWAFC).

Addressing the gathering was Phillip Agee, former CIA officer and representatives of progressive regional organisations.

The first reason PM Bishop gave, was that "we in tiny brave Grenada have led the first successful revolution in the English-speaking Caribbean."

"Here is a small Caribbean people, brave enough to challenge and take up arms against imperialism," he explained.

Grenada has "embarked on a new foreign policy" and "the U.S. imperialists are aware that oppressed blacks in the U.S. will identify with the Grenada Revolution," said PM Bishop.

They have also claimed that "our strategic location" along their oil andauxite routes is bothering them, and therefore they are out to crush the Revolution.

Imperialism has tried hard to turn back this process from the beginning in many different ways, including use of the notorious "pyramid plan" drawn up by the CIA.

"We have seen propaganda destabilisation and economic warfare against our country," PM Bishop went on, giving numerous examples.

"They used terrorist violence against innocent Grenadians, causing the loss of many young lives, but failed to turn back the Revolution. After local terrorists, with CIA backing, failed, imperialism decided on the ultimate course—direct military invasion.

"Reagan and his warlords are losing more credibility every day.

"World public opinion, as a result of the change in the balance of forces, is a very important factor," he added.

If imperialism "have forgotten the lessons they got in Cuba, Vietnam and Angola, among many others, we will teach them all over again," PM Bishop stated to thunderous applause.

PM Bishop also explained that "Garvey fought a struggle to bring justice to the common man. For this he was imprisoned and persecuted."

Parallels can be drawn here today, he said. Imperialism is attempting "to persecute and confuse our people, because we too struggle for a better and brighter day."

Referring to U.S. Rear-Admiral Robert P. McKenzie's criticism that Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua, are one country, PM Bishop said he was correct. "We are basically one people, united in the anti-imperialist spirit."

*FWI, August 29, 1981*

## HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE

Within the past few days, peace-loving Grenadians have viewed with increased concern, but not surprise, U.S. imperialism's escalating campaign of lies and slander against the Cuban, Nicaraguan and Grenadian Revolutions, and its announced plans for military action against the three freest countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Because of our close fraternal bonds with the Nicaraguan and Cuban peoples, we are gravely concerned about the imperialist threats to their freedom, as we are concerned about the threats to our own national security.

We are not surprised by imperialism's criminality, because we understand that when the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada cast aside the yokes of dictatorship and begin to chart their destiny along freedom's road, they created a shining moral example for the oppressed masses of Latin America and the Caribbean, an example deemed dangerous by imperialism.

History has taught us that whenever a freedom-loving people choose their own path to development, resist all attempts at exploitation, break out the chains of economic and cultural dependency and ideological hegemony and begin to create the conditions for social equality, justice and progress, the forces of reaction will rant and rave with predictable hysteria.

These three revolutions in the Western Hemisphere have created popular people's democracies (as distinct from parliamentary hypocrisies) in a part of the world which has been under U.S. imperialism's dominance for generations.

They have begun to pose serious alternatives to the capitalist system of economic and social organisation. Indeed, they have called into question the most fundamental precepts of Western civilization.

Imperialism will not leave us alone because it cannot. It will oppose us because it must. It acts according to a law of history: the law of opposing and contending forces. Furthermore, its deepening economic crisis forces it to invent scapegoats, to fabricate enemies. For the military-industrial complex which dictates imperialism's foreign policy, the only solution to the economic crisis in capitalism is the production and sale of more and more arms which inevitably means military aggression and war.

And what more convenient targets for a war policy than three small revolutionary countries which are bold and brave enough to defy imperialism and everything it symbolises.

So first, we see and hear on the empire's mass media the vile propaganda weaved on the looms of the psychological war machine: lies, slander, deceptions, distortions, disinformation—all designed to "soften up" public opinion to accept the pretexts and justifications for the guns, the tanks, the bombs and the planes that will wreak murderous destruction on innocent people, whose only crime is their love of freedom and justice.

And just as the system of imperialism must oppose the courageous efforts of these three revolutions, so too must they obey an historical law to resist with sweat and blood its wicked attempts at re-enslavement.

The peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada must obey the historical law which demands that they deepen their unity, strengthen their discipline, increase production, step up their vigilance and fortify their military defences.

History can rightfully make these demands because history is on our side.

*FWI, November 14, 1981*

### THE CARIBBEAN IS NOT AN AMERICAN LAKE

Ronald Reagan is in Barbados, on the second leg of his two-island jaunt through the Caribbean, which began with a brief stopover in Jamaica on Wednesday.

Two things stand out in the U.S. President's brief passage through our region. The first in Jamaica, where Reagan, while holding extensive talks with his close ally, Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, refused to meet with constitutional Leader of the Opposition Michael Manley.

This decision goes against all the traditions of that country where the post of leader of the opposition is deeply respected and where the polls indicate that the holder of that post is still the most popular political figure.

But Reagan has never been a respecter of our traditions. In the same way as he has chosen to ignore and undermine the Caribbean Development Bank and Caricom by his "Bi-lateral" aid agreements under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), he now chooses to slap the Jamaican people in the face by ignoring their institution of Leader of the Opposition.

The other thing is the report that from Barbadian soil Reagan will issue the second in a series of radio broadcasts on major issues to the American people.

If nothing else underlines the contempt with which Reagan and his entourage view the Caribbean people, then this decision to use our soil to speak to the United States on issues like El Salvador, where he backs the

bloody junta, like the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which has nothing in it of substance for the islands, is sufficient confirmation.

But before fully establishing himself on Barbadian soil, Reagan has launched another full scale attack against Grenada, saying we are threatened by Marxism and that Grenada will now attempt to "spread the virus among its neighbours."

While Ronald Reagan was spreading this slander, over two hundred managers of state enterprises were meeting here to democratically discuss how they will put together the first Three Year Plan of economic construction beginning in 1983.

While Ronald Reagan was spreading this slander, members of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union together with representatives of the People's Revolutionary Government and the public were opening Otway House, another symbol of workers' unity and workers' strength in Free Grenada.

Reagan in his slander may really have a message for the Caribbean people. Yes, the Grenadian Revolution may well be spreading a virus. But it is the virus of democracy, the virus of unity, the virus of freedom for the people of the region.

Reagan, remember, we are the sons of slaves and indentured servants who made the journey across in shackles and poverty. We may have our differences, but these are our rocks in the Caribbean Sea. We will solve our problems without you dictating to us what we are or what we must be. The Caribbean is not an American lake.

We will decide our own destiny.

*FWI, April 10, 1982*

### FORGING A PRINCIPLED FOREIGN POLICY

The recent state visit to France by Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop has been an extremely significant, historic and beneficial one in a number of important ways. However, there is one area which stands out, above all else, as the most singularly important one to have benefitted from the visit, and that is Grenada's foreign policy.

From the earliest days of the Revolution, its leaders have explained in very clear and precise terms, the principled foreign policy which would guide and shape the nature of the relationships Grenada would have with countries throughout the world. From the earliest days too, Grenada reserved the fundamental right to develop an independent, non-aligned foreign policy, without pressure from any quarter. In much the same way

that no country would influence our internal political affairs, so too, no country would influence our foreign policy.

One major, single important feature of Grenada's foreign policy, even from the earliest days of the Revolution, has been its commitment to the process of regional integration in general, and the genuine concern for the development process as it relates to small poor states, such as comprise the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Grenada has consistently struggled on behalf of the small poor states of the Eastern Caribbean at every major regional and international forum at which it was represented. This has been Grenada's position at the United Nations General Assembly, at the OAS General Assembly, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, and at the Non-Aligned Summit.

Grenada's commitment to the small poor states of the Eastern Caribbean has been so in the forefront of its foreign policy, that it led to Grenada's appeal on behalf of Dominica, before the Havana Non-Aligned Summit in the wake of Hurricane David.

Recently, however, it has led to the extension by France, of the Fund for Aid and Co-operation (FAC) to the small poor states of the Eastern Caribbean.

Grenada's principled foreign policy in the post-revolutionary period, is in glaring contrast to the non-policy programme of the former regime. This foreign policy reveals, in very concrete terms, that the way forward can no longer be based on insular positions taken by individual small territories, since the survival of the region as a whole, and of the Eastern Caribbean in particular, depends on firm, principled unity.

The upcoming Caricom Heads of Government conference must, therefore, be used as yet another base for concretizing action plans for cementing Caribbean unity in a very serious way. The time has certainly come when all the glib talk of unity must give way to concrete action. Already, by its actions on several occasions, Grenada has shown itself ready and committed to action in the cause of forging genuine unity.

*FWI, September 29, 1982*

# 17

## New Issues for an Activist Policy

### Introduction

*The new militant foreign policy caused revolutionary Grenada to adopt positions on many issues that most Caribbean nations have traditionally ignored. Support was forthcoming for the Polisario Front and for struggles in East Timor and Kampuchea. Unlike the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean, Grenada supported Argentina in the Malvinas (Falklands) War against Britain. The PRG supported the Palestine Liberation Organization and denounced Zionism. It called for the Indian Ocean to be made a zone of peace and protested U.S. development of the neutron bomb. And the Reagan administration in the United States took especial umbrage at Grenada's vote against a United Nations draft resolution alleging a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.*

### GRENADA'S POSITION ON AFGHANISTAN

The following is the text of a message by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop following Grenada's vote against the United Nations draft resolution condemning the Soviet presence in Afghanistan:

Our position was based on the fact that all the evidence that we had, very firmly indicated that this was not an invasion. This is really, I think, what we need to stress. But it really amounted to a call, which is a fairly usual and common call, for assistance from one independent country to another in circumstances where a military invasion by other forces—what we will call the rebels from Third World countries (at least one Third World country)—was definitely on the horizon. And in this situation, it seems that we have a duty to support what is a well recognized position that is enshrined in the United Nations Charter: that one country can always respond to another sovereign country's appeal for assistance in the face of a military threat. This is how we see the Afghanistan situation primarily.

I will point out additionally, that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Afghanistan have a defense treaty as of the middle of 1978, and that again, of course, is their sovereign right. They do have a right to engage in mutual defense pacts and to bring those treaties into force once external invasion or other forms of aggression contemplated by the treaties are in fact imminent. We certainly support fully, the right of Afghanistan to call on any country, including the Soviet Union, which she decides to do, in any circumstances or rather in circumstances as these, where external aggression is being faced.

One of the things that has come out of this whole situation is the open hypocrisy of several countries around the world, some in the region—countries that have, for example, [never] condemned the white South African troops that are today in Rhodesia; countries that have never supported economic sanctions against South Africa; countries that have remained completely silent when France last year went into the Central African Empire to topple Bokassa. Now some of these same countries that were silent are coming out and making all kinds of noises. We cannot support that “two-stand” position.

As a revolutionary country, we see the world revolutionary processes as being of paramount importance; and therefore, it's our firm view that we have a right, a duty and a responsibility to support any principled position that would assist the movement forward of the world revolutionary process.

I will end by saying that in our view, the situation in Afghanistan is not really a threat to international peace and security. We are not aware of any third country being threatened by events now taking place in Afghanistan and we believe that is also an important factor.

*Grenada News, January-February 1980*

### PRG CONDEMNS ISRAEL

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has said that it and the entire people of Grenada “join in the worldwide condemnation” of last weekend's savage massacre of over 3,000 Palestinian refugees in West Beirut, Lebanon.

“This wanton butchery of innocent and defenceless men, women, children and babies in their homes and in the streets of West Beirut,” the PRG said, must be recorded as one of “this century's most bestial crimes against humanity.”

It added: “Apparently not satisfied with the destruction, pillage, pain and suffering they inflicted through their systematic bombardment of Palestinian refugee camps since they invaded sovereign Lebanon on June 6, the Israeli Zionists have now callously allowed their right-wing Falangist clients to gun down hundreds of unarmed Palestinians in a monstrous display of 20th century barbarism.

“The United States Government cannot escape moral responsibility for this horrific act of genocide since they have armed the Zionists and their Falangist puppets to the teeth and have consistently refused to pressure the fanatical elite that rules Israel into abandoning its policy of terrorism against the Palestinian and Arab peoples.”

The PRG said that Wednesday's rejection by Israel's fascist rulers of their own people's call for a full-scale investigation into the massacre, “clearly indicates that the terrorist Begin regime is guilty of the Beirut atrocity and is as contemptuous and intransigent towards Israeli public opinion as it is towards the outcries by the world's peoples for justice towards the Palestinian people.”

The PRG called for Israel's “immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Beirut, from Lebanon and from the occupied territories on the West Bank.”

It also reaffirmed “staunch support for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for the immediate establishment of a peaceful, independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza.”

The Grenada Peace Council (GPC) has also condemned the massacre, as “the worst human disaster in recent times, so reminiscent of the Nazi tyranny and butchery of World War II” and as “direct threats to peace in the Middle East and a wilful and blatant attempt at frustrating peace initiatives throughout the world.

*FWI, September 25, 1982*

### PRG PROTESTS DREADED BOMB

“With shock and concern,” the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has joined other peace-loving governments and organisations throughout the world, in condemning U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to go ahead with production of the dreaded neutron bomb.

The neutron bomb is designed to kill people and all living creatures by intense radiation within 70 kilometres of wherever it is dropped, without damaging buildings or property.

The PRG says its concern "is based on the knowledge of the danger that such a weapon can cause to humankind."

"That this bomb kills people and does not affect property, clearly shows its inhuman and anti-human nature," it adds.

The PRG said it does not accept the U.S. argument that when produced, the bomb will only be stockpiled within the U.S., and not in any other country.

Clearly production is the first step before pressures are mounted on North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies in Western Europe to station such a bomb there, it predicted. "This will mean an increase in deadly weapons in Europe, with all that this implies."

In any event, the PRG stated it is "clearly opposed to production of this bomb, regardless of where it is to be stored."

That Reagan cynically chose the 36th anniversary of the day in 1945, when the U.S. dropped the world's first atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, to announce his decision, "borders on sadism."

It "clearly shows the contempt which the present U.S. administration holds for the people of the world, who have been repeatedly expressing their opposition to the production of the neutron bomb," the PRG said.

Put in the context of the Reagan administration's refusal to ratify the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) with the Soviet Union, or to sit down and discuss practical methods of reducing the arms race, the PRG said, "it becomes clear that no one in the world would be safe, once the U.S. has manufactured this weapon."

Grenada stands fully committed to peace, "so fully necessary for the development of the underdeveloped countries of the world," the PRG stressed.

"The massive sums of money being spent on the development of such weapons and the arms race, would serve a better purpose if channelled into assisting the world's poor countries in developing their economies and raising the quality of life of their peoples," the PRG concluded.

Britain's Opposition leader Michael Foot said his Labour Party is "deeply hostile" to the neutron bomb's development, which would not help disarmament.

"One of the most dangerous and nauseating features of the neutron bomb is that it lowers the nuclear threshold, and could lead us further towards the maniacal idea of a form of so-called limited nuclear warfare," Foot said.

The Soviet news agency Tass described the nuclear warhead as "the most inhuman type of weapon of mass annihilation," adding that the U.S.

had deliberately ignored a Soviet proposal for mutual reunification [sic] of neutron weapons.

"The step designed to bring the world closer to a nuclear catastrophe is depicted in Washington as the prerogative of the U.S. administration," Tass said.

The Soviet Union "cannot remain an indifferent bystander and will have to respond to the challenge in a manner demanded by the interests of the security of the Soviet people and their allies," Tass observed.

FWI, August 15, 1981

# 18

## The Caribbean

### Introduction

The Caribbean area in general, and the English-speaking territories in particular, provided Grenada's most intimate traditional links. The immediate official reaction to the events of March 13, 1979 in most of the English-speaking countries was one of shock mixed with fear and disapproval. The governments of Forbes Burnham in Guyana and Michael Manley in Jamaica were the major exceptions. They both immediately welcomed the new regime and delivered emergency supplies of food, arms and technical expertise.

NJM emissaries were intercepted in Trinidad waters, detained and expelled without acceptance of their requests to meet with government officials. Prime Minister Eric Williams of Trinidad refused to open letters addressed to him by Prime Minister Bishop. Trinidad defended its refusal to extend formal recognition to Grenada by saying that Trinidad had no policy of recognition or non-recognition. Resumption of normal intercourse would be tantamount to recognition.

The West Indies Associated States (WISA—precursor to the seven member Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) initially refused to recognize the new government. Its Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority withheld delivery of currency notes due to member state Grenada. The money was eventually delivered after a threat by Grenada to develop its own independent Central Bank. An April 1979 meeting of the Caricom (Caribbean Community) council of ministers had to be postponed due to refusal of most of the WISA states to meet with Grenada.

Shortlived liberal administrations in St. Lucia and Dominica gave Grenada an opportunity to break out of this attempt at isolation by WISA. And so on July 14, 1979 the Declaration of St. Georges was signed by the new administrations of George Odlum (St. Lucia), Oliver Seraphine (Dominica) and the People's Revolutionary Government. Both St. Lucia and Dominica were before long to change to regimes less favorable to Grenada

but the declaration helped Grenada break out of the attempted isolation. Its Eastern Caribbean neighbours were strengthened in their acceptance, however grudging, of the fait accompli in Grenada.

Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados early loomed as the NJM's major adversary in the region, a position he maintained up to October 1983. Grenadian government officials were often harassed and refused normal diplomatic privileges when passing through the Barbados airport. PRC minister, Unison Whiteman, was manhandled at the airport in November 1980. This incident fuelled an intense war of words between the two countries. Adams attacked Grenada during a November 1980 broadcast on the night of President Ronald Reagan's election victory in the United States. The Grenada press was by now referring to Adams as "Uncle Tom" and a "yard fowl." Prime Minister Bishop suggested that Adams had advance knowledge of a June 19, 1980 bomb blast aimed against the PRC leadership.

The relation of forces against Grenada was strengthened considerably by late 1980 with the accession to power of Eugenia Charles in Dominica, Edward Seaga in Jamaica and Ronald Reagan in the United States. Charles replaced the pro-Grenada interim Seraphine administration. Seaga replaced Michael Manley, Grenada's staunchest friend in the Anglophone Caribbean, and Ronald Reagan replaced the less hostile (though not friendly) Jimmy Carter. This sudden change in the political climate of the region augured ill for revolutionary Grenada. The three newly elected leaders, together with Adams, kept up a sustained onslaught against the PRC which was to culminate in the United States invasion of October 1983. Significantly, Adams, Charles and Seaga were Reagan's main accomplices in the October invasion.

Still, the new conservative axis could boast of no early dramatic victories against the PRC. Without the gratuitous assistance of the ultraleft coup of October 1983 they may have grown into nothing worse than a constant thorn in Grenada's side. For the Grenadian revolution had by 1980 consolidated to the point where it was able to score some impressive victories against the conservative regional onslaught. Early coolness in the two major regional associations had been all but overcome. In fact, Grenada had quickly emerged as a dynamic and influential member of both Caricom and WISA.

By 1980 Grenada was able to host a Caricom health ministers conference and the community's foreign ministers met there in 1981. The Caricom summit of 1982, the first in over a decade, was a diplomatic victory for Grenada. It first beat back attempts by the conservative axis to expel

Grenada, raise "human rights" as a Caricom issue and insist on Westminster type political systems as a condition of Caricom membership. The Grenada delegation then went on to win acceptance for its own priorities. The Declaration of Ocho Rios which came out of this meeting included the following concerns of revolutionary Grenada—an acceptance of ideological pluralism; non-interference in the internal affairs of member states; disapproval of foreign military activity in the region; and an insistence on external aid with no strings attached. Grenada also performed well at the summit conference of 1983 in Trinidad.

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) treaty was signed in St. Kitts but launched in Grenada on July 4, 1981 during the Caricom foreign ministers' meeting. This was not much more than two years after the predecessor organization, WISA (West Indies Associated States), had sought to ostracize Grenada. There were seven signatories to the treaty, namely Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Lucia and St. Kitts-Nevis. The OECS treaty provided for mutual defense and security but would, as the executive secretary of WISA explained in June 1981, "constitute no threat to national sovereignty...." Other major areas of concern for the treaty were foreign affairs and regional unity and cooperation.

Grenada's support for Caricom and the OECS was reflective of its deep commitment to regional integration. The PRG strongly supported the preservation of the University of the West Indies as a regional institution, proposed common textbooks for West Indian school students, advocated cheaper regional transport and urged the elimination of visas for travel within the region. It emphasized the need to break down the barriers separating the Anglophone Caribbean from the rest of the region.

The PRG's West Indian initiatives won some support even from the hostile conservative axis. This was dramatically illustrated in 1981 when the United States attempted to exclude Grenada from U.S. funds loaned to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Both Tom Adams and Eugenio Charles supported the regional refusal to countenance such an undisguised interference in the region's internal business. Charles nevertheless complained that Grenada's politics constituted a barrier to the flow of foreign funds to the CDB.

Grenada's successes in Caricom, the OECS and the CDB did not, of course, signal an end to the problems in the region. Grenada's nationals and residents were sometimes subject to harassment and expulsion at the region's sea and airports. Trinidad and St. Vincent were among the nations joining Barbados in occasionally making life difficult for visiting Grenadians.

Trinidad's harassment of Grenadian residents and visitors predated (and continued after) the revolution, despite the Grenadian origin of a sizeable proportion of its own population. The PRG's minister of education, Jacqueline Crest, had had her work permit revoked while employed in Trinidad in 1977.

Much official West Indian hostility to the PRG was doubtless due to the fact that revolutionary Grenada became a rallying point for a wide assortment of Caribbean old and new left groups. These included the Workers' Party of Jamaica, the Working People's Alliance (Guyana), the National Joint Action Committee (Trinidad), the Movement for National Liberation (Barbados), the People's Progressive Movement (Trinidad), the Dominica Liberation Movement, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the Communist Party of Guadeloupe, the Antiguan Caribbean Liberation Movement and the People's Progressive Party (Guyana).

Only in the case of Guyana, where Forbes Burnham's ruling People's National Congress had been one of Grenada's earliest supporters in the region, did the NJM's support for opposition groupings not lead to strained relations. Cheddi Jagan and Walter Rodney, leaders of Guyana's major opposition parties, were both very popular in Grenada. Maurice Bishop pointedly insisted on calling Rodney's death in 1980 an "assassination," as against one of his own ministers, who had sought to use more neutral language in the interest of good relations with Burnham. Burnham apparently remained unruffled and was among the minority of Caricom states opposing the United States invasion of 1983.

#### OF YARD FOWLS, UNCLE TOMS AND POLITICAL CRAPAUDS, OF HYPOCRISY, SPITE AND INTIMIDATION

Despite the accelerated movement toward progressive political change in the Caribbean, imperialism still has a substantial influence on governmental decision making and the formation of public opinion in many territories in the region.

The influence on governmental decision making is facilitated by the economic dependence on imperialism and is exercised through imperialism's relationship with, and sometimes, control of, certain Caribbean political leaders.

The influence on public opinion is facilitated by and exercised through imperialism's relationship with, and sometimes, control of, certain newspapers and radio stations in the region.

This is what Finance Minister, Brother Bernard Coard, was talking about on November 4 at the mass rally at Queens Park when he described certain Caribbean political leaders as "yard fowls and uncle toms" and on November 18 at the "Bloody Sunday" commemoration rally at Seamoon when he again lashed out at them, this time describing them as "political crapauds."

It is in this context that we must see the attacks on the Grenada revolution by Antiguan Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird and Barbados Foreign Minister Henry Forde. (A Barbados newspaper recently commented on the apparent influence which Washington exercises over Bridgetown's foreign policy direction).

It is in this context that we must see the continuing attacks on the revolution by the regional (and lately the international) media, led by Ken Gordon's "Trinidad Express."

It is in this context that we must see the continuing refusal of the Trinidad government to recognise the PRG as the legitimate government of Grenada, to the point where the head of government in that country does not even bother to open, much less read, letters sent to him by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

These are well planned and orchestrated actions which result directly from the substantial influence, and in some cases, control, which U.S. imperialism and its allies in the industrial developed world still exercise over events in the Caribbean and in particular over some of the region's political leaders.

But imperialism's control of "yard fowls, uncle toms and political crapauds" cannot by itself turn back the democratic struggles of the Caribbean people. So we get threats of naval blockades, U.S. military manoeuvres in Caribbean waters, increased U.S. military presence in Florida and Guantanamo Bay, the involvement of "American ships" in a murderous and destructive plot to overthrow the PRG and most recently the refusal of the British government to allow Grenada to buy two armoured cars in the U.K. to strengthen our security forces.

Consider this hypocrisy: Britain has been known to sell offensive weapons to racist and fascist South Africa. She allows British based Barclays Bank to give its South African employees paid leave to go and kill black freedom fighters.

She said not a word when two of her European allies collaborated in boosting South Africa's nuclear potential. And then she turns around and refuses to sell two paltry armoured cars to Grenada, a country under constant threat of outside aggression. This position is hypocritical and spiteful,

and smacks of an attempt to intimidate the PRG. And then again maybe it is not in Britain's interest to assist Grenada in preparing to resist outside aggression.

But not to worry. We will get our armoured cars elsewhere.

In the meanwhile let the imperialists understand that the attempts to intimidate our government and demoralise our people will fail just as the destabilization attempts of their "yard fowls, uncle toms and political crapauds" also failed.

FORWARD EVER BACKWARD NEVER.

*FWI*, December 8, 1979

### PRG OPPOSES SEPARATE FINANCING OF UWI

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is opposed to the proposal that the University of the West Indies (UWI) should be restructured with each of the three campuses in Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica, funded by their respective governments.

A release from the Ministry of Education states that while the Government recognizes the need for restructuring and supports the idea of campus councils with more decision-making power at the campus level, the financing of UWI should remain centrally controlled, and countries should continue to pay their contributions to a central University Grants Committee.

This position was taken in the interest of regional integration and broader educational opportunity for Caribbean people, it said.

It added that Grenada opposed the proposal for separate financing of the three campuses for five main reasons:

Firstly, it said, the PRG is "convinced" that separate financing will inevitably lead to the break up of UWI as a regional university, because real financial control and decision-making will be in the hands not of a central body—but of the government of the individual campus territory.

It should be noted, the statement said, that the inter-government committee set up since 1975, under the chairmanship of eminent Caribbean scholar William Demas, reported that central financing was essential to prevent the total disintegration of UWI.

"Such a fate for UWI would be a severe blow to the regional integration movement, since UWI is one of the few regional institutions that brings together Caribbean people around common objectives and aspirations and which embodies the concept of a one, united Caribbean identity."



Secondly, it said, the PRG has noted that the people closest to UWI, such as the Guilds of Undergraduates and the West Indies Group of University Teachers, have all publicly opposed the idea of separate funding.

The PRG said it also supports the argument originally raised by the Mona Academic Board that separate funding will lead to a drop in standards. "A strong regional university is better able to maintain academic standards and attract the most competent lecturers than a loose association of three universities."

Standards will also decline from a lack of finance for staff and facilities because any time one island has financial problems, the university will suffer, the statement said.

"UWI's strength and the widespread international recognition for its degrees have come about largely because it has been regionally integrated and centrally funded."

Fourthly, the PRG believes the islands which would lose most by this arrangement will be the smaller, lesser developed, non-campus territories of the region. Given their smaller economies and population, it will be difficult to have universities of their own.

The idea of subordinating the Extra-mural departments into the respective national education systems of the smaller islands is further evidence of the disintegration of UWI's regional character, with the lion's share going to the campus territories.

With separate financing, students from the smaller non-campus territories are likely to face increased costs and disproportionate competition for university placement.

Finally, the PRG said, it opposes the proposal because it firmly recognises that UWI "is one of the few regional institutions that has concrete practical relevance to the people."

This is so because it provides an internationally recognised university qualification to those who enter it and a mechanism for further cementing a sense of regional oneness and identity through the lasting friendships which are made by students from the region who attend it.

The statement concluded: "UWI was established since 1948. It has grown up with the region. The resources of Caribbean countries have been collectively invested in it. The hopes of Caribbean youth for more and better university education are set on it. Its degrees are internationally recognised. Let us keep it regional, united and strong."

*FWI, October 2, 1982*

## PRESERVE UWI IN RODNEY'S MEMORY

The New Jewel Movement says that the most fitting honour to the memory of Guyanese politician-scholar Dr. Walter Rodney, would be preservation of the University of the West Indies (UWI) as a regional institution.

Dr. Rodney, a graduate and lecturer of UWI in Jamaica and leader of Guyana's Working People's Alliance (WPA), was assassinated by a bomb blast in a car in Georgetown on June 13, 1980.

In a statement marking the third anniversary of his assassination, the NJM called Dr. Rodney "one of the most outstanding intellectuals of the Caribbean and a champion of the struggles of working people in the region and, in particular, in his native Guyana."

His contribution was however not limited to the Caribbean, NJM said, noting that Dr. Rodney has been publicly commended by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, "for his support of and contribution to the national liberation struggles in Africa."

Dr. Rodney also lectured at the University of Tanzania, and among his works were "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" and "A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545-1800."

His murder, NJM said, took place only a short time after the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador and was followed, almost immediately, by the attempt to wipe out the entire NJM leadership, with the bomb blast at Queen's Park on June 19, 1980.

This, said NJM, "was a true reflection of the desperation of imperialism in that period, a desperation which has since increased."

It said that Dr. Rodney's life and work will always be remembered and honoured by all democratic and progressive forces in the Caribbean and throughout the world, and the anniversary of his death is "a time for us to reflect" on UWI's future.

Dr. Rodney, NJM noted, was a product of UWI, a staunch regionalist, a supporter of genuine academic freedom, and an academic who saw his education as coming through the sweat of the working people and used it to further their interest.

"It is for this reason that he was expelled from the UWI campus in Jamaica in 1968," it said.

NJM therefore called for the preservation of UWI "as an institution of the highest academic standards, free from interference by those opposed to the unity of the Caribbean people, and opposed to the struggle for bread and justice for the people of this region."

Dr. Rodney's brother, Donald, who was driving the car in which the bomb blast occurred, is now working in Grenada with the Ministry of Construction.

FWI, June 18, 1983

### PM MAURICE BISHOP'S SPEECH TO ARUBA SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

On behalf of our party, the New Jewel Movement, our Government and the people of Grenada, I want to thank M.E.P., (the Electoral Movement of the People of Aruba), for extending such a generous invitation for me and my delegation to be here.

I extend the fullest fraternal, cordial and sincerest best wishes and congratulations to the leaders, founders, officers and members of M.E.P. on the outstanding occasion of ten years of your founding as a popular people's party.

We congratulate you also on the occasion of five years of the launching of a flag and an anthem of the proud people of Aruba. The formation of a popular people's party, and the launching of both a flag and an anthem signify most clearly to all the world that the people of Aruba are indeed serious and committed to the forward march for self-determination and independence.

In Grenada you must know, that the people of Aruba have a very deep assurance that in us they will always have a true friend, a true ally, and a true supporter.

I am particularly happy and enthusiastic to be here, because we in the party and Government of Grenada have a deep commitment to the process of Caribbean independence and liberation, and as importantly, to Caribbean integration, solidarity and cooperation.

It is our very firm view, that though we were colonized by different masters, and therefore have had different colonial experiences which have served to divide and separate us in order to rule us better, we are essentially and fundamentally one Caribbean people: hard working, patriotic, democratic, progressive, anxious to have a better life, anxious to develop our own processes free from all forms of outside direction.

Under colonization, we were taught different languages, different European cultural traditions and we were encouraged to ape our respective masters.

In addition, the long and bitter rivalries between colonial powers themselves, ensured that we did not have much opportunity for contact with

each other. Thus, they carved up our region, and gave rise to artificial differences of language and alleged cultural differences, strengthened no doubt by our geographic separation.

But many island states (such as the Seychelles and the Bahamas - with some 600 islands) have shown that geographic barriers are in fact surmountable.

Indeed, you the six members of the Federation of the Netherland Antilles have given the world the next proof that despite geographical separation, you are committed to and can, in fact, work together in the interest of all the people of the six islands. And it is for this and other reasons, that we believe that part of the process of regaining our sovereignty in the Caribbean must include the struggle to remove all artificial barriers.

Thus, one of our main concerns as an English-speaking Caribbean country is to actively develop the closest possible ties and cooperation with the Dutch-speaking, the French-speaking, the Spanish-speaking, and indeed American-speaking sister islands. To this we are committed as a party, as a Government and as a people.

I am particularly happy also today to be here, because this, in effect, has become a mini-gathering of the Socialist International. It has provided an opportunity therefore to meet with some friends from the old days, in particular to meet once again with Comrade Gallardo of Guatemala, a comrade who has been in the forefront of his own struggle, a man who has given his entire life to the struggle for his people, a man therefore this entire conference, I am sure, will want to go on record as recognising the tremendous contribution that he has made over the years.

This conference also provides for me an opportunity to meet with the distinguished and illustrious Secretary General, Brother Carlson of the Socialist International.

In approaching the question of development, we see it as an ongoing scientific activity, having as its primary goals the attainment of the fullest social, cultural, spiritual, political and economic potential of any people.

Particularly for poor, exploited and oppressed countries of the world, we see the task of development as one having both a political and economic dimension, and we say clearly then, that there is an unbreakable link between economic transformation and political independence.

For us, there is a clear link between the price we pay for essential goods and services and the political outlook of the ruling party of any country. Hence, we are convinced that there can be no strict separation between politics and economics. The two, inextricably linked, give rise to the political economy of development.

Indeed, this approach to the question of development is indispensable to our very survival, being as we are, countries with long histories of colonial exploitation, backwardness and underdevelopment.

And, therefore, in any genuine effort to go forward, raising the standard of living for our people, moving from ignorance, superstition, illiteracy, backwardness and widespread poverty, to jobs, decent housing and all the basic human needs of our people, we must register the greatest possible political commitment, the firmest political will and the highest political unity as poor nations in the struggle for economic and social justice.

Small island states, such as Grenada, and no doubt Aruba, are characterised by a variety of features, considered "normal" for poor underdeveloped countries. These include:

1. very low and generally grossly uneven per capita incomes;
2. a low level of scientific and technological development, as well as;
3. a lack of institutions and organizations designed for modern production.

In addition, small island states obviously have small land sizes and small resource bases; countries falling into this category generally have a land size no larger than 500 sq. miles (approximately 1200 sq. km.).

The limitations of such small land base are many, including the need for a much stricter economic and social use of the limited land.

Land use policies are therefore often indispensable to orderly housing, agricultural, recreational, and other developmental needs.

As we meet here to consider the political and economic development of our micro-states, we must know that the world economy is riddled with an economic crisis of massive proportions.

In its most recent report on the world economic situation, the International Monetary Fund begins with the statement that, "The world economic picture is rather grim."

The international monetary and economic crisis in the industrial western world is manifested in many ways:

1. Unemployment of phenomenal proportions.
2. Runaway inflation.
3. Prolonged decline in industrial output:
4. There is also the worsening of the balance of trade, especially for developing countries. It is accelerating at a rate faster than recovery is possible.

5. Further worldwide environmental decay and industrial pollution of land, of air, of sea, of rivers.

6. There is too the deterioration of the condition of the rural poor in particular in developing countries; illiteracy rates are actually increasing in some of these countries, especially among women. Malnutrition, famine, and hunger are also on the rise.

We in Grenada recognise the tremendous obstacles that we face, particularly as in addition to the economic crisis we also have to contend with increasing military threats and destabilisation of all forms against our country.

Yet, our experience over 2 years has been concrete proof that it is possible to move forward and to make progress even in the face of adversity.

How is this possible? Our experience has taught us that if the following guidelines are observed, then progress is possible even in the face of the most tremendous odds.

1. Always be honest with the people. Always tell the people the facts. Never attempt to fool the people. Never make the people believe that manna will fall from heaven. Always attempt to raise their consciousness as to the reality of the world, the reality of our region, the reality of their own economy and in particular the difficulties that lie ahead.

We in Grenada are quite convinced that peace, peace in the world and peace in the region, is essential for our development. There can be no peace if there is rampant poverty, backwardness and plunder of the poor of the world. Equally, there can be no development without peace.

Because the resources of the world, the vast resources of the world, must be used for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the handicapped, the dispossessed of the world, we must have peace if we are to attain and maintain peaceful development and progress.

Grenada seeks no quarrels, Grenada seeks no interferences, for we have a firm belief in peaceful co-existence, in good neighbourliness, in mutual respect for all; we believe firmly and passionately in the legal equality of all states regardless of size, in territorial integrity and in sovereignty.

We believe that we have a right to live in peace. We have a right to develop our own resources for the benefit of our own people, and not for the benefit of a tiny handful of transnational corporations around the world.

We believe we have a right to build our own economy, free from the strings of foreign aid dependency.

We have a right to live a life free from the threat of military power, nuclear threat, and destruction of our land and sea resources.

We have a right to develop relations with whomever we want as long as the people of our countries want these relations. We have a right to be free of tensions, free of fears, free of instability, free of the threat of mercenary or other invasions, free of terrorism.

This is why Grenada in November 1979, initiated in the Organization of American States, a resolution calling on all in the region to strictly respect the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

We want to repeat today:

Our call for disarmament.

Our call for detente.

Our call for resumption of Salt II talks.

Our call for peaceful co-existence and mutual respect for all countries.

And, Mr. Chairman, today in Aruba on your soil, on this historic occasion in the presence of so many illustrious fighters for the rights of their peoples, Grenada firmly renews this call and pledges to do all in our power to obtain these lofty objectives.

As we say in Grenada: A people that is united, conscious, organised, and vigilant can never be defeated.

*FWI, March 28, 1981*

### PM INVITED TO VISIT MARTINIQUE

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has accepted an invitation from the prefect of Martinique to pay an official visit to that Caribbean island in the near future.

Prior to the PM's visit, a technical delegation will visit the French department to hold discussions with officials in tourism and agro-industries and to explore other areas of co-operation.

On his way to and from France recently, the PM and his delegation made technical stops in Martinique where they were met by the prefect and by Aimé Césaire, the mayor of Fort-de-France, Martinique's capital.

At a dinner in his honour, PM Bishop held "useful discussions" with leaders of different political parties in Martinique. He described his stop-over as "educational, informative and interesting."

*FWI, September 25, 1982*

### PRG PROTESTS BLATANT ATTACK BY BARBADOS

The People's Revolutionary Government has sent a diplomatic note to the Barbados government protesting "the blatant, unprovoked and unwarranted attack on the person and privacy" of Agriculture Minister Unison Whiteman and his personal assistant, Rudolph Hagley, last Saturday.

Brothers Whiteman and Hagley were in Barbados, intransit to London that same day, on official business. Both carried valid diplomatic passports, which entitle them to privileges and immunities, the right to inviolability and the right of innocent passage.

However, Brothers Whiteman and Hagley "were subjected to the grossest form of humiliation and intimidation and physically manhandled" in Barbados airport, the PRG note said.

Barbados immigration, customs and security authorities, in flagrant violation of international law, denied them the right to VIP facilities.

They made Bro. Whiteman wait in a queue and insisted on searching him. When he protested, a customs official took out a knife, and threatened to slash his suitcase open. Bro. Whiteman opened his suitcase.

About 20 security men then dragged Bro. Hagley by his shirt into a private room and searched him.

The Barbados government's attempts to pressure the Grenada revolution and all associated with it increased last week Tuesday, the night of the U.S. presidential election.

Adams, U.S. Ambassador Sally Shelton and about 100 associates were gathered at the St. Michael's home of the first secretary of the U.S. embassy, Ashley Wills, for an "election watch" party.

As soon as it became clear that ultra-right Republican Ronald Reagan was in the lead, and while the votes were still being counted, Adams rushed to air his pleasure on radio, no doubt prompted by his American hosts.

Said Adams: "It is time that the government of Grenada understood that the spirit of Caricom is in the direction of elections.

"No doubt I am going to be quoted," he added. "And I don't care."

Adams said a government needed to be established in office in Grenada that has demonstrated its popularity "other than its use of the M-1 rifle and the Molotov cocktail.

"If Bishop cannot understand that he will put himself in the old cellar of vagabondy that Eric Gairy occupied, if he continues to promote a government about which there is any possibility of saying that it is repressive, then Bishop does not deserve support."

"Let him hold elections. Let him legitimise himself," he added.

A PRG spokesman later said: "Adams and other members of his government cannot expect to attack Grenada and expect the Grenada government to remain silent. This foolishness has to stop sometime."

"We would really like to know how many times he rang the U.S. Embassy and State Department before this latest step."

The PRG official made it clear that Grenada would not withdraw normal diplomatic courtesies and privileges to Barbados government ministers and officials.

"We have no intention of descending to Tom Adams's level of pettiness and childishness," he said.

*FWI*, November 15, 1980

### WHAT DID MY HUSBAND DO TO TOM ADAMS?

The Editor:

As wife of Minister of Agriculture Unison Whiteman, it took me three days before I really accepted the treatment meted out to my husband, when he landed on Tom Adams's precious soil on Saturday November 8.

My mind was working like a clock, questioning myself, but when I arrived at the final question—What has my husband done to Tom Adams?—I decided to express my feeling to Tom, telling him he is really a heartless creature, to touch a quiet, peaceful and kind-hearted person like my husband.

However, since March 13, 1979, passing through and from Barbados has been rough. I experienced it myself when I accompanied my sick husband to Cuba. When we landed no one met him, and when he asked if they had not been informed of his arrival—pretence it was.

So he went through customs etc. like everybody. The many hours we waited for the Cuban flight were very uncomfortable for him, but what could he have done?

On my return, I travelled with some other Grenadians and the so-called smart Bajans tried to trick us, but it was too vivid. When we got to LIAT's counter, I told the attendant that we had confirmed flights straight to Grenada, and if because of their dishonesty, I had to pay \$35 (U.S.) to overnight, police would have to manhandle me.

Again, it was the nice loving, helpful Cubans who paid the cake after LIAT stooges tricked us.

That night in the nice hotel in Barbados, I was just scared. One of the comrades who travelled with me came and knocked on my door so I could

get some supper. It took me about 10 minutes before I responded, in a real frightened mood.

I was full, although I had not eaten for a few hours. I just wanted to get home, and I do know that many other people passing through Barbados feel this way too.

That's why our international airport is a must.

I spent two weeks with my husband in Cuba, and the place and people were really touching. I travelled to and from hospital with a driver, with whom I could not communicate because of the difference in language, and I was very relaxed and comfortable.

I spent one night in Barbados, and although I was travelling in a car with other people, I was scared. Why? The atmosphere was very different. So when people try to spoil the good name of the Cubans, those of us who know must put up a fight to defend them.

I first explained the treatment people receive on Tom Adams's precious soil, and as a result of our constructing an international airport, Tom's hostility is getting worse daily. But nothing like that dog could stop it.

I will also like Tom Adams to know that he doesn't have a nook of the qualities of my husband and other peace-loving Grenadians, and because he is an empty shell, he made and will always make a fool of himself.

Tom, may I inform you, that my husband is a man with potential, integrity, peace-loving and kind, and his personality and the qualities he possesses are really above question. To cover this praise:

On Bloody Sunday, 1973, one of the secret police said: "Whiteman, run, you are a good boy." But he was never a coward and decided to remain with his comrades, despite the consequences.

Tom, we know why you are behaving so, but you can't stop us. Grenada is the peoples' and Barbados is yours. When Gairy's downfall was near, that's exactly how he behaved. He started on the foreigners and ended on his own people. So Barbadians take warning.

Nothing like Greedy Tom could stop our revolution, because the quality of our people is what made the revolution a success and will always be.

Claudia Whiteman

*FWI*, November 15, 1980

### DON'T EVEN DREAM OF OVERTHROW, ADAMS

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has warned Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams against harbouring any thoughts of supporting the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Addressing the massive Bloody Sunday rally at Seamoon, last Sunday, Cde Bishop accused Adams and his Foreign Minister Henry Forde of attacking the Grenada Revolution ever since it occurred 20 months ago.

"If Uncle Tom is seriously thinking of maintaining any dreams of overthrowing this revolution, maintaining any dreams of helping people to attack our country, if most amusingly of all, Uncle Tom is thinking of himself coming down to our country in a hostile way, he will discover that the people of revolutionary Grenada are ready, willing and prepared to fight and die to defend our revolution," Cde Bishop declared.

He read a letter sent to Adams last December 5, sharply protesting the searching of Agriculture Minister Unison Whiteman that September while he was passing through Grantley Adams International Airport, and the hostile treatment given to other PRG ministers and officials at the same airport.

The letter pointed out that the last thing the PRG wanted was a war of words with the Adams administration. Certainly, it said, such a conflict would not be in the best interest of Caribbean unity and ideological pluralism.

Cde Bishop also accused Adams of suppressing "key and vital" information threatening to the survival of the Grenada government.

Adams, PM Bishop feels, is indirectly responsible for the June 19 bomb-blast at Queen's Park.

Adams told a BLP public meeting in Barbados, that he had knowledge of "something about a bomb . . . a bomb being put into a refrigerator."

But according to Cde Bishop, he never informed Grenada about that until after the bomb had exploded.

[Name withheld] a notorious CIA functionary wanted in Grenada in connection with that same bombing, is given armed protection by the Barbados government whenever he is there, Cde Bishop disclosed.

Adams, Cde Bishop continued, had also attempted to prevent LIAT, the regional airline, from flying to Grenada, had tried to thwart the island's aid talks with the European Community by "using all kinds of lies," and had tried to destroy the friendship between Grenada and Cuba.

But, the PM added, "They will never be able to destroy the unshakable friendship between our people and the Cubans."

PM Bishop rejected a comment by Adams that Grenada's failure to hold general elections could adversely affect the flow of funds into the Caribbean Development Bank.

In fact, he said, because of this revolution, the U.S. government has now been "trying to pump money into some of these islands, as a means of trying to hold back progressive change."

"The truth of the matter," he added, is that many more Caribbean territories today have been able to receive much more assistance from the United States."

Although Adams is now trying to pretend that it is through his efforts the PRG received international recognition, Cde Bishop revealed that Adams had tried to block recognition of the PRG by the U.S., Canada and Britain in the early days of the revolution.

However, Cde Bishop feels that what pro-imperialist Adams and his friends are really afraid of is the grassroots democracy blossoming in our country, "where the people themselves, on a daily basis, are involved."

"They have preferred to pretend that the Westminster kind of democracy is a real democracy, when, in fact, it is Westminster hypocrisy.

"Once in every five years, for five seconds, you put an 'X' after you eat some corned beef and drink some rum, and after that, for the remainder of the next five years, you are no longer a human being. We do not regard that as democracy," Cde Bishop declared.

The U.S. and its puppets in the region, have long recognized the potential of the Grenadian Revolution, because "they see that a whole new civilization is being born here."

This, he stated, is part of the overall process of creating a "new kind of civilization" not only for Grenada, but for the entire Caribbean.

In his hour-long speech, the PM also explained why he had referred to Adams as Uncle Tom.

"In the days of slavery," he explained, "there were two types of slaves: the field slave and the house slave. The field slave cut sugar-cane under the master's whip and only thought about freedom and how to plan revolution. They were the genuine fighters and Grenadians are their descendants."

The house slave, on the other hand, did no work in the fields and every time the master passed by, they were smiling, "bending, bowing and scraping." And every time they saw the master, they would say: Yes, master: no, master: thank you, master: please kick me, master."

It was the house slave who was called an "Uncle Tom," Cde Bishop added.

He also observed that the U.S. still believes the Caribbean is in her backyard and "whenever they spit, we must open our mouths and catch it."

"But Grenadians," he added firmly, "have said that they are not in anyone's backyard."

Cde Bishop cautioned, however, that the people of Barbados must not be drawn into the present conflict, and Grenadians were not prepared to start a war with the people of Barbados, since traditionally, very good relations have existed between the two peoples.

"A sharp, sharp distinction must be made between Uncle Tom and the people of Barbados. Tom Adams, as an individual, must be treated with the contempt he deserves," PM Bishop concluded.

*FWI*, November 22, 1980

### LETTER TO TOM ADAMS

The Editor:

We, the members of the Grenada Revolutionary League, strongly protest the blatant interference in the internal affairs of Grenada by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Isn't it peculiar that within days of Seaga coming to power in Jamaica and Reagan winning the American election that Uncle Tommy chose to come out and openly blast and condemn the policies of the progressive and popular government of Grenada? A Government that was elected on March 13, 1979, when the people openly took up arms against the fascist dictatorship of Uncle Cairy.

Who is Adams to tell Callaghan whether or not to acknowledge the Grenada Government?

Who is Adams to call for an election in Grenada?

What is it about the Grenada Government that he and people like himself are afraid of?

Is it because of our drive to wipe out illiteracy; the tremendous decrease in the school fees; the free medical and dental care that our people are now receiving; the record-breaking economic progress made by the People's Revolutionary Government in such a short period despite natural disasters and disasters created by reactionary forces?

Is he also afraid of the unification of the people of the Caribbean and Latin America?

Is Uncle Tommy thinking of sending troops to Grenada as he did to Union Island in 1979?

Take a look at all the Caribbean Islands where elections are held. The people's conditions are still deplorable; while their elected ministers are riding around in big expensive cars, country-hopping all over Western Europe and leaving tips that can clothe and feed three families of their country for a whole year.

Elections were held in America 13 years after the American revolution; the country which Uncle Tom holds in such high esteem. We say uncle Tom must check his history.

Why isn't Uncle Tom and his friends calling for an election in Haiti? A country where black people are starving to death; where everyday they are

being brutalized by the dreaded Ton-Ton Macoutes who are trained by the American CIA?

We see this attack on Grenada as being highly hypocritical and feel contemptuous of the Barbadian Government.

We also call on Tom Adams to stop his barking immediately and stop the harassment of Grenadian nationals.

Grenada Revolutionary League, New York

*FWI*, November 29, 1980

### ADAMS BANS NEWS FROM GRENADA

In its continuing hostility towards Grenada, the Barbados government has decided to ban all information about Grenada on State-owned CBC radio and television.

The decision was handed down in a directive from the board of directors of CBC to the newsroom of the two Barbados media last weekend.

First news of the ban reached Grenada in a report over Radio Free Grenada by Lou Smith, who has been CBC's correspondent in Grenada for the past few months.

Smith said that when he called the Barbados station last weekend to file his report on the terrorist attack, which left five Grenadians dead, he was told that CBC staffers had been ordered not to carry any news at all on Grenada.

The ban also extends to forbidding the appearance of spokesmen of the Barbados Movement for National Liberation (Monali), and Bobby Clarke of the People's Progressive Movement. Monali and Clarke are among Grenada's firmest supporters in Barbados.

The CBC directive did not go down well with CBC journalists, who have protested that it "inhibited a professional approach" to their work, and called for its withdrawal.

Clarke, a Barbadian attorney, says he intends to challenge the CBC decision in court. He told *FREE WEST INDIAN* that he will sue CBC for infringing on his constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression.

Monali also intends to take action against CBC. Rickey Parris, a Monali leader, said his organisation intends to demonstrate outside CBC offices this weekend, and has sent a letter to CBC's chairman David Simmonds, seeking clarification of the company's position on releases from Monali, which have been stifled on several occasions since relations worsened between Barbados and Grenada.

Monali believes, said Parris, that Barbados media workers and journalists need to have greater say in policy-making in the media.

The workers' rights have always been trampled upon, he said. Monali will be calling for the formation of a genuine journalists' organisation to protect media workers' rights in Barbados, he added.

A Broadcasting Authority has been formed in Barbados, he explained, but is under the influence of right-wing, anti-Grenada elements, who have succeeded in pushing for such actions as the recent ban.

Smith too, shares the view that the board's action is a violation of the right of journalists and of the concept of a free flow of information.

He says that he has written to the Caribbean Press Council drawing the matter to its attention.

At a time when the Barbados government has been coming under increasing pressure from Barbadians for its mishandling of the dispute with Grenada, leading political observers in Barbados feel that the latest move arises from the exposure of Prime Minister Tom Adams and his External Affairs Minister Henry Forde's efforts to turn back the Grenada Revolution.

The revelation of their efforts, made by Grenada's Prime Minister at the "Bloody Sunday" rally a few weeks ago, pointed out that Adams himself had admitted that enemies of Grenada had approached him on several occasions for assistance to overthrow the Grenadian government.

Adams also disclosed that he had had prior knowledge that "something would have happened in Grenada on June 19 last," when a bomb to assassinate the leaders of the Grenada revolution exploded, killing three persons and injuring 94 others.

These and other revelations of Adams's several attempts to isolate Grenada politically and diplomatically are having tremendous effect on the Barbadian public, who are now beginning to question their government's actions.

By banning circulation of such information, Adams is hoping that he can bring an end to such exposures in Barbados.

With an election due in Barbados soon, Adams fears the consequences of these exposures to the Barbadian public.

But, the growing support for Grenada in Barbados became more evident last weekend, with the appearance of pro-Grenada slogans on walls and public buildings.

*FWI, November 29, 1980*

### BARROW—WE'LL BETTER RELATIONS WITH GRENADA

Barbados Democratic Labour Party (DLP), led by former Prime Minister Errol Barrow, has said that if it is elected, it would move to restore good relations between the governments of Barbados and Grenada.

Making the promise, the DLP said that deteriorating relations between the two countries have been caused by "ill-timed and ill-advised statements and expressions" from the Tom Adams regime, and noted that this is the first time in the island's history that relations with a Caricom partner have deteriorated to such depths.

The campaign for Thursday's election is in full gear, and the two contending parties have released their manifestoes.

Adams's Barbados Labour Party (BLP) is carrying out a millionaire-style campaign, being managed by an American who managed the last election campaign for former U.S. President Richard Nixon.

The BLP's media campaign, said to be costing some \$10 million (B'dos), is being managed by a high-powered Madison Avenue public relations firm. It includes frequent whole-page advertisements in the island's leading dailies, and TV and radio slots.

Analysts say the millions being poured into the campaign to re-elect the BLP is an indication that it feels severely threatened by the DLP, which it ousted in 1976, after 15 years of DLP rule.

In its manifesto, the DLP is accusing the Adams administration of defending the interests of the rich at the expense [sic] the poor Barbadians.

It says that "the Barbados economy is entering into a state of deep crisis, despite BLP rhetoric to the contrary." It accuses the administration of allowing a chronically high level of unemployment, increased crime, alarming inflation, an impending balance of payments problem, a burdensome increase in indirect taxation, a rapid increase in the national debt, low levels of agricultural productivity, and economic privation facing small farmers.

"The nature of these problems is a clear reflection of the BLP government's policy trend to assist the privileged few" in the Barbadian society, "at the expense of the struggling masses and the middle classes," the manifesto said.

*FWI, June 13, 1981*

### STRONG REACTION TO ADAMS ATTACK— KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT, UNCLE TOM

The people of Grenada and the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), have reacted strongly to Tom Adams' latest attack on the Grenada Revolution.

In a statement on the issue, the PRG said that "Tom Adams is in no position to talk about freedom and democracy in Grenada, because the



people of Grenada have been benefitting tremendously from the many popular programmes of their Revolution, which have brought a significant improvement in the life of the Grenadian people."

The statement went on to compare the situation in Grenada with the situation in Barbados: "After two years of their Revolution, the Grenadian people are already receiving free medical attention, free and increased educational opportunities, increased national unity, and a significant decrease in the crime rate. But after almost six years of rule by Tom Adams' Barbados Labour Party (BLP), the Barbadian people are finding it more difficult to survive from day to day. Cost of living is increasing, while workers wages are decreasing; crime in Barbados is rising at an astronomical rate and the poor are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer in Barbados."

Tom Adams' latest attack was made in London earlier this week while he was there to attend the wedding reception of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. He called on the Government of Grenada to hold elections and expressed his concern about alleged human rights and press freedom violations in Grenada.

The PRG's statement pointed out that Tom Adams obviously loves royalty, because he always chooses royal occasions to do his master's work. "He last poked his nose into Grenada's business when he was at the home of CIA royalty, Ashley Wills, well-known head of the CIA's operations in the Eastern Caribbean," it said.

The statement asks why he didn't use his platform in Britain to join the PRG in condemning the racist British Nationality Bill, and the increasing repression being faced by brothers and sisters of the Caribbean and other parts of the world in England.

It emphasized that the people of Grenada and the PRG have no quarrel with the Barbadian people but continue to regard them as brothers and sisters in the struggle.

"The people of Grenada, however, stand ready to deal with all the imperialist and CIA yardfowls, pawns and puppets who stand in the way of the Revolution and who choose to join the United States Government's plan to isolate and turn back the Grenada Revolution," the PRG stated.

Two Barbadian political organisations have supported the PRG in its condemnation of Tom Adams' attack on the Grenada Revolution. They are the People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the Movement for National Liberation (MONALI).

Both Bobby Clark, leader of the PPP and Rickey Parris, chairman of MONALI, agreed that Tom Adams has no right to talk about democracy

because the recent elections in Barbados which kept him in power were considered undemocratic.

Thousands of Barbadians found that their names were not registered for voting while many were registered in several places. Some of the ballot boxes were misplaced and some were not even counted.

They said the election proved that free and fair does not mean democratic. It means that whoever controls the apparatus leading up to and on the night of the election, runs the Government of Barbados.

They both pointed out that Tom Adams has nothing to say about the racist regime in England which denied young blacks equal opportunities in the educational system, nor the repressive regimes in South Africa, the fascist Pinochet regime in Chile and the repressive Haitian Government.

Bro. Clark said that continued interference in the Grenada people's affairs, can only lead to a further disenfranchisement of the people's needs in the Caribbean, and the defeat of the common goal of Caribbean unity.

Bro. Parris commented that Tom Adams has no love for democracy. "It is a straight case of a dog barking for its master. He has always been at the centre of the forces of destabilisation and counter revolution seeking to turn back the Grenada Revolution," he said.

Elections, he pointed out, have in recent times become the tool through which the forces of imperialism have oppressed the Caribbean masses with some of the most conservative governments and through the tight media control coming out of their relationships with the Inter-American Press Association and other reactionary media bodies.

He reiterated his party's support for the Grenada Revolution.

"In the face of this new uprising in hostility to the Grenada Revolution, we in the progressive movements in Barbados remain convinced of the just path which the Grenada people have chosen and of the new democracy that has evolved. We are overcome by the unity of the people of Grenada and the PRG, and we say to you, stand firm. FORWARD EVER, BACKWARD NEVER."

FWI, August 8, 1981

#### BARBADOS PAPERS HIT REAGAN'S TREATMENT OF NEWSMEN

The Barbados "Nation" newspaper on Wednesday followed in the steps of the "Advocate News" and lambasted U.S. security officials for ill-treating local journalists during U.S. President Ronald Reagan's four-day working holiday in Barbados, last week.

The "Advocate News" in its editorial Tuesday suggested that there were racial overtones in the officials' attitude towards the West Indians, saying they were treated like intruders in their own country.

Barbadian and other Caribbean journalists were denied entry by White House security men at the Sandy Lane Estate, where Reagan was staying, while the all-white foreign press corps were ushered in without any problems, CANA reported.

The previous day, at Ilaro Court, the official residence of Prime Minister Tom Adams, Barbadian journalists were initially denied entry again by the White House officials and physically assaulted when they asserted themselves in an effort to cover the proceedings.

Calling for a clarification of the mess, "in the spirit of good relations," the "Nation" said: "We would not like to think that the Reagan visit to Barbados will be remembered for this unsavoury aspect, which could be the case in the absence of a full statement of explanation at the earliest possible opportunity.

"We found that the security staff were almost inhuman in their dealings with local journalists, which in the circumstances of race (they were white and we were black) and indeed in the circumstances of country (they were big America and we were small Bajans) could have led to entirely unnecessary confrontation and embarrassment," the daily said.

"The result was that the snubbed journalists had to play second roles to their counterparts, which was professionally undesirable and personally distasteful," it added.

"The visit of Ronald Reagan to our shores was not the biggest thing to have taken place here. In fact, we are quite accustomed to the big event and all that is required by the media. We had a proud track record."

The editorial said any post mortem of the Reagan visit must address itself to the problems encountered by the journalists and the reasons why matters got out of hand.

The editorial page carried a big splash by a local cartoonist of jacketed U.S. security men blocking the entrance of Ilaro Court and a local journalist, note-book in hand, sitting on the steps "depressed."

*FWI, April 17, 1982*

**PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA  
CONDEMNS ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA**

The PRG last week issued the following Press Release on the Dominica situation:

The People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada feels that the reported acts of violence against unarmed people in Roseau, Dominica, last Tuesday was the culmination of a growing South African influence in official circles in Dominica.

In the circumstances, the People's Revolutionary Government, conscious of the stand already expressed by the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the Caribbean Congress of Labour and the Caribbean Human Rights and Legal Aid Company condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent activities of the Government of Prime Minister, Patrick John.

At the risk of being accused by the Dominican Government of interference, the People's Revolutionary Government wishes to make it abundantly clear that any form of relations between a Caribbean Government and the racist apartheid regime of South Africa is a matter of the gravest concern to the Grenadian people and Government and, we feel certain, to the region as a whole.

This relationship between a Caribbean Government and South Africa is a slap in the face to the aspirations of millions of people the world over and to scores of countries in the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international organs that are concerned and working to bring about the defeat of the racist, fascist, repressive regimes in Southern Africa. Such developments also pose a direct threat to the security and integrity of the entire Caribbean region which has already had to contend with Chilean influence.

We therefore call upon the Government of Dominica to immediately end all relations with South Africa and to respect the will of the Dominican and Caribbean people for true independence, social progress, human rights and participatory democracy.

*FWI, June 9, 1979*

**EUGENIA CHARLES ACCUSES  
GRENADA IN OVERTHROW PLOT**

As the Eugenia Charles government approaches its eighth month in office, political confusion and instability continues in Dominica.

The state of emergency, declared last month, continues and the government is taking numerous emergency measures in its effort to come to grips with the general unrest following the killing of two Rastafarians by police and the abduction of farmer Ted Honeychurch by a group of Rastafarians.

Former Prime Minister Patrick John, Defense Force Commander Frederick Newton, former director of information and broadcasting Dennis

Joseph, and an executive member of Patrick John's Labour Party, Julian David, have all been arrested, accused of being part of a plot to overthrow the Charles government on March 14.

The 97-member Defense Force has been disbanded, and called upon to turn in their arms.

And while a number of persons have been detained, the government has announced new measures under the emergency regulations giving the commissioner of Police power to open mail addressed to any detainee or relative, or other person residing at his home.

Ms. Charles in a recent radio interview, tried to associate Grenada with the alleged overthrow plot, saying that it was timed for March 14, the day after the second anniversary of the Grenada Revolution.

But this contention was negated by "The New Chronicle," Dominica's only weekly newspaper, which supports Ms. Charles's government. It said last week that "the Grenada situation is poles apart from what is transpiring in Dominica."

At the same time that she pointed an accusing finger at Grenada, Ms. Charles said that her government has been able to secure assistance from three major Western countries—France, the United States and Britain—to train the local army in engineering, construction, "and other areas."

While military detachments from these countries have been assisting and instructing Dominican military personnel since the kidnapping, there are also reports that days after, a plane from the Jamaica Defense Force landed a shipment of American-made arms on the island.

Reports also indicate that members of the Defense Force refused to co-operate with the foreign military personnel in their efforts to track down Honeychurch's kidnapers.

Spokesmen for the major trade unions, the Rastafarians and the opposition Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance claim that these forces have come under a vicious propaganda onslaught to implicate them in the unrest on the island.

Meanwhile, the regional newspaper, "Caribbean Contact" has said that it is reliably informed that Honeychurch is alive and well. But his whereabouts remain a mystery.

*FWI, March 21, 1981*

### ADVOCATE KNOCKS PM CHARLES TOO

Even the Barbados "Advocate News" has taken issue with Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, over Grenada.

In an editorial Wednesday, the oldest daily in Barbados said Ms. Charles's speech at last weekend's convention of the ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) indicated that she was definitely becoming anxious about the economic future of her young nation.

Ms. Charles charged that by refusing to "legitimise itself by holding free and fair elections," the PRG was blocking the flow of much-needed aid into the region. She referred specifically to the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) refusal of a U.S. loan of \$10.8 million with the condition that Grenada would not benefit.

The "Advocate News" suggested that by so chastising the PRG, Ms. Charles was perhaps hoping that her cry would reach Washington, causing the U.S. Government to realise that Dominica was suffering from its aid stipulations and possibly review its approach to "maybe . . . a bilateral basis."

But there is little hope that the PRG will be moved by Ms. Charles's cries, the paper said, merely for the sake of "imperialist dollars."

Besides Ms. Charles, all the region's governments had sided with the PRG against the Ronald Reagan demand, the "Advocate News" pointed out.

It added: "It is Miss Charles who has been the first to shift the criticism from the Reagan administration and put the blame squarely on Maurice Bishop. It only shows how our perspective can be coloured by where we stand."

The paper also pointed out that the elections issue was not as simple as Ms. Charles made it seem, as the PRG would hardly be minded to hold elections merely to ensure a flow of funds into Dominica and other Caribbean states.

*FWI, August 29, 1981*

### NOEL—YES, RODNEY ASSASSINATED

Vincent Noel, Secretary for Home Affairs in the People's Revolutionary Government, has cleared up the misunderstanding which arose from a recent interview with the Guyanese press.

Bro. Noel, who gave a news conference in Guyana to discuss the Grenadian situation, was asked about the PRG's attitude to Walter Rodney's assassination.

In an interview with RFG News last Monday, Bro. Noel confirmed that he had erroneously stated in the Guyana press conference that the PRG had not used the word "assassination" to describe Dr. Rodney's death.

Grenada's position, however, had already been made quite clear by two PRG statements on the matter and by the fact that Soweto Day, June 16, had been declared a national day of mourning in Grenada, in memory of Dr. Rodney.

On that day too, at the request of the PRG, the Grenada Conference of Churches held a special memorial service in St. George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, attended by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Education Minister George Louison, Communications and Works Minister Selwyn Strachan, Agriculture Minister, Unison Whiteman as well as other members of the PRG, New Jewel Movement, and other organisations.

Bro. Noel, who had been fully aware of all these actions, told Radio Free Grenada he had, however, not been aware of the exact wording of the second PRG statement.

The statement, issued on June 14 by a PRG spokesman, had registered the PRG's deep shock at the major loss to Guyana, the Caribbean, and the freedom-loving people of the world, at the untimely death of the Guyanese revolutionary, and had called for an urgent investigation into the full circumstances surrounding the incident.

The second statement, however, was issued on June 15 by Cde Bishop, condemning utterly the "sickening and cowardly assassination" of Dr. Rodney.

Elsewhere in the statement, Cde Bishop said that the "assassination" was seen as "signifying a dangerous regional development." "Only imperialism and reaction can benefit from this murder," it continued.

In his RFG interview, Bro. Noel reiterated that the position of the party and government was that the assassination was the work of imperialism in conjunction with local reactionaries, who were not named specifically, but who aimed at destroying all the progressive forces in the region.

The party and government showed clear links, he said, between Dr. Rodney's murder and events in Chile, El Salvador, Jamaica and Grenada.

On the national day of mourning, flags were flown at half mast and members of the PRG, and the public wore black armbands.

Bro. Noel, a senior member of government and of the political bureau of the NJM, left Grenada on June 20 to attend a memorial service for Dr. Rodney in Guyana the following day.

This he did, and returned to Grenada on June 22 as planned, as events in Grenada made it impossible for him to stay for the funeral on Monday, which had not yet been scheduled when he left home.

The implication of a CANA story on Wednesday, which quotes a Guyana government statement as naming Bro. Noel as an official who left Guyana "without attending the funeral" is therefore false.

Grenada still mourns the loss of Dr. Rodney, and repeats its call for a full investigation into the "sickening and cowardly assassination" of this great man.

FWI, June 28, 1980

### ST. VINCENT DEPORTS FWI JOURNALIST

St. Lucian journalist Earl Bousquet, who has worked with FREE WEST INDIAN for the past 14 months, was deported from St. Vincent this week, after arriving there to cover the budget debate in parliament.

Said Bro. Bousquet: "I arrived in St. Vincent's airport on Wednesday morning, on a chartered flight from St. Lucia. Accompanying me was a British-born businessman with a chain of stores in the islands, who had chartered the plane to carry goods to his St. Vincent store.

"We took the line to the immigration desk, where we were asked to stand aside while our passports were taken to another room. The immigration officer returned and asked how much money we had. My friend said he had \$47, and I had \$75. We were told we did not have enough money to enter.

"The immigration officer, WPC 392 Marshall, told us we would be deported back to St. Lucia on the next flight. The businessman argued that he had been travelling to St. Vincent for over 14 years, and had never been turned back, and further, that he had thousands of dollars worth of goods for his store on the plane. More, he had a friend who had come to meet him, and since he was only staying overnight, he did not need more money.

"When his friend came up, and the Police Commissioner came to the office, the businessman was allowed to enter the country.

"The Commissioner then left, without even considering my case. The immigration officer told me that I would take the next plane, expected in an hour, for St. Lucia. I was put in a room under police guard.

"I protested, asking the grounds for my deportation. She said she did not have to explain, but when I pressed, she said I was "an undesirable Grenadian element." I showed her my passport, proved I am St. Lucian, and she laughed, saying, 'Bishop can give anybody a false passport.'

"I continued to protest, pointing out that I'm a journalist, and I was coming to her country to cover the budget debate, going on that same day. I also added that I had been to St. Vincent at least three times on that same passport, the last time being immediately after Hurricane Allen, when I toured the island with other regional journalists, Prime Minister Milton Cato and other government officials.

"She took my passport again to the adjacent office, and after a telephone call, she returned saying that her immediate boss, a senior policeman named Stoddard, said I should not be allowed entry. I was to be deported to St. Lucia.

"I told her I had a confirmed flight and ticket to Grenada from St. Vincent that same day, and requested that I be sent to Grenada instead. Marshall laughed, saying this confirmed that I was really a 'Grenadian revolutionist' with a false passport.

"I reiterated that I worked in Grenada, and showed documents to prove it.

"She said, I would be put on the next plane to Grenada, as I requested.

"I, therefore, had to wait two hours under guard for the next plane to Grenada.

"While waiting, I spoke to a sympathetic Customs Officer, who had been listening all along. He said the only reason I was being deported was because of my "dreadlocks" hairstyle. Many other persons with dreadlocks had been deported earlier, he said.

"At 2.30 p.m. Wednesday I was escorted to the waiting LIAT plane, and put on board. My documents were then handed to me, along with two copies of a deportation order, one of which I was told to hand to immigration authorities in Grenada.

"On the order, under the heading 'Rasons for Deportation,' one word had been inserted: 'undesirable.'"

*FWI, July 25, 1981*

### REVO RALLY IN TRINIDAD

On March 13, while thousands of Grenadians and scores of guests from all parts of the world celebrated in a mass rally the first anniversary of the revolution, their brothers and sisters in Trinidad and Tobago demonstrated their strong bonds of solidarity with the struggle in Grenada by also holding a mass rally in Port-of-Spain.

The rally, organised by the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) drew crowds which packed the OWTU House of the People to capacity and overflowed the yard into the streets.

No matter how many lies are being spread by hostile elements, the masses of people turned out to show their approval of the new direction being taken by Comrade Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the People's Revolutionary Government and the people of Grenada.

Despite the threatening attitude of the Trinidad state to those who identify with the Grenada revolution, several prominent artistes turned out to make their contributions.

Among the calypsonians appearing were Chalkdust, King Austin, Commentor and Short Pants. Other artistes included Andre Tanker and the Village Drummers.

Several organisations presented solidarity messages at the rally.

The feature address was given by Makandal Daaga, formerly Geddes Granger, chairman of NJAC. He condemned forces in Trinidad and Tobago who were making a determined effort to subvert the Grenada Revolution, and he warned the newspapers to stop printing their lies and distortions.

He asked the people not only to express a sense of solidarity, but to commit themselves to sacrifice for the defense of the revolution in Grenada, which is the most advanced stage of the revolution in the English-speaking Caribbean.

The people expressed their total support for the progress taking place here by thunderous shouts of power to the people of Grenada.

*FWI, April 19, 1980*

### ANOTHER GRENADIAN HARASSED IN TRINIDAD

Ever since the people's revolution of March 13, and more so during recent weeks, there have been reports of Grenadians as well as visitors to the country, being subjected to harassment and intimidation at certain airports in the region.

Now comes the news of a Grenadian, David Lynch, being deported from neighbouring Trinidad, where he had lived for the past 50 years.

In January 1979 Mr. Lynch left for a visit to Grenada. After being in Grenada for 15 months, he decided to return to Trinidad.

When he arrived at Piarco Airport he was told by immigration authorities that his papers were no longer valid, and he would have to return to Grenada to have them renewed.

He objected, saying he had been living in Trinidad for over 50 years, and Trinidad would be the appropriate place for renewing them.

The authorities refused to accept his reasoning and recalled an aircraft, already 10 minutes in flight, to have him flown back to Grenada.

On boarding the plane, Mr. Lynch told the captain it was not his wish to be on board and that it would be dangerous to have him on the flight.

The captain reported this to his seniors, and Mr. Lynch was taken off the aircraft, had his documents taken away from him, and was detained at the Arouca Police Station, until April 21.

He was then brought to the airport in handcuffs accompanied by two immigration officers, and put aboard an aircraft for Grenada.

Mr. Lynch stated that he had been quite active in the social and political fields in Trinidad.

At the time, he was employed as a travel assistant, which entailed helping people overcome their travelling difficulties. This occupation, he noted, meant that he had close contacts with, and was known to, the Trinidad immigration authorities.

No valid reason has been given Mr. Lynch for his treatment but disparaging remarks passed by certain immigration officials suggested to him that the fact of his being Grenadian was enough reason for his harassment.

Similar incidents have been noted by the PRG and each case is being fully investigated.

*FWI*, May 17, 1980

### TRINIDAD BARS BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER

General secretary of South Africa's Black Allied Workers Union (BAWU), Drake Koka, who was an invited guest at Grenada's recent African Liberation Day celebration, was barred from entering Trinidad and Tobago, because he is South African.

Koka left for Trinidad last week, to address the African Liberation Day rally organised by the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC). With him was Babatunde Ron Smith, chairman of the Pan African Congress Movement of Britain and France, another speaker for the rally.

But on arrival at Piarco airport, Guyana-born Smith was allowed entry, while Koka was told he could not enter, because Trinidad and Tobago was against South Africa, and therefore, "no South Africans" would be allowed entry.

Koka told immigration officials that the law banning entry to South Africans was probably aimed at expressing disgust for the apartheid practices of the racist government, and it was necessary to distinguish between the perpetrators and the victims of apartheid.

He also pointed out that he was not carrying a South African passport, but a United Nations travel document.

He was then told that he did not have a visa, and although he pointed out that there were no visa facilities in Grenada, from where he had travelled, within 35 minutes, he was put on the next plane to Grenada.

But that did not prevent the rally from coming off and being "a great success," according to NJAC officials.

Kasala Kamara, editor of NJAC's "Liberation" newspaper, said his organization contacted Trinidad's Ministry of National Security, and it had

promised to put the situation straight. But by the time they got back to the airport, Koka had already been deported.

Kamara said he found the immigration officials' action contradictory to the government's position at the United Nations, that it is against apartheid.

Koka himself found these actions contradictory. "We are very concerned that a state which has a large black population should continue to victimize Africans who are fighting apartheid."

"Such actions," he added, "are in direct contravention of the United Nations Convention on Refugees, to which the Trinidad government is signatory. They ought to respect that convention, and they must see us South African freedom fighters in exile as refugees in the spirit of the Convention."

"By banning us from entering their countries, whether it is through misinterpretation of the law or not, governments which take such actions are acting only in direct support of the racist South African regime, because the regime's wish is that we continue to be harassed and victimised in other countries," Koka said.

Koka is well known in South Africa for his role in the political struggle against the colonialist regime. He was a co-founder and the first secretary-general of the Black People's Convention, a political party under the Black Consciousness Movement, and a close friend of the murdered black leader, Steve Biko.

Koka was forced into exile by the white minority regime for his leading role in the struggle. In 1973 he was served a five-year order, keeping him under house arrest on weekends and holidays, and in November 1974, he was arrested, detained for eight months, and placed in solitary confinement in a maximum security prison. A few months after the June 1976 Soweto rebellion, he was forced to flee to Botswana to avoid arrest.

*FWI*, June 6, 1981

### WISA BEING TRANSFORMED

Seven Caribbean islands, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Saint Lucia, will sign a treaty establishing the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on July 4, the eighth anniversary of the birth of Caricom, to which they belong.

It will culminate two years of preparation to transform the 14-year-old West Indies Associated States (WISA) into a legally-established body to

help the smaller Caricom territories deal with the rest of the region and the world.

And as part of the communications and education programme designed to disseminate information on the OECS, WISA and the People's Revolutionary Government will jointly sponsor a one-day seminar at York House, St. George's next Tuesday.

The seminar will be open to the public, and panelists will include Augustus Compton, WISA's executive secretary and Charlesworth Edwards, executive secretary of the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM).

The OECS is being launched to promote co-operation, unity and solidarity, to help member-states to discharge their obligations to the international community, to seek the fullest possible harmonization of foreign policy, and to promote economic integration.

It provides for mutual defense and security, and for twice yearly meetings of heads of government, with annual rotation of the chairmanship among member states in alphabetical order, starting with Antigua.

One early plan of the OECS is to set up a pool of experts to share available expertise and increase levels of expertise in the area. This scheme will focus on agriculture, industry, transport, tourism, fiscal policy and planning services, trade, information and integration services, finance, personnel and general administration, health services and port management.

Sharing of diplomatic missions abroad is one of the main items on the agenda, to reduce the cost of overseas representation.

Minister of Legal Affairs Kenrick Radix, said recently that Grenada has gone down on record as having offered to share its many missions in other parts of the world with fellow members of the OECS.

*FWI, June 6, 1981*

### OECS—STEP IN LONG SEARCH FOR UNITY

"The establishment of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is a forward step in the movement towards regional integration, and towards the coming together of the smaller states of the region."

This was the view of Minister of Education George Louison, as he delivered an opening statement on behalf of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) at a one-day seminar, held at York House, St. George's, on Tuesday.

The seminar, held to promote public discussion on the OECS, was also attended by Gus Compton, executive secretary of the West Indies Associated States (WISA), and Charlesworth Edwards, executive secretary of

the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM), who answered questions from members of the public.

Noting that regional integration had been discussed "for decades" in the region, and the role of such Grenadian stalwarts as William Donovan and T.A. Marryshow, Bro. Louison said that "we must see the signing of the OECS treaty as part of our people's long tradition of trying to forge unity among ourselves."

He traced the several attempts among small Caribbean states to forge such unity, and said "this new initiative should give us new perspectives on approaching the problem," adding that since March 13, 1979, Grenada's position has always been that it wants unity, not only among the English-speaking islands, but also among the French, Dutch and Spanish-speaking countries of the region.

Bro. Louison, who also has responsibility for relations with Caricom countries, urged, however, that "popular democracy, respect for workers and social and economic justice for all," should be a component of any regional movement, such as the OECS.

He cited the signing of the "Declaration of St. George's" between Dominica, St. Lucia and Grenada on July 14, 1979, when the three committed themselves to such policies, and urged that "it would be a fundamental duty for the OECS to look at some of the issues and clauses enshrined in that declaration."

Other issues worth looking at, he felt, were energy, travel among member states, and fiscal and monetary policies. The PRG held that the OECS should consider the developing countries' struggle to restructure international trade to get "a better deal," and thus, a position should be taken on the new international economic order, he said.

Peace is another major issue the PRG would like the OECS to look at seriously, Bro. Louison said. "Peace for mankind, and for the region, requires a common approach on our part," he said.

He recalled that in October 1979, the Organisation of American States (OAS) general assembly in Bolivia adopted a resolution submitted by Grenada, calling for the region to be declared a "zone of peace," and added that "it is our view that there must be stability and peace for development."

By calling for peace, he said, it would mean prohibition of all military bases in the region, an end to all military manoeuvres, an end to colonialism so that all countries in the region would have the right to choose their own paths of development, an end to assassinations, mercenary attacks, propaganda and economic destabilisation, and an end to the exploitation of the land and the seas of the region, against the will of its peoples.

"Peace represents the aspirations of all our people to end all forms of domination," Bro. Louison concluded.

Compton, of St. Lucia, gave a general outline of all issues concerning the transformation of WISA into the OECS.

"The OECS will constitute no threat to national sovereignty, as governments will retain their political independence, and will adopt collective approaches on common issues," he said.

He pointed out that the OECS will be "totally silent" on ideology, since "ideological pluralism is an irreversible factor in international relations, and should constitute no barrier" in relations among member states.

"There is no incompatibility between OECS and Caricom, as the OECS will definitely enhance the work towards the achievement of Caricom's objectives," he concluded.

*FWI, June 13, 1981*

#### PM'S BISHOP, CATO TALK

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman yesterday held informal talks with St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Milton Cato.

Cato was intransit at Pearl's Airport on his way to the United States Virgin Islands for a vacation. PM Bishop and Min. Whiteman went to Pearl's in the morning specifically to meet him.

The two Caricom leaders discussed several matters of mutual and regional interest.

The discussions took place against the background of the upcoming Caricom heads of governments meeting scheduled to be held on Jamaica's north coast tourist resort area next month, and the People's Revolutionary Government's (PRG) recent initiatives, which have secured additional aid for the Eastern Caribbean Islands from the French government, through its Fund for Aid and Development (FAC).

The meeting also came against the background of last week's re-affirmation by the PRG of its unwavering commitment to regional unity and, in particular to joint efforts to solve the pressing economic problems of small island states.

*FWI, October 6, 1982*

#### PM AT OECS MEETING IN DOMINICA

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop is now in Dominica, attending the Heads

of Government meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which began Thursday.

Before he left, PM Bishop said that at the meeting, which will discuss energy, trade and sharing of certain facilities among OECS member states, Grenada will present proposals on a number of issues, including the restructuring of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Grenada will present a paper, aimed at ensuring that any restructuring does not break up the university, compromise its integrity or sever unity in the region, he said.

Grenada's position, he said, is that the education cost for each student should be dependent on the campus being attended, since there are big differences in cost among each of the three UWI campuses, in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

This would mean a reduction in university fees for many islands, he stated.

Grenada will also follow up a number of proposals it put forward at last November's OECS meeting in St. Lucia, including the bulk-buying of goods among member states, organising cheaper means of regional transportation, and the purchasing of common textbooks for Caribbean students.

All these have beneficial economic implications, not only for Grenada, but for all OECS members, he stated.

PM Bishop said he hoped the meeting would take a final decision on converting the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority into a central bank.

He called the moves towards forming such a bank a historic and fundamental achievement, and evidence of the advances which the OECS had made.

OECS now has an institutional structure, he said, with the establishment of different offices, including its headquarters in St. Lucia, and its economic secretariat in Antigua.

On several fronts, the OECS has begun to achieve its objectives of helping to bring about greater co-operation among member states, he declared.

Speaking on the recent trade impasse among some Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries, PM Bishop emphasised that Grenada is not willing to become involved in retaliatory or discriminatory actions against its Caricom partners.

"Our concern now is to try and develop structures that will ensure that this kind of thing does not happen again; that before people move to any direct action, they engage in different forms of dialogue and communication," he stated.

*FWI, May 28, 1983*



### OECS AGREES ON CENTRAL BANK

Last weekend's Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' (OECS) heads of government meeting in Dominica has helped to advance further the OECS's possibilities and potential, said Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Assessing the meeting's outcome to the press, he said it was able to agree on a number of issues.

Among them is the decision to convert the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) into a central bank within the next few months.

PM Bishop revealed that the meeting also made progress on the future of the University of the West Indies (UWI) but added that another meeting will have to be held before July's Caribbean Community (Caricom) Summit meeting in Trinidad to settle remaining problems.

Grenada, he said, gave full support to the proposal to offer contracts to West Indian cricketers to coach in different Caribbean islands in the off-season, so as to keep off the lure of tempting financial offers to play cricket in racist South Africa.

The two day meeting also discussed, among other things, energy, trade, OECS preparations for July's Caricom summit, and the sharing of certain facilities among OECS member states.

### FOLLOW GRENADA'S EXAMPLE CARICOM MINISTERS URGE

Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop came in for special praise from the participants at the sixth conference of Caricom Health Ministers which ended at the Dome Thursday.

According to the head of the Health Desk at the Caricom Secretariat, Dr. Philip Boyd, "The conference has never had so comprehensive an account of problems in health and other health issues. It was an extremely healthy account of problems facing primary health service."

Dr. Boyd was referring to the feature address which was delivered by the Prime Minister at the opening session of the conference on Tuesday.

Grenada was also praised as the first Caricom member state to have set up a Food and Nutrition Council, and the conference urged all members to follow Grenada's example.

At Grenada's initiative, the conference discussed low-cost housing. A paper was presented by Grenada, and the conference urged the Caricom Secretariat to seek funds from the World Bank and the United Nations for low-cost housing for the region's people.

In its paper, Grenada's delegate insisted that every home should have running water safe for drinking, proper sanitary arrangements, proper refuse disposals, and possibilities for repair.

Focus on the conference was on the special problems of smaller member states of Caricom, and a number of decisions were taken to deal with some of these.

The smaller states insisted that staff for projects oriented primarily for them should be located in their territories. They also called for a pool of specialists to serve them.

They also made a special call to attract regional specialists now working in North America and Europe.

They called on the Secretariat to seek external finance for development of rural health services, especially rural health centres.

At the same time, the conference urged that women be more involved in the decision-making and implementation of proposals for community health problems, and that member states begin to involve the masses in solving their health problems.

The conference called on the community to import drugs collectively and in bulk, to escape the high costs imposed by the monopolies overseas.

It called for the development of a drugs-testing laboratory, and for the maintenance of existing hospital equipment.

*FWI, July 19, 1980*

### BISHOP ADDRESSES CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS

Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Maurice Bishop opened the sixth meeting of Caricom Foreign Ministers at the Dome on Tuesday, with a strong call for an end to imperialist intrigues in the region, for a new international economic order, for stronger regional unity, and for the long overdue meeting of Heads of Government of Caricom member-states.

Delivering the feature address at the opening ceremony, PM Bishop said the meeting was taking place in the context of a tense international situation, and outlined many developments on the international scene, to which Grenada felt the ministers should address themselves.

In Central America, he said, there were signs of a possibility of external intervention in El Salvador, which could plunge the region into a dangerous conflict.

Reiterating Grenada's commitment to peace, he said: "We cannot shirk our responsibilities towards peace, and therefore, all our diplomatic efforts and support must be on the side of those struggling for peace and freedom."

On Southern Africa, PM Bishop called on the ministers to note increased United States support for the racist minority regime in South Africa and the condemnation of "the unholy alliance" between the United States and South Africa by all 50 member states of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) last weekend.

"Nor can we ignore the latest developments in the Middle East," he said, referring to Israel's bombing of Iraqi nuclear installations. This act, the PM said, "constitutes a breach of international law, and a violation of Iraq's territorial sovereignty, and was aimed at cheap electoral gains."

He said that Grenada demanded compensation for the loss of life and damage caused by the Israeli attack, and called on the ministers to note that situation in their deliberations.

On the international economic situation, PM Bishop pointed out that the world faces a grim crisis, the brunt of which was on the developing countries. This crisis, he said, stems from the industrialised capitalist countries, and he pointed to the decline of tourism in the region, the rapid decline in the price of exports from the region and the escalation of the cost of imports "in dangerous and disastrous proportions" as some of its effects on the region.

To help resolve this, he said, Caricom had to join the militant struggle for a new international economic order, which would replace the present exploitative world economic order.

He reiterated Grenada's call for an end to the vast spending on armaments by the industrialised countries, and for the use of these resources in the interest of international peace, security and development. "This tremendous waste can be of benefit to developing countries, especially those as small as ours," he said.

"We cannot isolate ourselves from the concerns of peace, security, justice and progress in the world," he said, urging that these too be considered during the meeting.

The recent loss of Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams places the burden of struggling harder for regional unity on the shoulders of the Caricom member-states, he said, and called for one minute's silence in his memory.

PM Bishop said that in the context of the international situation he had outlined, "a meeting of Caricom Heads of Government seems the next logical step," and urged strong recommendations on this.

In 150 years after the end of slavery, the region had made some progress, but it was still vulnerable to external threats and pressures.

Grenada was not opposed to Caricom member-states receiving assistance "from whatever sources available," he said, "but what we take exception to is the manipulative and divisive use of funds to compromise our regional institutions and our people's integrity," he said, obviously referring to the recent U.S. efforts to force the Caribbean Development Bank to accept aid with political strings.

He welcomed the region's rejection of the U.S. attempt, and affirmed that Grenada would continue to condemn imperialist and neo-colonial tactics at all times, whether such tactics are "disguised, dressed-up or naked."

He reiterated Grenada's support for continued efforts at regional unity, and urged the region: "Let us face the world conscious of our collective strength."

On the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which is being formally launched today, PM Bishop said it is an encouraging and significant development for the region. "It will help further consolidate the process towards regional integration started since 1967, and will certainly help bolster Caricom itself," he said.

He reiterated Grenada's and other regional states' call for the region to be declared a zone of peace, which would mean prohibition of nuclear weapons in the region, an end to military manoeuvres, withdrawal of all military bases, decolonization, and an end to foreign intervention, and mercenary invasions.

"When all these conditions are fulfilled, our region will definitely be closer to peace," he said.

PM Bishop also stressed Grenada's support for Belize in its struggle for independence and territorial integrity, and urged the meeting to put its support for Belize on record.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the ministers voted PM Bishop as chairman of the meeting, and the formal chairmanship of the committee was passed onto Grenada, which will hold the post until next year.

Also addressing the opening ceremony were Caricom secretary general Dr. Kurleigh King, St. Lucia's Foreign Minister Peter Josie, Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, and Belize's Education Minister Assad Shoreman.

FWI, July 6, 1981

#### CARICOM SUMMIT—A SUCCESS FOR GRENADA

The Third Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government meeting ended in Jamaica on Thursday with dramatic success for Grenada and a

resounding diplomatic and political defeat for the governments of the United States, Jamaica, Barbados and Dominica.

The main issue receiving attention in the lead up to the conference, that of elections in Grenada, was not mentioned anywhere in the twelve page communique issued at the end of the meeting.

Instead, economic issues which Grenada and other progressive governments and parties in the region said must be the meeting's main focus was what dominated the final document. Secondary issues on human rights, which was raised by the rightwing governments, was only briefly referred to in the second of two appendices in the communique.

However, this reference to human rights reflected the broad spread of human rights components which was acceptable to the only people's democracy in the meeting—Grenada.

In contrast to the satisfaction expressed by members of the Grenada delegation at the outcome, Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga, told a press conference at the end of the meeting that "there were things which I had hoped to have discussed which were not decided on at the conference."

He said that in the meeting no tempers were lost and, "the danger I perceived at the early stages was that it was going too smoothly."

Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados, who suffered the greatest personal defeat by the outcome of the meeting, left Ocho Rios early Thursday for Europe without a comment on the summit.

His proposed amendment to the preamble of the treaty of Chaguaramas about free elections proved technically impossible and politically unfeasible, given the hard work and prestige of the Grenadian leader, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his delegation at the meeting.

Also among the most disappointed elements is the U.S. government which both officially and unofficially sought to influence the meeting against Grenada, and against progressive movements and the peoples of the region.

An eight man U.S. congressional delegation took up residence next to the conference centre and a large American press booth plied Caricom leaders with questions designed to get negative responses against Grenada.

The U.S. chargé d' affaires in Jamaica, Robert Warne, remained in close personal touch with certain Caricom leaders and the press throughout the meeting.

For the Grenadian people, the decisive factor at the meeting was the consistent firmness and preparations of PM Bishop in defending the people's democracy and sovereignty of the Revolution.

The other leaders, many expecting apologies and promises, found Cde Bishop's clarity and conviction disarming.

For all those who participated, the meeting will be a memorable lesson in how firm preparation and principled positions can neutralize unprincipled opposition and strengthen the revolution.

The next Caricom meeting takes place in Trinidad on July 4 next year, marking the tenth anniversary of the treaty establishing Caricom, which was signed at that same venue in 1973.

*FWI*, November 20, 1982

### SUMMIT—A RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR GRENADIAN AND CARIBBEAN PEOPLE

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on Sunday told a cheering crowd of thousands of Grenadians that the recently concluded Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government meeting in Jamaica "was a massive and resounding victory for the government and people of Grenada."

He said every single one of Grenada's objectives were fully met at the three-day meeting.

PM Bishop, speaking at a mass rally in Seamoon, St. Andrew's, to mark the ninth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, said his delegation's firmness and principled position had defeated attempts by rightwing governments to oust Grenada from Caricom for its refusal to hold British style parliamentary elections, and so-called human rights violations.

"Those who had wanted to persecute us, became the persecuted . . . those who had set themselves up as hunters, became the hunted," PM Bishop declared.

Grenada, he said, stuck to its plan to focus on the real, burning issues facing the poor and working people of the Caribbean, such as high unemployment, the high cost of living and the falling prices for the region's raw materials, among others.

The Grenada delegation raised these questions at the conference, presented concrete proposals for solving them, and focused on additional, relevant and practical areas of co-operation, he disclosed.

The attempts by the rightwing governments of the region to isolate Grenada by amending the treaty of Chaguaramas—to make British style parliamentary elections mandatory for all members, failed miserably, PM Bishop declared.

On the contrary, he added, Grenada's plan to ensure Caricom's survival received considerable support.

He said the conference was not only a success for Grenada, but was also a victory for the concerns and human rights of the Caribbean poor and working people.

The leader of the Grenada Revolution pointed out that his delegation fought to uphold the principle of ideological pluralism, which, he said, is a fact of life recognised throughout the world.

Declaring that a major political and ideological struggle was being waged at the meeting, he said the refusal by some of the region's leaders to accept that principle showed their disrespect for a people's right to national determination and an independent path of development.

PM Bishop said the Caribbean leaders who were spearheading the attempts to oust Grenada from the 12-nation community, were shocked when they discovered that the Caribbean people are not hostile to the Grenada revolution and fully supported the process.

PM Bishop informed the meeting about the new grassroots people's democracy now being developed here, and the social and economic human rights that the revolution has brought to the island's poor and working people.

PM Bishop said he outlined to the meeting, Grenada's concept of human rights, which maintains that the majority of people are entitled to food, water, electricity, and the right to live a decent and dignified life.

"Our task is to continue the struggle for regional integration, unity, practical co-operation and greater people to people contact," PM Bishop concluded.

*FWI, November 24, 1982*

#### THE CARICOM DECLARATION OF OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA, NOVEMBER 18, 1982

We the Heads of Government of Member States of the Caribbean Community and the Bahamas here assembled—

Deeply aware of our situation as small States, for the most part newly independent, island-developing, prone to natural disasters and with small open economies particularly vulnerable to turbulence and pressures from within the international economic system;

Concerned about the global trend towards the use of force as a means of settling disputes and the assertion of spheres of interest and the hazards to which in consequence small States are increasingly exposed;

Mindful of the fact that external strategic perceptions of the Region can present both special opportunities and difficult problems for the development of our States;

Deeply aware of our common identity and of the need to consolidate and strengthen the bonds which have historically existed among our people;

Recognising nevertheless the reality of the growing heterogeneity in the social, economic and political systems of our States;

- (1) Reaffirm our strong conviction that the maintenance and deepening of the Caribbean Community established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas provides the only certain way for the survival of our States as independent, free and developing societies.
- (2) Declare our belief that the regional integration movement is the only viable option available for the optimal development of all the human and natural resources of the Region in the contemporary economic and political circumstances in the Region as well as in the world as a whole.
- (3) Affirm our commitment to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of the peoples of the Region in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- (4) Assert that while recognising that the emergence of ideological pluralism in the Community responds to internal processes and is in irreversible trend within the international system, we are committed to ensuring that it will not inhibit the processes of integration.
- (5) Accordingly affirm our commitment to the interests of the Community as one of the main determinants in the formulation of foreign policy goals in response to regional and global issues.
- (6) Reaffirm further that Member States will aim at the fullest possible coordination of their foreign policies and should seek to adopt as far as possible common positions on major international issues.
- (7) Express our profound concern at the heightening of tension in the Region resulting from the recent increase in military activities in the Caribbean area.
- (8) Reaffirm and call on all States to respect the principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.
- (9) Reiterate the right of self-determination of all peoples including the right to choose their own path of social, political and economic development and insist that there can be no justification for any external interference with the exercise of that right.

- (10) Assert our commitment to the maintenance of absolute respect for defined borders, and demarcated and traditional lines of jurisdiction of States of the Region.
- (11) Insist that while the Member States have an urgent and pressing need for external economic assistance to achieve the goals of rapid social and economic development, the principles of international social justice require that such assistance be given in consultation with and with the fullest respect for the sovereign wishes of the recipient countries.
- (12) Consider that aid programmes for the Region should therefore be truly reflective of national goals and priority areas for development.
- (13) Affirm that programmes of aid channelled through regional institutions should be supportive of the integrity of such institutions and their autonomous character and should utilise indigenous resources and expertise.

Attaching the highest importance to the principles and objectives asserted herein, declare our common resolve to work together towards their maintenance and fulfillment.

Press package, Embassy of Grenada,  
visit of Prime Minister of Grenada,  
His Excellency Maurice Bishop to the  
United States, May 30-June 7, 1983

### GRENADA STANDS FIRM AT CARICOM

Amidst desperate efforts to revive the dead and decayed issues of alleged human rights violations, Grenada's delegation attending the Caribbean Community (Caricom) summit in Trinidad has once more succeeded in bringing real issues to the attention of its Caricom partners.

Grenada's stand on the proposed restructuring of the University of the West Indies (UWI) is well known and continues to lead the struggle for ensuring that this regional institution remains intact, serves the interest of the small non-campus territories and remains true to the principle of Caribbean unity upon which it was founded.

Of no less significance is the dangerously high import food bill of Caricom countries. Some \$1,890 million worth of food imported into countries whose main economic base is agriculture is indeed sufficient to generate joint efforts and other forms of co-operation in a bid to increase its food production, be better able to feed its people and lessen its importation of food.

Then there is the case of multi-national lending institutions, whose conditional lending policies are highly unfavourable to the small developing countries. Caricom certainly has had the experience of Jamaica, whose economy continues to fall and stagger under the heavy blows of Prime Minister Edward Seaga and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Unless there is some reform of those policies, as proposed by Grenada, many more will fall into this death trap.

The issues of sporting links with racist South Africa and peace and security in the region, remain high on Grenada's agenda in regional and international fora.

These are some of the many issues raised by Grenada at the summit that continues to characterise the genuine, honest and principled positions of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Having failed miserably on his home ground to achieve the isolation of Grenada at the last Caricom summit, Seaga opened the day's play, last Monday, with the usual senseless and empty attacks on Grenada. But he must realise that it is impossible to degenerate such a serious gathering of Caricom leaders to a circus show that will gladly facilitate his tight-rope acts.

After all, it was Mr. Seaga's "secret police" that murdered over 700 Jamaicans during the last election campaign and hundreds more since he came to power. It is Mr. Seaga who is responsible for the thousands of unemployed, who have been thrown out of work since he took political office, and for the many ghettos in which poverty and inhumane suffering are the order of the day.

But Mr. Seaga attempts to use Grenada as a red-herring to hide his dirty tricks and his failing, bankrupt economic policies.

On the contrary, he will do well to take a leaf out of the PRG's book and endeavour to hold Caricom together through concrete proposals for solving the many political, social and economic problems that threaten the existence of Caricom and the regional integration movement.

### CARICOM LEADERS AGREE ON PEACE

Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government began returning home yesterday, after concluding a four-day historic fourth summit meeting in Trinidad, that reached agreement on a number of key issues.

The need for regional air transport, peace and security, the Common Market Council and the Caribbean Festival of Arts (Carifesta), the region's major cultural event, were among issues agreed upon.

Proposals for the development of steelbands, put forward by Grenada, were accepted by the heads, as was a design for a new Caricom flag that will be flown in the not too distant future.

However, up to press time yesterday, it was not clear what were the final decisions on the three most controversial issues: the proposed restructuring on the University of the West Indies (UWI), the multilateral clearing facility and an official regional air carrier.

The meeting, which coincided with Caricom's 10th anniversary, was attended by all Caricom leaders except Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Vere Bird, who was represented by his son and Deputy PM, Lester Bird.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his delegation were given an enthusiastic welcome by more than 150 supporters of the Grenada Revolution when they arrived at Piarco international airport on Sunday.

Responding to attacks made against the Grenada Revolution by Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga, PM Bishop said that Seaga clearly violated the accepted Caricom principle of ideological pluralism.

Seaga accused Grenada of human rights violations, through detentions without trial, suppression of an "independent" press, and failure to hold elections.

He said Seaga also abused his right to address the opening session of the summit and introduced a political red herring into a meeting expected to focus on economic matters.

"We really think that people should begin to recognise the importance of non-interference, to recognise, in fact, the importance of ideological pluralism, to abandon the dream and illusion that it is possible to shape the world after their own image and likeness, to recognise that people are always going to build their own processes in their own way, free from all forms of interference and outside pressure," PM Bishop said.

PM Bishop said that instead of being so concerned about human rights and elections in Grenada, the people of Jamaica and the Caribbean would want to see Seaga more respectful of their right to live, which is the most basic human right.

During the elections campaign in Jamaica in 1980, he argued, over 700 innocent Jamaicans were murdered, allegedly by thugs and terrorists associated with Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

On the issue of widening Caricom, PM Bishop said Grenada would like to see this done on a planned basis and not in an ad hoc fashion.

"We think, in principle, that it is extremely important for us to bring in as many countries as possible into Caricom. First and foremost, give

them observer status. Last, coming out of that, sign economic agreements with them. Later on we can consider associated membership and later on still, full membership."

On Thursday night, PM Bishop addressed some 1,500 Grenadian emigrants and Trinidadians at a rally held at the St. Augustine campus of the UWI.

*FWI, July 9, 1983*

## PM FOR SURINAME

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop will leave here later this week for a five-day official visit to Suriname.

PM Bishop was invited by the Surinamese government, led by Lt. Col. Desi Bouterse. He will be the first Caribbean Community (Caricom) head of government to visit Suriname since the popularly-backed February 25, 1980 Revolution which overthrew the Henk Aaron administration.

In Suriname, PM Bishop is expected to visit various socio-economic projects, meet individuals and groups involved in building the revolutionary process, and address a mass meeting.

In his letter of invitation, Lt. Col. Bouterse, Commander of the Armed Forces and chairman of the decision-making Policy Centre, said the visit will afford PM Bishop the opportunity of "broadening his knowledge of Suriname."

It will also help to bring the peoples of Suriname and Grenada closer "for the benefit of a long-standing friendship" and will assist in strengthening Suriname's relations with the Caribbean, he said.

Lt. Col. Bouterse paid two visits to Grenada over the past 15 months. The first was to attend a Socialist International (SI) meeting here in July, during which he addressed a mass rally at the St. George's Market Square.

The second was last May for a 10-day holiday. During that time, Lt. Col. Bouterse visited numerous economic projects of the Revolution and attended various public meetings.

Fraternal and diplomatic relations between Grenada and Suriname have deepened over the past two years and both countries have accredited non-resident ambassadors to the other.

*FWI, October 27, 1982*

# 19 Cuba

## Introduction

*Cuba and Grenada established diplomatic relations on April 14, 1979. Cuba quickly became Grenada's closest friend in the international community and remained so until the demise of the revolution. Cuban-Grenadian friendship was cemented by the close personal relationship which developed between Maurice Bishop and Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.*

*Cuban friendship was manifested first in a level of material and other assistance unprecedented in Grenada's history. Some twenty-seven treaties covered Cuban contributions to such areas as the fishing industry, health, sports and culture. Cuba was an early supplier of arms to the fledgling revolution. Grenadian students and policemen were sent to Cuba for training. Grenadians injured in the June 19, 1980 assassination attempt against the PRG received medical attention in Cuba. Weekly flights were inaugurated between the two countries and Cuban ships called regularly with supplies and passengers.*

*Many important Cuban political figures visited Grenada and Grenadian officials, including Maurice Bishop, visited Cuba. The Cuban publishing house, Casa de las Américas, published a volume of Bishop's speeches and a volume on the revolution part-authored by W. Richard Jacobs, sometime Grenadian ambassador to Cuba. Grenada and Cuba also worked closely together in international forums such as the United Nations and UNESCO.*

*Cuba's most important single contribution was its provision of the lion's share of assistance to construction of the Point Salines International Airport. Maurice Bishop called this "the greatest single piece of assistance our country has ever received from any other country, at any time in our history." This assistance included heavy equipment, technical expertise and a contingent of Cuban construction workers, many of whom eventually lost their lives during the U.S. invasion of October 1983.*

*The new Cuban presence revived memories of the almost forgotten earlier era of Grenadian-Cuban contact. This was in the years after World War I, when thousands of Grenadians and other West Indians emigrated to Cuba to work on sugarcane plantations. Interesting reminiscences of this period appeared in the Free West Indian.*

*Cuba became a major political and ideological role model for Grenada and Grenada, in turn, helped orientate Cuba towards its Caribbean reality.*

## WE OWE A LOT TO OUR CUBAN FRIENDS—BISHOP

On the first anniversary of friendly relations between Cuba and Grenada, Comrade Prime Minister Maurice Bishop says:

"I think the biggest value for our country and people has been the opportunity our relations with Cuba have given us of having Cubans live among us.

"As a result of this experience, our people now know first-hand the revolutionary commitment, dedication, discipline, warmth, unselfish attitude, sincerity, hard-work and internationalist spirit of our Cuban sisters and brothers.

"And remember that without the benefits of this experience, several of our people would have continued to believe the vicious lies and propaganda that imperialism is spreading every day against the Cubans, their great leader Cde Fidel Castro and their revolution.

"Our people have therefore learnt, in a concrete way over these past 12 months, about the vicious, dishonest and destabilising character of imperialism.

"They have learnt the truth about Cuba and the Cubans. They are now better able to appreciate the tremendous importance of developing the closest links with our Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking brothers in the Caribbean and Latin America, and in this way, smashing the colonialist-imperialist plot aimed at dividing us, so as to better exploit us.

"I need hardly say that we have also received a tremendous amount of material assistance from our Cuban comrades. In fact, without Cuba's assistance, we would not have achieved as much in our first year as we did.

"Can you imagine how many more people were able to receive expert medical and dental attention because of Cuba's loan to us of 12 of their hard-working and dedicated doctors and dentists?"



"Again, the fact that we now have a fisheries training school is directly due to the fact that the Cubans have given us a number of their advanced fishing boats and loaned us some of their best technicians in this area.

"We have also benefitted from Cuban assistance in our army, the development of our water resources and several other key areas.

"But most important of all, on this aspect of our relations, is the massive and generous assistance revolutionary Cuba is giving us with our international airport project. Translating 25 years of talk about an airport into actually beginning construction has been due, in large part, to Cuban assistance with the required equipments, steel, cements, explosives, and, just as importantly, massive technical assistance by way of engineers, designers and skilled workers.

"On the material level, Cuban help with our airport is undoubtedly the greatest single piece of assistance our country has ever received from any other country, at any time in our history.

"I must also point to the great debt we owe the Cubans for the successful consolidation of their revolution. We have said before, on many occasions—and I repeat now—if there was no Cuban revolution in 1959, there could not have been a Grenada Revolution 20 years later in 1979. And that is a fact that we can never over-emphasise.

"Today, our relations with revolutionary Cuba are firm and deep. Despite the frantic opposition of imperialism and reaction, our relations are closer, firmer, tighter and more meaningful than they were, let us say, six months ago.

"And I have every confidence that the principled relations between our two countries and peoples—based on militant solidarity, strong bonds of friendship and firm opposition to imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and fascism—will continue to grow, deepen and flower in the years ahead."

FWI, April 19, 1980

### NO VISA WAS NEEDED TO VISIT CUBA

Dear Editor,

In a previous article I promised to give some details of the procedures toward people of Grenada migrating to Cuba during the years 1918-1927, and conditions as existed in Cuba at that time. Well here we are.

Those steamships came to Grenada during the months of December, January and February and anchored in the outer harbour. People got to

know about the time of their coming by a crier who went about ringing a bell and making the announcement: "Cuba boat coming."

There seemed to be a form of exploitation there, arranged between a man in Grenada and someone on board those ships, in that, the man in Grenada would receive information weeks in advance about the coming of a boat. He took bookings at a fee of 10 shillings in the first instance.

As time drew near, that fee would be reduced by half, then to two shillings and sixpence a few days before a boat arrived, where in fact, all that was necessary, was to pay a boatman one shilling to row one to the foot of the gangway of the boat.

No passport or permit was required to leave Grenada on those occasions, and no visa was required to land in Cuba.

The government of Grenada could not say how many people left this island for Cuba, and the masters of those ships concerned could not tell how many souls they had on board.

To prove those points, on December 29, 1925, between 3-4 p.m. five of us (friends) paid a boatman one shilling each.

He rowed us to the foot of the gangway of the "S.S. Labell Ganoy." We walked up that gangway, at the head of which a man inquired if we had tickets. Our reply was no. He made no further inquiry and we went on board.

The ticket in question was issued by the man in Grenada as a receipt for money that was paid to him. He caught many people from the country with that, but not those from the town of St. George's and the suburbs.

After my arrival on board, I saw people walking up that gangway at regular intervals until the dark of night. Even after the gangway was raised, men climbed on board by means of a length of rope let down to them by friends.

While it is true, that there was a Cuban president while I was there, the country's economy was controlled by the United States of America. I am not quite sure, but if there was any trading link between Cuba and any other country besides the U.S.A., that was very small.

The bulk of exportable products went to the U.S.A. and all consumer goods that were not produced in Cuba had the stamp or trade mark of a U.S.A. firm. There were Cuban stamped coins, but all paper currency was U.S.A. green-backs.

Employment—while the harvesting of sugar-cane was in predominance, there was a great demand for tradesmen, especially carpenters and painters.



Condition of Living—the standard of living was good if not high for migrants, with emphasis on those who could read and write. Very few Cubans enjoyed a high standard of living, because anything between 70 and 80 per cent of the population was illiterate. And according to reports received, it does not appear that any great effort was made toward the remedying of that deficit until after the Castro revolution.

Hence, to me, the great surprise of the almost incredible strides to enable Cuba to send us professional assistance on such great scale in our time of need. May I inquire of currently neo-colonialist disgruntled Grenadians: what is it that you want to see in your country? Certainly not progress.

I will supply the answer: your continued opportunity for exploitation. Well, I hope that that will never be made available again in Grenada.

I simply cannot agree with those who, from greed, would deign to hoard and amass wealth at the strength and the expense of the less fortunate. Down with exploitation in any form.

In a previous article, I promised to say something about Caio. This island is linked to the mainland by a mound of boulders that were dumped in a channel of cold water any thing between 500 and 1,000 yards wide, on which a train line is laid.

On Caio, there is a large pier, huge warehouses for sugar storage, large petrol storage tanks and soldiers' barracks.

Cuba—I remember the names of towns and villages, some where I lived and visited, others in the eastern provinces—Chaporra, Delicia, San Manuel, Manzanilla, Barques, Tualdero la Hel, Potopadre, Santiago, etc.

If I had the means, I would surely pay a visit to those places.

Cyril J. Cambridge,  
St. Paul's.

FWI, April 19, 1980

#### INTERVIEW WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR

Although April 14, 1980 marks one year of diplomatic relations between the governments of Cuba and Grenada relations between the peoples of both countries can be traced as far back as the 1920's.

In those times, pre-revolutionary Cuba was enjoying a boom in its sugar industry and there was a demand for surplus labour. Large numbers of Caribbean people, many from Grenada, migrated to Cuba to work in the cane fields and sugar factories. But typical of most capitalist economic fluctuations the "boom" lasted for only three years, the West Indian

workers were laid off and the Cuban dictatorship at the time forced many to leave Cuba. But some stayed and were subsequently integrated into Cuban society.

Over the ensuing 50-odd years, contacts between the peoples of Cuba and Grenada remained negligible until in the late 1970's leaders of the New Jewel Movement, Grenadian youth, students and artists began visiting Cuba carrying with them countless horror stories of the Gairy dictatorship.

Cuba's dynamic, young ambassador to Grenada, Comrade Julian Rizo, says these visits contributed immensely to the Cuban people's awareness of Gairy-type repression and "made it easier for Cuba to react so quickly to Grenada's call for help in the first weeks of the Revolution."

In an interview with the "Free West Indian," the revolutionary diplomat recalled how the esteemed Cuban leader Comrade Fidel Castro gave him simple, clear cut instructions before leaving for Grenada: to do whatever was in the best interest of the Grenada Revolution, indeed a remarkable directive, revolutionary and internationalist in nature and in stark contrast to the conventional practice which dictates that diplomats act only in the interests of their own country.

"Over the last 12 months the relationship between Cuba and Grenada has developed in a material and concrete way in a very positive direction," says Comrade Rizo, a trained economist who hails from the Oriente province of Cuba. "Our 11 doctors in less than one year have attended to 41,611 Grenadians. Just as important as the medical care they provide is the open, friendly relationship which has developed between the doctors and their patients."

The ambassador points to the six Cuban fishermen now teaching their Grenadian counterparts new fishing techniques and the fishing trawler donated by the Cuban people as examples of the kind of concrete economic assistance Grenadians now receive from their Cuban sisters and brothers.

"Our assistance fits into the Grenadian plans for development," emphasised the Cuban ambassador. "Grenadians establish their own priorities and our Cuban technicians merely fit into Grenadian plans and schemes."

This is how the eight Cuban engineers who recently completed a survey of the Grenadian water system operated and in the same way the Cuban airport workers function under the direction of the Grenadian project manager.

Cuba believes not only in sending their doctors, technicians and workers to serve the Grenada Revolution but also in training young Grenadians (39 so far) themselves to become doctors, engineers, economists.

dentists, etc. Some time in the future, after completing their training and returning to serve our Revolution, they too can move on to serve their less fortunate brothers and sisters in other parts of the Caribbean.

In our interview with Comrade Rizo, he remarked on how swiftly the massive international airport project got going. "On Nov. 17, 1979 the agreement for \$25 million worth of Cuban assistance for the airport was concluded. The next day at the Seamoons rally Prime Minister Bishop announced it to the Grenadian people. On December 6 the Palm Island arrived with 95 pieces of heavy equipment and now only four months later work has already begun on the strip."

In the upcoming months more and more Grenadian workers will be involved in the airport construction and will receive training in middle-level technical positions.

"I see the airport project as a big school for Grenadian workers where they can receive training that will enable them on their own to construct huge projects like a new highway system for Grenada," observed Ambassador Rizo.

One area of Cuban assistance eagerly anticipated is in our Revolution's nation-wide campaign against illiteracy spearheaded by the Center for Popular Education. Comrade Rizo feels that Cuban successes in stamping out illiteracy can inspire us and their experiences in this area guide us as we move to organise and mobilise the whole nation around this cardinal task.

The Cuban ambassador also spoke of the advances made to increase bi-lateral trade between our two countries. Earlier this year a Grenadian delegation of businessmen visited Cuba and successfully concluded a number of trade agreements.

Speaking on behalf of his countrymen now here contributing to the Grenada Revolution, Comrade Rizo said they had been impressed by the openness and friendliness of the Grenadian masses who smile and greet them as they drive through the countryside.

"For the Cuban comrades who have left their families, their homes and their Revolution their best reward here is to have the Grenadian people recognise them and be friendly to them," said the Ambassador.

Asked to comment on his most outstanding impressions of Grenada, Comrade Rizo listed among many the importance Grenadians place on education, the determination of our farmers to overcome difficult natural conditions, the humility of the PRG leadership, their sensitivity to the poor and their militant opposition to imperialism.

Finally, addressing himself to the relationship between Cuba and Grenada, he characterised it as one "based on principle, mutual respect, full understanding of the features of both revolutionary processes and commitment to establishing mutual benefits for our two peoples."

FWI, April 19, 1980

### THE TRUTH ABOUT CUBA

A great many people congratulated us on our Feature Interview with Mr. Aaron Young, printed in last week's issue. As a result of the interest aroused by the article, the following letter was received from Mr. B. Edwards which asks certain specific questions about Cuba.

In order to obtain accurate answers to the letterwriter's questions, the FREE WEST INDIAN interviewed Mr. Julian Rizo, Cuban Chargé d'Affaires to Grenada. Below we publish Mr. Edward's letter and Mr. Rizo's answers.

The Editor,  
The Free West Indian,  
Hillsborough Street,  
St. George's.

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read the interview with Mr. Aaron Young about Cuba. Nobody is telling us about what Cuba is really like, so Mr. Editor I am asking you please to give us more information about Cuba, and hope you can tell me the answers to my questions.

1. I notice Mr. Young was allowed to leave Cuba and come back to Grenada. Is this because he was not a citizen of Cuba, or are all Cuban citizens allowed to come and go from Cuba as they please? If so, why do we not see Cubans visiting Trinidad, Grenada and so on as tourists, apart from Government officials?
2. Mr. Young said that no one owns big businesses where they can hire and exploit other workers. What about small businesses, like a small farm? Can you employ anyone to help you on your farm if you cannot manage all the work by yourself?
3. Can workers go on strike in Cuba?
4. Are Cubans allowed to criticize their government?
5. Do many black people hold big positions in the Communist Party in Cuba?

6. What percentage of Cubans are black?
7. What is the system of justice used in Cuba?

Yours truly,  
B. Edwards.

#### Cuban Chargé d'Affaires Answers

REPORTER: Are ordinary Cubans allowed to travel as tourists?

MR. RIZO: Yes, Cubans can travel. There is no legal restriction. However, because of the trade embargo by the United States against Cuba we have a shortage of hard currency (dollars). This hard currency is needed for development—to purchase machinery from Western countries, for example.

As a result we cannot afford to give our tourists money to visit countries which use hard currency, that's why so few Cubans are able to visit Trinidad or Grenada.

Because we have trade links with the socialist countries our tourists can get their currency easily, to visit these countries.

Also, we now have developed trade and tourism links with Mexico and so increasing numbers of Cuban tourists now visit Mexico. Cubans can also visit their families living in the United States, provided the ticket is paid for in the States.

REPORTER: Can Cubans own small farms? Can they employ labour on those farms?

MR. RIZO: Yes, Cubans may own up to 34 hectares (75 acres) of land, and may employ as many persons as are necessary to work those farms.

Of course fewer workers need to be employed on those farms nowadays, because machines like tractors and harvesters are available to all the farmers.

REPORTER: Can workers strike in Cuba?

MR. RIZO: Yes, they can, but they don't! Firstly, because wages rise gradually but the cost of living doesn't increase, so that workers are getting better off all the time. Secondly, if there are problems regarding working conditions their own workers' committees inside the workplaces have power to remedy the situation. They have no 'boss.'

They receive all the benefits of what they produce, so if they strike, and produce less, they would be striking against themselves!

REPORTER: Are Cubans allowed to criticize their government?

MR. RIZO: Certainly! There is a 'Popular Assembly' (District Council) for every community of 5,000 persons in Cuba. The Assemblies meet once every 3 months and discuss all kinds of matters. For instance they may

criticize the functioning of the health services or any other matter. Individuals may also criticize of course. The Cuban government welcomes criticism because that is how we can know what conditions need improvement.

REPORTER: What percentage of Cubans are black, and do many black people hold big positions in the Communist Party and Government of Cuba?

MR. RIZO: The Cuban government does not keep statistics which include people's skin colour, and besides we are very much a mixture of races, so it is hard to be absolutely accurate. But between 30%-40% of Cubans (roughly 1/3) are non-white. Black Cubans do hold big positions both in the government and the party, for instance Juan Almeida, the third in the government (after Fidel and Raul Castro) is black. But persons in Cuba do not hold positions because of skin colour, but because they are the most qualified and the most hardworking.

Before the revolution, those who had money and education were almost all white. This provided the ECONOMIC basis for racist attitudes. Now that we don't have a few privileged people, and we do have equal educational opportunities, the basis for racism has been removed. Both white and black people have the qualifications to get all sorts of jobs. Also in our schools we educate our children about why racism exists in the world and what purpose it serves, in order to prevent racist attitudes developing among our youth, through ignorance.

REPORTER: What system of justice is used in Cuba?

MR. RIZO: We have three levels of courts—National Tribunals (High Courts) Provincial Tribunals (at the level of each Province or State) and Municipal Tribunals (at the town level—like Magistrates Courts). In each type of court there is a Prosecutor and a defence attorney. Both are lawyers. An accused person may choose his defence lawyer freely. Then there are three judges. Sometimes they are lawyers, sometimes not. They don't have to know a lot of law. Their job is to decide whether the person is innocent or guilty.

With regard to laws, all laws are discussed by workers' groups, women's groups, village groups, youth organizations and farmers' organizations—all the people's organizations—before being passed by the National Assembly, our Parliament. The people's opinions MUST be considered and taken into account.

REPORTER: Maybe the demonstrations in Dominica wouldn't have had to take place if they had used that system of consulting the people before passing laws!

### YOU CAN COUNT ON US, SAYS FIDEL

Among the many messages of sympathy received by the People's Revolutionary Government from regional governments on the Queen's Park bombing was one from Cuba's President Fidel Castro, received last Monday.

In his letter to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Dr. Castro said: "It is almost unnecessary to tell you how profound was the indignation felt by our people at the barbarous and criminal attempt on your life, on the lives of the revolutionary leadership of Grenada and its people.

"But nevertheless, this does not surprise us. We have lived through this experience.

"Imperialism does not hesitate before any methods, no matter how repugnant and uncivilised.

"We express our most profound condolences for the victims, and our sense of relief that you and the leadership of your glorious and heroic people are safe.

"Today, more than ever, I want to express our people's firm and unwavering solidarity with you, with your revolution, and with Grenada. Please know that you can always count on the unshakeable and resolute friendship of the Cuban people.

"The Grenadian revolution, like the Cuban revolution, is and always will be indestructible."

*FWI, June 28, 1980*

### SPEECH OF MAURICE BISHOP TO THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA, DECEMBER 1980

On behalf of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement, the vanguard party of the Grenadian revolution—I bring warm, brotherly revolutionary greetings to this Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

In this room are gathered the finest sons and daughters of revolutionary Cuba—the vanguard of the Cuban people and the Cuban revolution, the undoubted inheritors of the mantle of Marti, Mella, Camilo and Che.

Cuba has been a beacon for us in Grenada. It has both taught and reminded us of many important lessons.

It has reminded us of the central role of the party in building the revolution. It has reminded us of the critical importance [?] the genuine vanguard of the people; building and maintaining close links with the peoples through the mass organizations.

Because of this, because of the exemplary success of the Cuban revolution, imperialism has unashamedly dedicated itself to Cuba's destruction. Those who have attempted, know that the revolution is indestructible.

But the newcomers seem to believe that they can turn back the clock of history; and therein lies serious dangers. We hope that we are wrong, but we see the possibility of dangerous adventurism on the horizon.

We know that there are plans to "teach a lesson," as these elements say, to Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada. We know that we are not alone. The people of Cuba unhesitatingly and unselfishly came to our assistance in the first weeks of our revolution. When our revolution was at its most vulnerable stage, when imperialism and its mercenary forces threatened to blockade and invade our revolution Cuba provided us with the military means necessary to defend and secure our young revolution. That dealt a decisive blow to the designs and ambitions of imperialism.

We stand firmly on the principles of our anti-imperialist democratic revolution and we work consistently to preserve it. We have taken a wide range of measures to secure and consolidate our revolution. We have sought to strengthen and diversify our economy and sources of imports. We have practiced the principle of peaceful co-existence and stand in full support of world peace and detente. We continue to oppose colonialism, racism, zionism and apartheid and stand in solidarity with all peoples fighting for their national sovereignty and independence throughout the world.

It is clear that already plans have been drawn up aimed against the Cuban Revolution, the Nicaraguan Revolution, the Grenadian Revolution and the revolutionary process unfolding in El Salvador. We do not possess the full details of these plans. But what we do know is that we must learn from history and take the necessary measures to combat aggression, subversion and counter-revolution. What we also know is that no revolutionary process can survive—far less go forward—without the building and consolidation of the national economy. No revolution can survive without the political mobilization and organization of the masses, for this teaches them the goals, difficulties and gains of the revolution. No revolution can survive without the military capacity which provides the people with the honour of defending what they have built. These are the fundamental pillars of any revolutionary process. As we say in Grenada, the people without guns spells defeat. Guns without people means fascism. Cuba has the guns and the people—that is revolution.

Viva the Communist Party of Cuba!

Viva proletarian internationalism!

Viva the fighting people of El Salvador!  
 Viva the revolutionary forces of Latin American and the Caribbean!  
 Viva Cuba!  
 Viva Fidel!  
 Forward Ever, Backward Never!

FWI, January 10, 1981

### MODEL POLICEMEN GRADUATE

Since the middle of July, 1980, 20 Grenadian policemen and prison officers had been undergoing advanced training at the International Police Training School in Havana, Cuba. And on December 23, they, along with 33 Nicaraguan policemen, graduated in an impressive ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Cde Selwyn Strachan, Commissioner of Police James Clarkson and his deputy Ian St. Bernard and other members of the visiting Grenada delegation.

The graduates had successfully completed training in such diverse areas as international law, immigration, scientific socialism, counter-intelligence, military preparation and self-defence.

Speaking on behalf of the Grenadian graduates, Cde Fitzroy Bideau thanked the school for "the fraternal help in preparing us to defend our revolution and fight imperialism."

He said that because of their commitment to the Revolution and because of what they had learned during the course, the students pledged to transmit to their comrades at home all they had learned, to maintain constant discipline and dedication and to continue "our cultural and technical training to better fight against our common enemy—imperialism."

In his remarks Prime Minister Bishop congratulated the graduates and pointed out that an important feature of the course was that it addressed one of the fundamental problems faced by all young revolutions—a shortage of skills.

He said that unless we have a fully trained and skilled people we cannot have maximum productivity and that this principle was also relevant to the police and the other security forces.

"You are in Cuba at an historic period and this must help your future political development. The experiences you can get here you cannot come by them in most other countries; to live, work and learn from a disciplined, honest, firm, united people. This course has given you the opportunity to internalise these qualities," the prime minister said.

He reminded the police officers that under the Gairy dictatorship the function of policemen was to repress and brutalise the people. However, the new policeman being groomed for the new society cannot be apart from the people but must be a part of the people, friends of the people who do not harbour colonialist or imperialist ideas and attitudes but possess a clear, anti-imperialist line.

Cde Bishop revealed that many of the "artificial distinctions" which separated the police from the army and the police from the people will be removed in this new year.

"In this dangerous period of imperialist war-mongering our intention is to build one united force of army, police, militia and people trained and ready to defend the Revolution," he said.

The prime minister concluded by saying he had "absolutely no doubt" that using their new knowledge and consciousness the 20 graduates would return to Grenada and be models that other police officers could emulate.

Cdes Clarkson and St. Bernard were "exceedingly impressed" by the spirit, enthusiasm and consciousness displayed by the graduates and also by the thoroughness, efficiency and humility of their Cuban professors.

FWI, January 10, 1981

### LEARNING HOW NOT TO ADD TO BRAIN DRAIN

Grenadian students in Cuba can conceive and appreciate a new system of education for the Third World man. Why?

Well, firstly, what we see and understand is that we are studying under a different educational system than what we were accustomed to.

What used to happen to students from poor, underdeveloped countries like ours, is that when we went to study in countries like England, Canada, or the United States of America, we got education of a high academic level and learnt the new advances in science and technology, but we did not understand the need to come back to our underdeveloped country, where we know we will receive a small salary, and with limited scope of advancement.

Under these circumstances, without understanding what is true patriotism and loyalty to our country and people, our students chose to seek employment in the advanced capitalist country where he or she was studying. This led to the brain drain of our best students and youth, making our country remain underdeveloped.

In Cuba, students learn what is true dedication and patriotism to [their] people and country. The fundamental difference for a student in Cuba is that he first understands that the revolutionary government of Cuba has given him a scholarship so that he can be trained and develop professional skills, in order to go back to his country and help in the process of nation-building.

One also sees that the need to struggle for an education, helps in the full and allround development of our students. We can almost guarantee that when we return home we will be well prepared to continue the process of revolutionary economic and political construction of our country.

*FWI, August 11, 1982*

### CUBAN BUILDERS HERE BEST IN NINE COUNTRIES

Cuban construction workers at the international airport project in Point Salines have been named the most outstanding Cuban internationalist contingent in nine countries for the first six months of this year.

The honour came last week during Cuba's National Union of Construction Workers' fifth Congress in Havana. The Cuban workers here, known as the "20th Anniversary of the Victory of Girón Construction Brigade," received a gift and flag as the best Cuban contingent serving abroad.

The union presents the emulation award bi-annually after evaluating the work of Cuba's nine construction teams, working in Nicaragua, Iraq, Angola, Guinea, Ethiopia, Libya, Vietnam, Laos and Grenada.

Brigade chief Eduardo de la Osa revealed that during the six months, the Cuban and Grenadian workers at the airport had fulfilled their production tasks 123 per cent, "23 percent more than what was expected from them."

Fulfilling production targets and work discipline are the criteria on which the construction brigades are judged, he pointed out.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, on behalf of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and Grenadian people, has congratulated the brigade for "winning the very valuable and highly sought-after bi-annual prize."

In a letter to Cde de la Osa, PM Bishop stated that the project "commands the highest priority of our party, government and people, since we regard it as absolutely crucial to our entire future economic development.

"The fraternal and selfless assistance of your party, government and people in continuing to assist us to complete this project is really deeply appreciated by all of us in Grenada, particularly as we are very conscious

of the severe economic difficulties facing the Cuban people at this time," the letter stated.

The letter pointed to the tremendous sacrifices being made by the internationalist workers, which have been a source of inspiration for all Grenadians."

PM Bishop recalled, "with great emotion," the accidental death of internationalist Ramon Quintana, killed in January, when a bulldozer overturned on him while he was working voluntarily at the Mt. Hartman stone-crushing and asphalt plant, which was subsequently named after him.

"The commitment and hard work of this comrade and of all the Cuban internationalist comrades, have been, for our people, a lesson in internationalist solidarity, in the true meaning of fraternal relations between countries, and in the level of commitment and discipline necessary to build our Revolution.

"The high levels of production, the excellent worker relations at all levels and, of course, the training that this project has made possible for our workers, are worthy of the deepest emulation in this year of Economic Construction and beyond," he added.

PM Bishop also paid tribute to "our dedicated Grenadian workers on the airport site," adding that this prize represents a real and concrete victory for both Cuban and Grenadian workers "who toil daily together in admirable co-operation and unity to make this project a reality." The brigade has pledged to maintain high production levels and discipline so that it can be honoured as the best for the year and keep the flag.

A delegate from the brigade represented it at the congress, which also discussed problems faced by construction brigades abroad.

*FWI, October 2, 1982*

### CASTRO CONDEMNS U.S. ATTACK ON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop returned here Thursday afternoon after a three day visit to Cuba where he attended various activities marking the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison, in 1953, which signalled the final phase of the struggle to free Cuba from its long history of foreign domination.

The past 30 years have seen Cuba liberated in 1959 and go on to become the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere, surpassing all its neighbours in its efforts to bring the best social benefits to its people.

It was this that formed the basis for the massive celebration on Tuesday with representatives of governments, parties and progressive forces from throughout the world.

PM Bishop, however, was the only head of government there in a delegation that included Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman.

The PM had a busy schedule during his visit: he attended the main rally held in Cuba's second largest city, Santiago de Cuba, addressed a ceremony opening one of the largest textile complexes constructed throughout Latin America; visited and met residents and officials of the city of Holguin, toured a massive technical complex which produces equipment for the Cuban sugar industry; laid a wreath at the monument to Cuban national hero, Calixto Garcia; opened a new restaurant, and visited several important project sites in Holguin, fulfilling a promise made to the residents there during a visit last year.

As always, PM Bishop was well-received by the Cuban people. He received a thunderous and sustained applause when introduced (next to President Fidel Castro) at the July 26 Moncada rally, attended by over 200,000 people from throughout Cuba.

The entire Cuban people were able, once again, to listen to him on a television transmission of his brief address to the opening ceremony at the new Celia Sanchez Manduley textile complex in Santiago.

He paid tribute to the international significance of the Moncada attack, and in reiterating the strong and everlasting bonds of friendship between the Grenadian and Cuban Revolutions and people, he presented President Castro with one of the .303 rifles captured during the pre-dawn attack on the True Blue barracks on March 13, 1979.

Receiving the rifle, President Castro said it was similar to some used by the Cuban revolutionaries in the Sierra Maestra mountains on the eve of the Cuban Revolution. It would be placed in a museum, he said, but added that it, too, would be put into use, if necessary, in the event of an imperialist attack on the Cuban Revolution, as being advocated by certain sectors in the current U.S. administration.

PM Bishop told the Cuban people that the textile complex, built with assistance from the Soviet Union, demonstrated the everlasting significance of "proletarian internationalism." It was this same spirit of internationalism, he said, which had seen Cuba giving invaluable assistance to the Grenadian Revolution in its four years.

Hallmark of this was the building of Grenada's new international airport at Point Salines, which is now nearing completion in time for the fifth anniversary of the Revolution next March.

"Thanks to the Reagan administration, Grenada is building the most publicised international airport in the world, and when it is completed next year, we will have to thank President Ronald Reagan for all the free publicity he has given to us," he said. The PM's address was punctuated on numerous occasions by applause.

In his lengthy address, President Castro hit out hard against Reagan's claim that the Point Salines airport posed a threat to U.S. national security, calling this "ridiculous." This very airport would be used even by Americans, who may wish to visit Grenada, to enjoy the sunshine and beautiful beaches, "because the airport's main aim was to improve the development of tourism, which is a vital pillar of the Grenadian economy," President Castro pointed out.

PM Bishop also reiterated Grenada's continuing support for and solidarity with the Nicaraguan Revolution. He said that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) also supported the initiatives of the Contadora Group of Latin American countries who were calling for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Central American crisis. And he expressed Grenada's support for the six-point plan unveiled by Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, at the fourth anniversary celebrations of the Nicaraguan Revolution last July 19, saying that this plan, if agreed to by all the parties to the Central American conflict, would do well to bring much-needed peace to that part of the region.

During his visit, PM Bishop was able to discuss issues of mutual importance with President Castro.

FWI, July 30, 1983

### PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR BLOOD—CUBAN SAILORS

Two of its generators were bad, but that didn't stop the "Gonzalez Lines" from setting sail to Grenada and beating the clock to bring its gifts on time for March 13.

Carrying an ice-plant from Bulgaria, the "Sandino" construction plant, materials for building the international airport terminal and thousands of tons of cement from Cuba, it was a priority for the ship's crew to get its treasures here in time for the Third Anniversary of the Revolution.

The ship left Havana on March 8 and stopped at Mariel (a port in Cuba) to have one of the two bad generators repaired. It then set sail for Grenada with three generators in working condition.

The ship's doctor and first secretary of its branch of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Delbis Monteagudo, its Chief Engineer Reinaldo



Salinas, its Assistant Chief Engineer Fiodor Kandaurov from the Soviet Union, and its first Secretary of its branch of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) explained that a ship sailing under the conditions under which the "Gonzalez Lines" was sailing, would make the trip from Cuba to Grenada in five days. And a ship in good condition would make it in 3 days.

They described how the ship's crew worked day and night with their slogan being "to arrive in Grenada for March 13," and how the security workers in the port in Havana worked on Sunday, a day on which they don't normally work, to get things ready so that the ship could sail.

Their determination and hard work was not unrewarded, because they had the satisfaction of reaching here on March 12, making the trip in four days and 16 hours. The men said that they felt it their duty to get the ship here when they did, because it was the Third Anniversary of the Grenada Revolution, in the Year of Economic Construction, and their cargo was necessary to help in the overall economic development of Grenada.

The men proudly explained that this was their first internationalist duty. Other ships had already been on internationalist missions to Angola, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua.

On their impressions of Grenada and the Grenada Revolution, Dr. Monteagudo said that since the triumph of the Revolution, he saw Grenada becoming more democratic, mainly as a result of the high political direction with which the people are led. He feels that Grenada has its own convictions to make its own friends and follow its policies without intervention.

They all felt that Grenada has pretty beaches, and that the people's approach to them was friendly and warm. While here, the crew went to cultural performances, and said that although they don't speak English, they understood what was being said and felt.

The men explained that they went to Queen's Park on March 13, and saw the enthusiasm of the Grenadian people, which they said, reminded them of the early days following the triumph of their revolution. They commented on the warm response countries like El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, USSR and most of the other socialist countries received, when Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard announced them at the rally. This they saw as an indication of the internationalist spirit of the Grenadian people.

They said that they would never forget the few days they spent here and would like to return to help Grenadians in whatever ways they can. They touchingly said that they weren't only prepared to give technical aid to Grenada, but if necessary, their blood.

## 20 The Communist World

### Introduction

*Relations with Eastern European and Asian communist countries grew steadily, though they never approached the intensity of the Grenadian-Cuban relationship. Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard toured the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Bulgaria in 1980. He returned to the USSR for a month's holiday in 1982. Prime Minister Rishop visited the Soviet Union in 1982. Such visits resulted in commitments of aid and trade in a wide variety of areas, including agricultural equipment, scholarships to Grenadian students and the sale of nutmegs to the Soviet Union. The GDR provided equipment and technicians to upgrade the printing presses of the Free West Indian.*

*Grenada and the USSR exchanged resident ambassadors relatively late, in 1982.*

### MILLIONS IN AID FROM SOCIALIST STATES

Grenada will be receiving millions of dollars in aid from the East European socialist countries in the months and years ahead.

This is the result of trips made to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Bulgaria by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and a delegation of Grenadian officials during the past few weeks.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, Cde Coard, who also holds responsibility for Trade, Finance and Planning, outlined the areas in which agreements had been reached between the various socialist countries and Grenada.



The Soviet Union has agreed to provide \$3 million worth of agricultural machinery to Grenada. This machinery comprises: 16 tractors, 12 six-ton trucks, 20 irrigation pumps, and 15 four-wheel-drive cross-country jeeps.

In addition, the USSR has agreed to provide two years' worth of spare parts, which will be shipped to Grenada, while Grenadians will be trained to use and maintain this equipment, all free of cost.

The agreement signed with the Soviet Union lays the basis for future trade between the two countries, and agreements have also been reached for Grenada to sell nutmegs directly to the Soviet Union. At present, Grenada sells 1.3 million pounds of nutmegs to Holland which in turn sells the same amount to the Soviet Union. The new agreement will eliminate Holland as the "middle-man," and bring the extra earnings directly to Grenadian farmers.

Grenada and the Soviet Union have also signed an agreement for the purchasing of machinery and equipment for the next five years. On a state basis, this can be purchased with up to 10 years credit, at 4½ per cent interest, but the agreement also covers purchasing of machinery and equipment by the private sector, at a rate of five per cent interest.

Cde Coard also indicated that Grenada has requested that the Soviet Union carry out a study of the feasibility of establishing a deepwater port in Grenville. However, he said, no commitment was made on this request.

A trade agreement was also signed with Czechoslovakia, and Grenada has requested a feasibility study to determine whether Grenada's rivers are capable of producing hydro-electric power generation.

If this is possible, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Bulgaria, and Hungary, have all agreed to provide and install the generators.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the GDR have also agreed to send technical experts to investigate the possibility of developing light agro-industries in Grenada, and Bulgaria has agreed to provide the machinery and equipment for this, Cde Coard said.

Yet another trade agreement was signed with Bulgaria, which has agreed to construct two ice-making plants in Grenada. One will produce 10 tons of ice per day, and the other will produce 30 tons daily.

These plants will produce ice for storing fish caught by the 10 fishing boats provided by Cuba, as well as for other industries that need ice for storage. The plants are expected to be in production within 12 to 18 months, Cde Coard said.

He indicated that the GDR has agreed to provide some 800,000 worth of medical equipment, medicines and sporting equipment.

Hungary, he said, has agreed to train Grenadians in co-operative development.

Cde Coard disclosed that through the Hungarian medical complex, Medimpex, a credit line worth \$2.7 million (EC) has been agreed upon for Grenada. The Hungarians will also provide technical assistance to Grenada to set up a formula for importing medicines by their generic names, instead of by their label names, as has been done in the past, which will mean foreign exchange savings.

Cde Coard, who was accompanied by a team of economists on his trip, said that all the East European socialist countries which the Grenada delegation visited have agreed to provide scholarships free of charge for Grenadians to attend universities and technical colleges, and to receive training in co-operative development and other fields.

However, he indicated that a large number of scholarships have also been offered by other countries, including France, Venezuela, Canada, Malta, Panama, Kenya, Tanzania, and other countries in the Caribbean.

The Soviet Union, he said, is offering 20 university scholarships every year.

"This is all part of the general strategy of the PRG of diversifying our trade, economic and aid relations with all countries," said Coard.

*FWI, September 6, 1980*

### STRACHAN IN DPRK

The Minister of National Mobilisation is expected to return next week from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) where he attended the national festival celebrating President Kim Il Sung's 70th birthday, last Thursday.

Kim Il Sung set out on the road to revolution in his early years, and ushered in the national liberation struggle by organising the heroic forces opposed to Japanese occupation, which began in 1905.

He led the anti-Japanese armed struggle for 15 years, until the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, ending World War II.

Korea was then divided into two, and Kim Il Sung became leader of the government in the northern part. He led his country through the three-year-long Korean War that the United States unleashed in June 1950, and pushed ahead with building the Workers' Party of Korea, of which he is now general secretary.

Under his leadership, the DPRK has carried out agrarian reform, nationalised industry, transport and commerce, and eradicated survivals of

obsolete feudalism. In 1975, the DPRK became a member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In 1972, the party called for reunification of Korea, and this week, President Kim Il Sung urged the U.S. to withdraw its troops from South Korea. This, and U.S. interference in Korea's affairs are the main issues to be resolved before the country can re-unite, he said.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in a congratulatory message to President Kim Il Sung, has expressed "the profound satisfaction of my government and people on your attainment of this outstanding milestone in your life, and in your leadership of the Korean people."

He wished him "many more years of leadership and guidance of the Korean Revolution and people."

Min. Strachan will discuss technical and economic assistance for Grenada with the DPRK government.

He will also visit India for talks with the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on co-operation between the two countries.

*FWI, April 17, 1982*

### SOVIETS OFFER FORTY MORE SCHOLS

The Soviet Union is to establish an embassy in Grenada within the next six weeks, revealed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, at a press conference held Thursday on his trip to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Grenada has already opened an embassy there with former Ambassador to Cuba, Richard Jacobs as Ambassador, and Bernard Bourne as Minister Counsellor.

Describing his visit as having achieved all its objectives, PM Bishop said he was satisfied with its results, which have helped to broaden and further develop relations between both countries.

Grenada has received some \$24 million, \$4 million of which is a gift, to purchase a satellite earth station, steel supplies, a spray plane, work clothes for farmers, and to obtain technical assistance.

Other agreements involved sending experts here to carry out feasibility studies into the possibility of constructing an east coast port, a foundry and tool shop, a cement plant, a sewerage system, and to look at ways to conserve soil and water, and to improve the fishing industry.

Another agreement allows Grenada to sell nutmegs and cocoa to the USSR at stable prices for the next five years, and also bananas at a time suitable for Grenada.

Some 40 scholarships have also been offered at university, middle and technical levels.

PM Bishop said the satellite station gives Grenada an opportunity of breaking the imperialist cultural stranglehold on the country, and would enable Grenadians to receive news from the socialist countries which can "substitute for the United States garbage" which is now received.

It will also provide an opportunity, he said, to reorient Grenadians along more realistic lines. The station has relevance not only to television, but to telephone and cable and wireless services, he said.

PM Bishop compared the aid given to developing countries by socialist countries such as the USSR, and imperialist ones such as the U.S., saying that U.S. aid is always tied to strings, sometimes cultural or military, but there are no such strings with aid from the socialist world.

He pointed out that the USSR does not have transnational corporations in underdeveloped Third World countries to reap back its aid in profits.

PM Bishop said he was impressed with the high levels of proletarian internationalism, warmth, and sincerity, which the Soviet people possess.

The concern they have for preserving history and developing their culture, evident in the many museums, mausoleums and art galleries he saw, and the economic advance they have made in the face of harsh weather conditions and just 40 years after World War II when many of their cities were bombed out, also greatly impressed him.

The PM and his delegation were able to see the level of the Soviet People's commitment to peace. Everywhere they went there were banners advocating peace, and the Soviet people always recall that Lenin was a propounder of peace.

PM Bishop feels the U.S. leaders are not much concerned about peace because not many U.S. citizens died in World War II, nor were any of their cities destroyed, as in the USSR, where 20 million people died and entire cities were destroyed.

*FWI, August 7, 1982*

# 21

## Social Democracy

### Introduction

The New Jewel Movement obtained observer status in the Socialist International in 1978, before seizing state power. It became a full member in 1979. The Socialist International represented a mixed bag of nominally social democratic parties, covering a multitude of tendencies from the Barbados Labour Party of Tom Adams to the National Revolutionary Movement of El Salvador. The People's National Party of Jamaica, led by Bishop's friend Michael Manley, also belonged to the Socialist International.

In many countries where mainstream social democratic parties held power (e.g. Jamaica under Michael Manley), such parties had to contend with the existence of fully-fledged communist parties, either in opposition or in alliance. In the case of Grenada the element that would normally have constituted a communist party in fact represented a left wing within the NJM, whose membership ranged from forward looking businessmen to Marxists. The pronouncements of the NJM in power, including the statements of Maurice Bishop himself, suggested that the left wing of the NJM was very much in control of the revolution's direction. These pronouncements saw the revolution in a transitional mixed economy stage on its way to socialism (in the sense in which communist parties use that word).

The logic of all this is that the NJM's membership in the Socialist International would have had to be transitional as well. Had the revolution continued, one of four alternatives would have become inevitable. Either (a), the proclaimed socialist goals would have been achieved, resulting in expulsion or conversion of non-Marxist and centrist elements within the NJM and, in all probability, withdrawal from the Socialist International. (The ultra-left coup of October 1983 was probably a crude and premature attempt in this direction.) Or (b), the party's center would have succeeded in turning the transition stage into a permanent social democracy. Such a move may well have been accomplished by the left wing's defection into a fully-fledged communist party, as happened in the United States in 1919

and as has happened elsewhere. Or (c), the center, having gained ascendancy, may have continued the movement towards socialism, but at a more measured pace than the left, and in a less ideologically inflexible fashion. Finally, and not very likely, the right wing may have seized control, expelled left elements and settled down into a nominally social democratic, but in fact conservative mode.

The Socialist International met in Grenada in 1981 and some social democratic states, such as Sweden, were among Grenada's important suppliers of assistance. The social democratic Manley government in Jamaica was one of Grenada's closest allies, while the social democratic Adams government of Barbados was one of its most inveterate foes.

### SOCIALISTS BACK REGION'S PEOPLE

The Socialist International (SI) has given its full support to the region's anti-imperialist masses, struggling for democracy and new economic opportunities.

And it has called on governments throughout the world to stop propping up violent dictators and end the flow of arms to repress the masses.

This was the basic outcome of an SI meeting, held in the last week of March in the Dominican Republic, at the invitation of the ruling Partido Revolucionario Dominicano.

Agriculture Minister Unison Whiteman represented Grenada and the ruling New Jewel Movement at the two-day meeting.

SI is an organisation of socialist and social-democrat political parties from throughout the world. In the past, it was dominated mainly by parties from Western Europe and Scandinavia. But today, said Cde Whiteman, many parties from Latin America and Africa are taking part, "so it is becoming more of a world body, representing parties from around the world, some in power, some out of power."

The NJM, said Cde Whiteman, first acquired observer status in 1978, when NJM delegates attended the conference in Vancouver. The party was formally accepted at a conference in Lisbon last year.

Michael Manley's People's National Party of Jamaica and Tom Adams's Barbados Labour Party are other ruling-party members from the English-speaking Caribbean. Forbes Burnham's People's National Congress got observer status at the Santo Domingo meeting, as did a number of other revolutionary organisations from the region, the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe and the African National Congress of South Africa.

About 64 organisations were present at the meeting, which focussed on the economic and political struggles in the Caribbean and Latin Ame-

rica, with special emphasis on Guatemala and El Salvador.

Cde Whiteman said that the chairman of SI, Willy Brandt of West Germany, outlined the organisation's twin struggle for world peace and against world hunger.

He discussed the disturbing breakdown in political detente and the danger that "mankind will arm itself to death." And he pointed out that the fate of the Shah of Iran and Somoza of Nicaragua was sufficient indication that military solutions can no longer work in the world today.

"The social accounts with the broad masses of the people must be settled," he said. For a hungry people would fight for their liberation.

Bernt Carlsson, general secretary of SI, pointed out that it was not only a political organisation, but a socio-economic one. The opponents of SI, he pointed out, are the "large multi-national corporations and the political parties that are financed by them," noting the rapidly-growing phenomenon of imperialism through transnationals in the region.

But, he said, "the recent triumph of Grenada and Nicaragua provides great hope for the people."

Cde Whiteman said Grenada's contribution was a discussion of the poverty in the region and identification of its source. He told the meeting that whereas the price of Grenada's imports had gone up by five times in recent years, the price of its exports had gone up by only twice.

He drew attention to the low prices Grenada was getting for its goods—for example only five cents on the banana dollar—and, since this was the common plight of most of the other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America area, the contribution was well appreciated.

Robin Sears of the opposition New Democratic Party of Canada said some forces allowed political democracy, but not economic democracy; he noted there were no sanctions on multi-nationals. His country needed to recognise this, he said, since Canada itself is suffering from imperialist penetration.

Cde Whiteman said NJM's membership in SI opens up a number of contacts with progressive forces around the world, who could give moral or material aid, and opened up avenues for publicising Grenada's struggle abroad.

It also, he said, "is part of our internationalist duty to give solidarity to other peoples' struggles and to join in the fight against fascism."

*FWI, April 19, 1980*

### SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS GRENADA

Member parties of Socialist International (SI) have expressed support for

the Grenada Revolution, in a resolution passed at the end of the two-day meeting of SI's Latin America and the Caribbean Committee, yesterday.

In the resolution, the SI committee urged that special attention be paid to "the pressures of imperialism, propaganda and otherwise, to disrupt the efforts of the Grenadian people to build their own revolutionary process."

The committee once more declared its "firm support and solidarity with our brother-party, the New Jewel Movement (NJM), and with the government and people of Grenada in their efforts to build a just society of their own choosing," and agreed to form a solidarity committee of member parties "to assist Grenada in this period when it faces grave dangers from U.S. imperialism."

The committee proposed that "a serious campaign be launched to alert world public opinion fully to the dangerous and deadly implications of the imperialist tactics of propaganda, political and industrial destabilisation, economic aggression and mercenary threat to Grenada and Nicaragua."

The campaign's aim, the resolution said, "would be to ensure that these covert tactics of imperialism are treated with the same indignation and condemnation, and eventually amount to a breach of international law, in much the same way as the direct invasionary landing of troops are now regarded."

Signing the resolution were Movimiento Antiy [?] Nobo (MAN) of Curacao, the National Revolutionary Movement of El Salvador (MNR), the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) of Guatemala, the Movimiento Electoral del Pueblo (MEP) of Venezuela, the People's National Party (PNP) of Jamaica, and the New Jewel Movement (NJM) of Grenada.

Support also came from the British Labour Party, which was not represented at the meeting, but which sent two messages. A telegram, read at the closing session, expressed "warmest solidarity and support for the Grenada Revolution, the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and the Grenadian people" and said that although the party was not able to attend the meeting, "we have been actively pressing our Conservative government to take a sympathetic and generous attitude towards Grenada's requests for aid," particularly those for assistance for the new international airport.

"We believe the Grenadian revolution deserves the support of all democrats and socialists, and together with the government for national reconstruction of Nicaragua, it offers a beacon of hope and social justice in Central America and the Caribbean—a region too long dominated by exploitation and repression.

"In the difficult times faced by the Grenadian government in the future," the message said, "we will do everything in our power to mobilise

international opinion in support of the democratic and socialist aspirations of the Grenadian people."

The message also pointed out that the party's policy towards the region was clearly pointed out in a resolution passed by its international committee earlier this month, which described the U.S. policies in the region as being "thoroughly detrimental to the achievement of democracy there, and must be condemned by the British government as a breach of the principles of self-determination of a people, and a dangerous threat to world peace."

The SI committee, in its resolution, also called on the United States government to "end its support for the present junta in El Salvador," and said this was not a viable solution to prevent further bloodshed.

FWI, July 25, 1981

#### NJM MEMBER OF COPAL

The New Jewel Movement (NJM) was formally admitted to membership of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Progressive Parties (COPAL) on Monday night according to party sources.

The admission was done in the presence of NJM's Political Bureau member and Minister of Agriculture George Louison, and Ambassador to Cuba, Richard Jacobs, who were both attending the COPAL meeting in Mexico.

COPAL expressed solidarity with the Grenada Revolution, and observed with satisfaction the advances made in the development of social, political and economic democracy.

A statement from the meeting said it hailed the considerable advances in health, education and social organisations and the development of the island's infrastructure.

It also made special reference to the building of the international airport in Point Salines, which it saw as being essential for Grenada's economic development.

And it denounced the United States' menacing threats to the Revolution, and specifically condemned its efforts to undermine the Grenada process.

At the same time, COPAL reiterated its support for the struggles of the Grenadian people, and for their right to construct their own process without external intervention.

This meeting was attended by seven ruling parties, three former ruling parties, and 10 other opposition Social Democratic Parties from several Latin American and Caribbean countries.

FWI, October 17, 1981

#### SUPPORT FROM ARUBA SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

International support and solidarity for the Grenada Revolution continues to grow in spite of imperialism's desperate attempts to isolate the "Spice Isle" from the rest of the world.

The latest manifestation of such support came in the form of a resolution, unanimously passed, at the recent international conference in Aruba which was attended by a high-level Grenada delegation led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Agreeing, without exception, to the resolution were a number of socialist and social democratic parties from Aruba, Curacao, Argentina, Bonaire, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Santo Domingo, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

The resolution read:

*"Having heard of the progressive economic, social and political developments occurring in Grenada and viewing them as helping to advance the conditions and aspirations of the Grenadian people, we note with great concern the threats of imperialism against the Grenadian Revolution and observe the coincidence of promised unprecedented military aid to other island countries noted for their hostility towards the Grenada process.*

*Consequently, at this important Aruba international conference, we declare our unequivocal support for and solidarity with our brother party, the New Jewel Movement, and the government and people of Grenada in their efforts to build a new society in accordance with historic aspirations of their people.*

*We restate our recognition of and support for suffering people to determine their own political process and reject any suggestion that our activities in this regard should be guided by the ridiculous notion of anyone residing in anyone's backyard."*

Also unanimously accepted was a Grenada-sponsored resolution calling for the unconditional independence of Belize with "full territorial integrity."

Other resolutions called for the independence of Aruba and condemned the fascist Pinochet dictatorship in Chile.

FWI, March 28, 1981

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## The United States of America

### Introduction

The United States viewed the new leftist government in its normal Cold War terms as a potential threat to U.S. hegemony in the hemisphere. Early PRG protestations of a desire for friendly relations had little effect. U.S. ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Frank Ortiz, visited Grenada in April 1979 and read the riot act. He warned the PRG against accepting arms aid from Cuba, hinted that the U.S. might stem the flow of tourists to Grenada and offered the contemptuous sum of \$5,000.00 by way of U.S. economic aid.

In the U.S. itself, meanwhile, deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy had received asylum and had issued a call for overthrow of the PRG. And NJM activists had been arrested on charges of gun running. The Trinidad Express of March 31, 1979, quoting The Beacon, organ of Tom Adams' Barbados Labour Party, reported that U.S. Ambassador Ortiz had warned Gairy two months prior to March 13, 1979, of arms shipments to Grenada. PRG demands for Gairy's extradition were refused.

None daunted by the size and interventionist record of the United States, the PRG joined battle with the Colossus of the North. "We are not in anybody's backyard," declared Prime Minister Bishop shortly after the visit of Ambassador Ortiz. Establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba followed the Ortiz visit by a matter of a few days.

U.S. pressure followed a predictable pattern. Articles appeared in the mass media and travel trade publications advising against travel to Grenada. An unsuccessful attempt was made to exclude Grenada from U.S. funds channelled through the Caribbean Development Bank. Equally unsuccessful was the U.S. attempt in 1981 to prevent the European Economic

Community and other donor nations from financing Grenada's airport. Following the devastation of several islands' banana crops in the wake of Hurricane Allen in 1980, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) pointedly assisted all the stricken countries except Grenada. The Windward Islands Banana Growers' Association (Winban) protested such divisive tactics. President Ronald Reagan's much vaunted Caribbean Basin Initiative studiously excepted Grenada from its list of beneficiaries. The U.S. government, while stopping short of breaking diplomatic relations, nevertheless refused to accept the credentials of Grenada's ambassador designate, Dessima Williams.

Most alarming for the PRG was the stepped up U.S. military presence in the Caribbean. Throughout the entire four and a half year duration of the revolution, Grenada lived in constant fear and expectation of the invasion which eventually came in October 1983. The PRG routinely accused the United States and its agencies for covert action of being behind many of the incidents of destabilization which plagued the revolution.

The PRG for its part countered with a stream of harsh rhetoric and a diplomatic campaign which was capable of some outstanding successes, as already indicated. Expressions of solidarity poured into St. George's from nations and organizations around the world. With great boldness for a nation engaged in such a seemingly unequal struggle, the Grenadian revolution even carried the struggle to the United States itself. The hand of solidarity was extended to radical groups within the United States and also to groups from such minority communities as African-Americans and American Indians. Well-known former CIA agents came to Grenada to warn against U.S. destabilization. Grenada successfully introduced a resolution to the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1979 calling for the Caribbean as a zone of peace. The Caribbean Community later accepted a similar Grenadian initiative.

The tension was not unrelieved, however. The PRG continued to make occasional statements in favour of good relations and even sent President Reagan a nice telegram on his inauguration in 1981. Prime Minister Bishop addressed two long letters to President Reagan in 1981, suggesting high level talks and expressing a desire for better relations between the two countries. The visit of Prime Minister Bishop to the United States in June 1983 resulted in more extensive dialogue than had taken place for some time. Bishop publicly expressed satisfaction with the trip. In addition to meeting with a variety of officials, he had made the most of the opportunity to dialogue directly with the American people.

## ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE GRENADA-U.S. RELATIONS

U.S. Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Sally Shelton's recent visit to Grenada has resulted in what appears to be a step forward in improving relations between the two countries. Shelton, who was in Grenada at the invitation of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in mid-December, promised to arrange for official consultations between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Attorney General's Office in St. George's to discuss the extradition of deposed dictator Eric Matthew Gairy and to communicate the PRG's concern about Gairy's use of the U.S. media for counter-revolutionary propaganda. The PRG had earlier stated its position that Gairy's extradition was "the main stumbling block" to normalizing relations with the United States. Reportedly, those consultations were to have taken place in January, but to date, no official or unofficial word has been received from U.S. authorities.

Phyllis Coard, Deputy Secretary of Information in Grenada said that Shelton's visit led to a "clearer understanding of our genuine wish for better relations and on our part, we see no reasons why relations should not improve. The ball is now in the court of the United States." Relations between Washington and St. George's sank rapidly after the March 13th revolution when the U.S. dispatched its then Eastern Caribbean Ambassador, Frank Ortiz, who attempted to dictate to the PRG who its friends should be, pointing to Grenada's friendly relations with the government and people of Cuba. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in a statement prior to Ms. Shelton's visit told newsmen that the PRG desired to have the best possible relations with the U.S., but that such relations "must be based on the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty and noninterference." He pointed to the on-going interchange of nationals of both countries, including Grenadians in the U.S. and U.S. tourists in Grenada. "We have absolutely no quarrel with the *people* of America, . . . and we do not want to have any quarrel with [the] American government," said the Prime Minister. He cautioned, however, that the PRG would not "be intimidated or bullied" by anybody wishing to dictate the process of revolution in Grenada.

During Shelton's visit, Grenada requested U.S.\$1.8 million in assistance from the U.S. for infrastructural repairs necessitated by torrential rains in the country and U.S.\$18.5 million (EC\$50 million) to assist in building the new airport at Point Salines. This figure represents twice the amount which Cuba has already pledged for the airport construction project. No response to the aid request has been received by the PRG.

*Grenada News, January-February 1980*

## MESSAGE TO REAGAN

The Grenada Ministry of External Affairs, on behalf of Prime Minister Brother Maurice Bishop, has sent a congratulatory message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his inauguration to office.

The message reads:

"On behalf of the Government and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on the occasion of your inauguration to office as the 40th President of the United States of America.

"The Government and people of Grenada wish you a very fruitful term of office and hope to be able to work with you and your administration in promoting peace, greater co-operation and development in the region. The Government and people of Grenada also look forward to developing cordial relations with the government and people of the United States of America."

*FWI, January 31, 1981*

LETTERS FROM PM MAURICE BISHOP  
TO PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN-EXCERPTS

*March 26, 1981:*

"We in Grenada have heard, read and seen reports on radio, newspaper and television saying in effect that your Government is engaged in an intense diplomatic and press initiative aimed at discouraging European support for international financial assistance for our new international airport. In fact, Mr. William Dyess, spokesperson for your administration, is quoted in the Miami Herald of Sunday, March 22, 1981 as confirming this.

"If in fact these reports accurately represent your Government's views, I express deep concern and dissatisfaction with the position of your administration.

"You must know of the genuine need for and character of the airport especially because it so very clearly represents a major attempt by Grenada to break with underdevelopment and to assist in bringing economic justice to the people of Grenada. References, allegations and speculations to the contrary give greatly distorted and inaccurate views of this reality.

"My Government has always wanted good relations with your Government and people. All your diplomats and officials who have come to Grenada can confirm this. As we have continued to repeat, the basis for such principled good neighbourliness includes the fact that U.S. tourists come to Grenada by the thousands annually, the fact that thousands of United States citizens (residents and students) live in Grenada, included



also is the fact that thousands of Grenadians live in the United States. Equally important is the fact that Grenada poses no security threat whatsoever to your country, or, indeed, to any other country.

"... Mr. President, I would like to suggest that our two Governments hold bilateral discussions at the highest possible level to discuss developments and to clear up possible misunderstandings. I sincerely look forward to a positive response to this proposal. . . ."

*August 11, 1981:*

"Mr. President, my Government lays down no conditions precedent to the improvement of relations between our two countries. . . ."

"Again, on the occasion of your inauguration to office as the 40th President of your country, I sent a message congratulating you on behalf of the Government and People of Grenada and reassuring you that my Government looked forward to developing cordial relations with the Government and People of the United States of America. Regrettably, there has been no positive response by your Government to any of the indications of our desire for cordial relations with your Government. On the contrary, your Administration has consistently demonstrated an overtly hostile attitude towards the people and Government of Grenada.

"Although under President Carter's Administration, relations between the United States of America and Grenada were somewhat less than cordial, nevertheless the mechanism existed through which both Governments could, by an exchange of views, seek to improve those relations. The proposal made by President Carter on March 23, 1979 to accredit Miss Sally Shelton as Ambassador to Grenada was readily approved and agreement was accordingly conveyed on 6th April, 1979.

"On the other hand, the Government of Grenada is still awaiting an acknowledgement of receipt of its request for agreement of the United States Government to the proposal to appoint Mr. Jimmy Emmanuel, a career diplomatic officer, as this country's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to your country. This proposal was submitted on January 15, 1980 for agreement to the appointment of Ms. Dessima Williams, which in like manner, was not even acknowledged.

"Mr. President, in response to the many initiatives taken by my Government to normalize relations between our two countries, the United States Administration has demonstrated indifference and hostility to the People's Revolutionary Government in a variety of ways. In what seems to be a systematic and concerted propaganda campaign against us, members of your Administration have persistently made false, malicious and misleading

statements, (which they must surely know totally lack any factual foundation) concerning our development process and particularly in regard to our international airport project.

"We were quite frankly very alarmed by the massive diplomatic campaign which your Administration mounted in order to dissuade certain countries and international organizations from attending the Co-financing Conference which we convened in Brussels on 14th and 15th April, 1981 with the help of the European Economic Community Commission, for the purpose of mobilizing financial support for our new international airport. Unfounded and unreasonable fears have been expressed that, because of the proposed length of the runway strip of the new airport and the small size of the existing tourist plant in Grenada, the new airport is being constructed for other than economic reasons. We wish to reassure you, as we have already assured several of your officials that we have no intention, and have never had any intention, of using this modest international airport for any purpose other than as the means of developing our relatively untapped tourist potential and for the development and expansion of regional and international trade in fresh fruits and vegetables and agro-industrial products.

"We believe, in all humility, that this international airport is the most important project that we need to undertake to achieve further economic development. In fact, we see it as having the same socio-economic significance as the construction and expansion of the railway system had in your own country in the 19th century. The length of the runway when completed will be 9,000 feet, which will be the same length as the runways in Antigua and Trinidad and will be shorter than almost all the runways in other countries in the region where similar facilities exist. . . ."

"My Government is also painfully conscious of the increased efforts by your Administration to cut off our traditional aid possibilities both regionally and internationally with a view to strangulating our fledgling economy and to subverting the political, economic and social process which we have instituted. By way of examples, I wish to refer to a few of these incidents.

"Following the devastating damage inflicted to the banana industries in all four Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Dominica) by Hurricane Allen in 1980, the Windward Islands Banana Association, which is an umbrella organization comprising the four islands' banana societies, applied to the Government of the United States of America through the appropriate agency for assistance to rehabilitate the banana industries in all four islands. Aid was granted for the purpose for which it was sought but on the express condition that no part



of the funds allocated should be made available to rehabilitate the banana industry in Grenada.

"During the months of January and February 1981, following the visit to Grenada by staff members of the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.), my Government successfully negotiated a three-year Extended Fund Facility for Special Drawing Rights of \$6.3 million U.S. currency (equivalent to \$21 million East Caribbean Currency). This facility was, and still is, required to assist the Government of Grenada in implementing a programme designed to fundamentally restructure the local economy. On March 25, 1981 the United States Director on the Board of Directors of the I.M.F., on somewhat specious grounds, asked for an indefinite postponement of my Government's request. Our application to the Fund was prepared and recommended by the technical staff of the Board and approved by the Management of the Fund and was listed for consideration at a meeting of the Executive Directors of the Fund which was scheduled to take place on March 26, 1981.

"More recently, Mr. President, in a further demonstration of its economic aggression against Grenada, your Administration attempted to deny Grenada's having access to the funds which your Government proposed to make available to the Caribbean Development Bank to finance "basic human needs" projects. Your Government's proposal to the Bank was clearly intended to bar our tiny, underdeveloped island from benefitting from financial aid disbursed through a regional institution which has been established for the express purpose of providing financial assistance to regional governments and undertakings. We are also aware of other initiatives currently being taken against our interests in other regional bodies.

"Mr. President, I wish to refer to one other matter of the deepest concern to the Government of Grenada which seems to demonstrate your Government's hostility and indifference to the vital interests of Grenada. There are abundant credible reports currently circulating about the activities of mercenaries who are at this moment being trained on United States territory for deployment against certain regional countries including Grenada. It is impossible to believe that the law enforcement agencies in your country are not privy to those reports. Convincing evidence in support of the veracity of these reports recently came to light when a number of mercenaries were intercepted near the Mississippi state line just as they were about to embark on an invasion of the Commonwealth of Dominica, one of the four Windward Islands. Statements made by some of the persons who were apprehended reveal that the primary objective

of their operation was the invasion of Grenada and that Dominica was going to be used by them as a base from which to conduct operations.

"Mr. President, you are no doubt aware of Resolution No. 35/48, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 4, 1980 and which established an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. This Committee comprises thirty-five Member States, including the United States of America.

"You are also doubtless aware of United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 35/35 adopted on November 14, 1980, operative paragraph 7 of which "reaffirms that the practice of using mercenaries against national liberation movements and sovereign states constitutes a criminal act and that mercenaries themselves are criminals. . . .

"Mr. President, it seems to me that the foregoing amounts to a virtual declaration of war by your Government against the Government and People of Grenada. When a Government of your power and influence chooses to embark on a conscious campaign of propaganda destabilization and economic warfare against a small, poor non-aligned country like ours it must raise serious concerns and questions for our people and, must also have a devastating effect on the economy of our country and thus affect its Government's modest, but totally resolute, efforts to end poverty and raise the quality of life of its people. When, on top of this, mercenaries training on your territory even boast of their plans to invade our country, without being subjected to any form of legal action, then I am sure you will agree with me that the conclusion I have been obliged to draw is, in the absence of any contrary statement from you, eminently reasonable and justified.

"If you should choose to allow this letter also to go unanswered as happened to my earlier letter to you of March 26, 1981 referring to similar unhappy developments and requesting high level discussions, then we shall have to conclude that your Government does not desire even normal and minimum relations with my Government, in which event we would be obliged to consider further measures necessary to advance, consolidate and defend the social, political and economic transformation process which we have undertaken in Grenada.

"In the hope that you will respond to this letter before the end of September, I repeat my earlier call for urgent high level talks with a view to exploring all possibilities for normalizing relations between our two Governments."

Grenada Solidarity Committee of Boston,  
Facts About Revolutionary Grenada

### FREE OUR BROTHERS

The Prime Minister of Grenada, Bro. Maurice Bishop, has written to United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, requesting the immediate dropping of charges against Chester Humphrey and James Wardally, our two Grenadian brothers arrested in February of this year on charges of exporting firearms to Grenada.

At the same time our Acting Attorney General, Bro. Lloyd Noel, has written to the U.S. Attorney General, Griffen Bell, making the same request.

In reply to Bro. Bishop's letter, Secretary Vance has agreed to recommend that charges against the brothers should be dropped. His recommendations apparently went to the American Justice (Legal) Department some weeks ago. Up to now, however, there has been no response from the Justice Department.

Grenadians in the United States have recently begun a postcard campaign asking Cyrus Vance to make sure that charges are dropped. Their postcard says "Dear Secretary Vance: In the interest of promoting good relations with the people of Grenada and protecting the civil liberties of U.S. and foreign nationals within the United States, PLEASE DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST CHESTER HUMPHREY AND JAMES WARDALLY."

Chester and Jim are well known to all Grenadians as sincere, committed and courageous brothers long in the struggle for human rights in Grenada. At a time when we at home are for the first time in many years enjoying the smell and the taste of freedom, let us not forget that our two brothers in the United States still face the possibility of being put on trial on charges which carry a maximum penalty of LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

In the light of the delay in dropping such charges against Chester and Jim, it is time that Grenadians at home add their voices to the protests being made by Grenadians living in the States.

We are appealing to all brothers and sisters who support the Revolution, who support the cause of freedom and justice, to write to SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE, U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, 2201 C STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520. Ask him to make sure that charges against Humphrey and Wardally are dropped. Our freedom must be their freedom!

*FWI, June 16, 1979*

### SHELTON SPEAKS WITH FORKED TONGUE, SAYS PRG

The People's Revolutionary Government says it is "disgusted and disturbed" over recent remarks by outgoing United States Ambassador Sally

Shelton that Grenada had rebuffed U.S. attempts to improve relations, and that she did not pay a farewell visit to St. George's, because of the PRG's lack of interest.

Ms. Shelton's remarks came at a farewell news conference in Barbados. A political appointee of former U.S. President James Carter, she was not requested to stay on by the new Ronald Reagan administration.

Ms. Shelton's assertions, the PRG says, "fly in the face of truth and reality," since the PRG has "from the first day of the revolution, made every attempt to have good relations" with the U.S. government, "but on each occasion was rebuffed."

The PRG recalls that Frank Ortiz, Ms. Shelton's predecessor, visited Grenada in the early weeks of the Revolution, "to issue imperious threats and directives" and to offer bilateral assistance of \$5,000.

The U.S. government, it also recalls, "first promised, and later, in effect, refused, to extradite Eric Gairy" to face serious criminal charges, including conspiracy to murder.

Ms. Shelton's dishonesty, said the PRG, "is staggering," noting that it had invited her on December 12, 1980, before she resigned as ambassador, to hold talks on "certain matters of mutual interest with a view to promoting and developing friendly relations between the government and people of the U.S.A. and the government and people of Grenada."

The PRG also recalled that it sent to President-elect Reagan on November 6, 1980, a congratulatory cable, stressing that "the government and people of Grenada look forward to maintaining and further developing friendly relations with the government and people of the U.S.A."

In reply, Reagan thanked Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and said he looked forward "to a mutual effort to promote friendly relations between our two nations."

Ms. Shelton's remarks obviously don't help those efforts.

On Reagan's inauguration, the PRG said it sent him another message, reiterating that "the government and people of Grenada also look forward to developing cordial relations with the government and people of the U.S.A."

In her farewell letter to PM Bishop, dated February 6, 1981, Ms. Shelton observed that "we both share deep concern about the welfare of the people of Grenada and for the future of the Eastern Caribbean.

"I shall most certainly follow with deep interest the progress of your government and I want you to feel free to call upon me if ever I can be of assistance," she ended.

"In the light of all this, how could Ms. Shelton now make these preposterous, absurd and dishonest statements, unless they were made for the purpose of advancing her own career?" the PRG asked.

Ms. Shelton told the press that "the US had demonstrated its commitment to friendly relations by continuing its economic assistance programme to Grenada, which is now benefitting from several million dollars channelled through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)."

On this, the PRG reminded Ms. Shelton that, notwithstanding its repeated requests, "we have never received one cent of bilateral assistance from the U.S.A." Indeed, the only offer was that of the \$5,000 from Ambassador Ortiz.

While it is true that Grenada has received assistance from the CDB, the PRG said, Ms. Shelton well knows the CDB, as a regional institution, draws funds from several different governments and agencies, including the U.S.A."

Moreover, it was Ms. Shelton's government, the PRG recalled, "which tried to compromise the 20-year-old Windward Islands Banana Association and the regional integration movement, by insisting that U.S. banana rehabilitation aid to Wimbhan, following Hurricane Allen, must exclude any benefits to Grenada."

The PRG neglected to mention that the U.S.A. has so far failed to recognise its appointed ambassador, Dessima Williams.

Finally, the PRG reiterated that "it has always been interested in developing cordial relations with the U.S. government, based upon the well-established principles of legal equality of states, mutual respect, sovereign integrity and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs."

*FWI*, February 28, 1981

### ANTI-GRENADA PROPAGANDA BACKFIRES

Attempts by the might of United States imperialism to smash the recent co-financing conference for Grenada's international airport have failed miserably and early signs show that its vulgar propaganda has backfired in its face.

At a meeting last Wednesday at York House, Minister of Finance Bernard Coard, who led Grenada's delegation to the conference in Brussels, last week, reported that it has been a major success with some 13 countries and international organizations attending.

Attending were the host and conference organizers, the European Economic Community (EEC), Libya, Syria, Algeria, Venezuela, Nigeria, Sweden, Iraq, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Iraqi Fund, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the World Bank.

After hearing the facts on the airport and its importance to Grenada, delegates issued a joint communique in support of it.

The communique called on donor countries to aid the project. In addition, representatives expressed distaste for the US attempts to bully them from attending the conference, and said that the airport's importance to Grenada was very clear to them.

The EEC representative, at the end of the conference, said their aid was not subject to favourable or unfavourable political winds and it was this character that made their aid meaningful and principled.

Bro. Coard said that prospects for aid looked very good and that bilateral talks would continue with the interested countries and organizations.

The airport is expected to cost some \$71 million (U.S.) of which \$41 million has already been granted by the governments of Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Libya, Algeria and Iraq. The other \$30 million the PRG is seeking to raise through grants where possible, as well as loans from international organizations and countries.

It is incredible the kinds of lies the US circulated in the mass media the world over before the conference, Bro. Coard said.

One said that the airport runway would be extraordinarily long, with several different airstrips. In fact, at 9,000 feet, the Point Salines airport will be one of the shortest in the region.

Another was that the airport is not feasible and that Grenada would not be able to repay its cost.

Bro. Coard pointed out that the net revenue from the airport, combined with hotel occupancy taxes, will easily cover both the principal and interest on these loans. This does not include, he said, revenue from hotel profit taxes and import duties on materials to build new hotels.

In fact, he said, only 10 years after its completion, the airport will earn the people of Grenada some \$17 million per year, at lowest estimates.

The US acted on the assumption that countries attending the conference would not know anything about the airport project. So many studies had been done on an international airport for Grenada that the conference was able to study all, including joint Canadian, English and American studies, Bro. Coard pointed out.

*FWI*, April 25, 1981

### U.S. FAILS TO BLOCK CDB \$

The United States has failed once again, in its continuing efforts to promote economic sabotage against the Grenada Revolution.

The latest attempt came on June 18, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), when the U.S. representative demanded that Grenada be excluded from receiving U.S. funds channelled through the bank.

He said the U.S. took this position because Grenada did not respect human rights and did not hold elections, and that the American government had the right to decide which countries should receive its money.

But the CDB decided that U.S. money could not divide the region or dictate policy. Representatives of regional governments on the bank's board of directors voted unanimously to reject the \$10.8 million (EC) grant, which was to have been part of a pledge by the U.S. government to a basic needs programme for the Leeward and Windward Islands, under assistance through the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development.

CDB vice-president Neville Nichols said the bank had turned down the U.S. offer because to exclude Grenada would have been contrary to the Bank's charter. He quoted Article 35 of the CDB charter, which states that the bank "shall not accept loans or assistance that may in any way prejudice or otherwise alter its purpose or functions."

Nichols also quoted another section of that article, which states that the bank "shall not interfere in the political affairs of any member-country" and its staff's decisions should not be influenced by the political character of the member-state concerned.

According to this clause, only economic considerations relevant to the purpose and functions of the bank should affect its decisions, and that such considerations should be weighed impartially, to achieve and carry out the bank's purpose and functions.

First indications of reaction to U.S. pressure on the CDB came the day after the Barbados election, when Prime Minister Tom Adams said his country would not support efforts aimed at preventing Grenada from receiving funds through the CDB, and suggested that the bank should reject the U.S. grant, if the Americans insisted that Grenada should be excluded from benefiting from it.

Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles, who was attending a meeting at the Secretariat of the Organisation of American States (OAS) earlier this week, said that due to the multi-lateral nature of the CDB's loans, "any insistence by the U.S. that aid should be used for only certain member countries cannot be complied with by the bank."

The Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance (DLMA) praised the CDB and PM Charles for their position, and chided the U.S. government's efforts to turn back the Grenada Revolution.

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) of Guyana, led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, described the U.S. position as "hypocritical," and called on the people of the Caribbean to support the Grenada government in the face of the increasing U.S. pressure against the Revolution.

This latest U.S. attempt at economic destabilisation against the Grenada Revolution follows other similar attempts in the last few months. Late last year, the U.S. government pressured the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (Winban) into excluding fellow-member Grenada from hurricane aid despite the regional grouping's protest.

And last April, the Reagan administration dispatched envoys to European countries to try to prevent them from attending a conference co-sponsored by the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Grenada government aimed at getting additional finance for construction of the international airport at Point Salines.

On that occasion too, the U.S. was rebuffed, and the conference came off successfully, with many institutions and countries pledging assistance.

*FWI*, June 27, 1981

#### U.S. AID FOR ALL BUT ONE

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has expressed gratitude to the Windward Islands Banana Growers' Association and its member states for their principled stand in calling upon the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to reconsider its refusal to assist Grenada's banana industry, ravaged by Hurricane Allen.

Cde Bishop's remarks were made in an address to the annual qualifiers convention of the Guyana-Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company, held at the Dome in Grand Anse, on Monday.

At its annual general meeting in St. Lucia on October 15, Winban passed a resolution deploring USAID's exclusion of Grenada from assistance to Winban member states, stating that such action was "fundamentally opposed to the concept of the unity of Winban." Winban called upon USAID to offer prompt rehabilitation assistance to Grenadian banana growers.

Winban's president, Michael Moncherry of St. Lucia, also wrote in protest to U.S. ambassador Sally Shelton and USAID's director for the region, William Wheeler, drawing their attention to the resolution, and outlining the serious damage done to Grenada's banana industry, 40 per cent of which was destroyed by the hurricane earlier this year.

Cde Bishop told the GTM convention that while Grenada wished to have normal relations with the U.S. and had made several attempts to

establish cordial relations, the response of "establishment America" had been to resist.

He pointed to the U.S. refusal to accept Dessima Williams's credentials as Grenada's ambassador to the U.S.: their refusal to make security personnel available to Grenada's Finance Minister Bernard Coard while he attended meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington earlier this month; and their harbouring and protecting former dictator Eric Gairy while he is wanted on criminal charges, including murder, in Grenada.

Cde Bishop said Grenada has "a continental vision," which rejects the "interventionist, divisionist, hegemonic, and backyardist tendencies" of the U.S., and does not adhere to the Monroe Doctrine which, he said, is "incompatible with sovereignty and independence in the region."

Thus, he said, "the problem lies with the US, and not with us."

Cde Bishop said the Grenada revolution is a people's revolution with a Caribbean flavour" which is based on the principles of respect for sovereignty non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and respect for the way in which any people decide to run their country."

He said that the PRG did not expect every country in the region to have the same method of governing, but that this should in no way hinder regional integration, which, for Grenada, "is of utmost importance for the region."

Grenada's wish, he said, is to establish good relations with all countries, except those like South Africa, which is well known for their racial injustice.

For this reason, he said, Grenada constantly calls for a Caricom heads of government meeting, since this would enhance the region's chances of coming together under one umbrella.

Grenada's vision goes beyond the English-speaking Caribbean, he observed. "Traditionally, because of the colonialist policies, attempts have always been made to get us to feel that people in the region coming from French, Dutch and Spanish-speaking countries are different from us," said Cde Bishop.

The PM urged representatives at the convention to work to break down the language barriers set up by colonialism as a "divide and rule" tactic.

*FWI, October 25, 1980*

#### U.S. PLAN DIVISIVE—WHITEMAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bro. Unison Whiteman, has called on CARICOM countries not to allow the proposed United States version of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) to create divisions among countries of the region.

Bro. Whiteman made the appeal at the Caricom Foreign Ministers meeting which ended in Belize last Thursday.

He called on the meeting to carefully analyse the plan proposed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, as there were dangerous, divisive and "disruptive elements" in it, aimed at breaking up the regional community.

"Caricom is to a large degree a trading community, and if the U.S. faces our region from a trading point of view, they should face our region as one bloc not try to establish separate relations with each individual unit and try to give special privileges to individual units," Bro. Whiteman said.

In an interview before the meeting, Bro. Whiteman said that the peoples of the region had together worked out the principles on which they should conduct their relations with each other. The Articles of Caricom states that there should be harmonisation of relations between countries in the community and third countries. The Reagan approach, of dealing with countries bilaterally violated the spirit and even the letter of Caricom and the integration movement.

Philosophically, Bro. Whiteman said, the so-called Caribbean Basin plan is "nothing more than an export version of Reaganomics, which is itself under attack in Reagan's own land, for its failure to function."

"We do not know for how long Reaganomics will be in fashion," he continued. "However, what all of us would like to know is that before we are transformed into dust, ashes or clay, we will have built and left behind a solid foundation, a noble legacy of regional cooperation as a fitting monument to our ancestors who struggled for the cause of regional unity: T.A. Marryshow, Grantley Adams and Norman Manley."

Bro. Whiteman said he did not think a Third Power could tailor a plan to its liking and then dictate it to a region while ignoring the wishes and principles of the region, but if it did, then "it will be a question for the member states of the Caribbean to decide whether for a few dollars they are prepared to sacrifice their principles."

For Grenada's part, he said, "there will be no dilemma. Our position is very clear, that no outside country, no third country can use the few dollars to break us away from our Caribbean brothers."

In his wide ranging speech Bro. Whiteman also reiterated the PRG's position that the Caribbean region be declared a zone of peace and noted with concern the threats, aggressive military manoeuvres and military buildups in the area.

He recognised the sad plight of the people of El Salvador and said that Grenada is convinced that only a negotiated political settlement along the lines of the French/Mexican statement can guarantee a lasting peace.

*FWI, April 3, 1982*

### GRENADA COMPLAINS TO USAID ABOUT EXCLUSION

A formal complaint against Grenada's exclusion from a study done by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has been made by the Ministry of Health's permanent secretary, Dorcas Braveboy.

The study was made in five of the six islands having family nurse practitioners, prior to USAID's consideration of funding for the family nurse practitioner training programme, after 1983.

The programme is to provide training for a new category of health worker, intended to function in primary health care, dealing with preventative as well as curative medicine.

It is sponsored by the United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

Sis. Braveboy filed the complaint at a meeting of participating governments in the programme, held in St. Vincent from May 13-14.

She said the USAID representative at the meeting gave "no excuse." However, a copy of the report on the study will be submitted to Grenada.

*FWI, May 22, 1982*

### PM BISHOP—OPEN TALKS WITH U.S.A.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, now in the United States on an eight-day visit, has told black Congressmen that his People's Revolutionary Government had requested and set a totally open and unconditional agenda for talks with the Ronald Reagan administration.

He was speaking in Washington on Thursday morning to a breakfast meeting of the U.S. Black Congressional Caucus.

The Caucus, comprising the 22 blacks in the U.S. Congress, and Trans-Africa, a prestigious group promoting black American interests, invited PM Bishop to the U.S.

The visit is aimed at informing the U.S. people about the objectives of the Grenada Revolution and seeking efforts to improve relations with the Reagan administration.

PM Bishop, who left here on Monday, is accompanied by Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Lyden Ramdhanny, Grenada Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Richard Menzes, and Grenada Hotels Association (GHA) president Royston Hopkin.

According to a report from press secretary Don Rojas, PM Bishop reiterated to the Congressmen Grenada's position that dialogue is critical for normalising diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He also told them about the state of Grenada's political, social and economic affairs.

The meeting was attended by the Black Caucus chairman Julien Dixon, House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Africa chairman Howard Wolfe, House Sub-Committee on Military Installation chairman Ron Delums and several other congressmen.

These rounds of meetings with senior U.S. congressmen, as well as those active and influential on Caribbean and Western Hemispheric issues, Rojas reported, have been well-received.

On Tuesday, in an address to the Organisation of American States (OAS) permanent council, PM Bishop explained the need for Grenada's international airport, commented on the PRG's relations with the U.S., and called for greater unity among the Caribbean and Latin American states.

He said the airport is vital to the economy and tourism and termed its importance "unquestionable."

On U.S.-Grenada relations, he declared: "It is an unfortunate historical fact that every effort on our part to achieve these normal relations has been ignored."

Speaking to the press shortly before he left Grenada, PM Bishop said that he hoped the visit would be useful in establishing a permanent channel of communication between the two governments, that can lay the basis for normalising relations.

He disclosed that the PRG had requested a meeting for him with President Reagan and for Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman to meet Secretary of State George Schultz.

At the OAS meeting and one with Grenadian nationals in Washington, the PM expressed Grenada's support for efforts of the Contadora Group—Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela—to mediate a peaceful solution to the political conflicts in Central America.

PM Bishop will address a mass indoor rally of Grenadian and Caribbean nationals in New York tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters in New York, after meeting United Nations secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar, PM Bishop said his government has prepared Grenadians to withstand any invasion, and have also alerted friendly government leaders and organisations, such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, the UN and the OAS.

Although he didn't think all this had changed the U.S. ultimate objectives, it would have slowed down their plans, the PM said.

*FWI, June 4, 1983*

### USEFUL TRIP TO U.S.

#### PM Returns

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop returned home yesterday afternoon from an 11-day visit to the United States, expressing confidence that the trip has achieved all its important objectives.

"I would say that perhaps the number one success of the visit was the fact that we were able to bring a true picture of what the real Grenada is like, following upon all the propaganda which had been spread against the Revolution," he told the press at Pearl's Airport shortly after his arrival.

He was greeted there by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and other People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) members, and scores of Grenadians who turned out for the occasion.

PM Bishop said that Grenada's true image was conveyed to millions of people across the U.S.

"These people were not only able to receive that message, but at the same time, they were able to get a sober and responsible image of the Grenada Revolution."

His visit to the U.S. was made at the request of the Congressional Black Caucus and TransAfrica, a prestigious organisation lobbying on behalf of Caribbean and African peoples in the U.S.

Among the visit's highpoints were the PM's meetings with U.S. national security advisor William Clark and acting secretary of State Kenneth Dam, his address to the Organisation of American States (OAS) permanent council, TransAfrica's sixth dinner at a large indoor rally in New York, and a meeting with United Nations secretary general Javier Perez De Cuellar.

PM Bishop also held many meetings with congressmen and senators and was interviewed several times by the press.

The Grenada delegation met over 40 senators and congressmen, including the U.S. House of Representatives speaker, Tip O'Neill.

Said PM Bishop: "I think in several different ways, through many different media reports, briefings and press conferences, we were able to get across to the U.S. people that the Grenadian people regarded them as friends and wanted to see relations between our two peoples continue."

He described his meeting with Dam as "useful, businesslike and exploratory."

Grenada, the PM said, made a number of proposals to the U.S. on normalising relations and "in particular with resuming official dialogue and official contact through formal mechanisms and channels."

The Americans have promised to respond to these proposals within the next few weeks, he said.

According to the PM, one senator he met has agreed to come to Grenada later this year with a delegation of small businessmen to pursue possibilities for investment and co-operation in fishing.

A successful reception was also held with over 400 tour operators, travel writers and other key figures involved in the tourist industry.

PM Bishop was accompanied on his trip by Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Tourism Minister Lyden Ramdhanny, the Grenada Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Richard Menzes, and Grenada Hotel Association president, Royston Hopkin.

*FWI, June 11, 1983*



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## Latin America

### Introduction

*As in the case of Cuba, many of the countries of Central and South America are geographically and historically close to the English-speaking Caribbean. Yet present day contacts are often sparse, due to a variety of reasons. Grenada set about to bridge the gap separating these countries.*

*Relations with Nicaragua were especially close. Grenada became the second government in the world (after Panama) to recognize the Sandinista regime. Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinista leadership, visited Grenada in 1980. Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada became a new alignment of forces in opposition to U.S. influence in the Caribbean. Prime Minister Bishop warned that Grenada was the only one of the three yet to be invaded.*

*In Nicaragua, as in Cuba, there was an English-speaking community descended from immigrant West Indian workers of an earlier generation. Grenadian internationalist students participated in Nicaragua's literacy campaign among this group.*

*The PRG also strengthened relations with Venezuela. Maurice Bishop made two state visits to that country and Venezuelan cooperation covered the fields of sports, tourism and the provision of teachers of Spanish. Venezuela also provided oil for the international airport. A Venezuelan Cooperation Center was established in St. George's. As in the case with some of its other Caribbean neighbours, Venezuela's fishing vessels caused some temporary friction by encroaching on Grenada's territorial waters.*

*Prime Minister Bishop also visited Mexico. The PRG supported the French-Mexican initiative of 1981 which called for peaceful negotiations among all parties to the conflict in El Salvador.*

*The PRG supported the freedom fighters in El Salvador and supported Argentina in the Malvinas (Falklands) War against Britain.*

### SPEECH OF FOREIGN MINISTER UNISON WHITEMAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS—EXCERPT

Permit me to express my delegation's deep distress at the sudden death of the then incumbent President of Ecuador, Jaime Roldos, the former Chief of State of Panama General Omar Torrijos and the sad passing of the former President of Venezuela, Romulo Betancourt. All were outstanding in their own country in their time.

Permit me to pay special tribute to Omar Torrijos, the symbol of Panamanian dignity, the leader and catalyst of the Panamanian Revolutionary process; a leader in the Central American and Caribbean region, a World Statesman. We will always remember the General who marched in the forefront of the anti-imperialist struggle. The peoples of the world who struggle for justice and freedom will not forget Torrijos' fight to restore Panama's territorial integrity and for the achievement of her complete independence and sovereignty.

For centuries, the Latin American and Caribbean peoples have been subject to some of the most barbarous tyrannies that have beset the world. The oligarchies have enriched themselves at the expense of the people. This is the age of change. The people will no longer tolerate their exploitation. Those who innocently or otherwise suggest that the popular processes of our region are orchestrated from outside are simply poor students of history, for the people who know their history cannot be fooled.

Mr. President, Grenada continues to be outraged by the atrocities against the people of El Salvador committed by the Junta. The patriots of that suffering country have long ago earned our solidarity, our brotherhood and our everlasting respect. We therefore, hail the Mexican/French initiative as an act of statesmanship. We are proud to associate ourselves with the views expressed in the recent Joint Communiqué. We support without reservation, the view that the alliance between the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation and the Democratic Revolutionary Front constitutes a representative political force, ready to undertake responsibilities and obligations with a legitimate right to participate in negotiations towards a political settlement.

Peace and justice have as their necessary pre-requisite the unconditional acceptance of ideological pluralism and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. No one has the right to dictate to another and we deplore the arrogant attitude adopted by some who seek to isolate those with whom they disagree. We specifically condemn all efforts to blockade Cuba or put pressure on Nicaragua via political, economic or military means.



All these points of conflict and confrontation, Mr. President, create the conditions for instability. In order to avoid the Caribbean becoming a permanent zone of confrontation and tension, we have consistently called upon the United Nations and the Organization of American States to declare the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

This proposal was accepted at the La Paz meeting of the OAS in 1979. At the sixth meeting of the standing committee of Foreign Ministers of the Caribbean Community, held in Grenada in June, 1981 a working committee was set up charged with the responsibility of elaborating the general proposals to give effect to the declaration.



Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman (left) and Michael Manley, former prime minister of Jamaica and vice-president of Socialist International.  
*Free West Indian*

## 24 Africa

### Introduction

*Some elements within the New Jewel Movement had annually celebrated African Liberation Day in Grenada since 1971. The Black Power background of some NJM members predisposed them to a Pan-African outlook. Such sentiments were clearly expressed in revolutionary Grenada's first address (by Kenrick Radix) to the United Nations (reproduced here). President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia became the first non-Caribbean head of state to visit Grenada in 1979. It may be, though, that the march of socialism in time caused some elements within the NJM to regard the Pan-African fervour of the Black Power days as a "backward cultural nationalism."*

*Actual contacts with African states seemed to focus largely on those which already had strong ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba. These included Libya, Algeria, Mozambique and Angola. President Samora Machel of Mozambique visited Grenada by way of Cuba for African Liberation Day in 1982.*

*Grenada also provided strong support for the liberation groups in Southern Africa, through rallies and fundraising campaigns at home and diplomatic efforts abroad.*

*At the time of the ultraleft coup of 1983, preparatory work was underway for a visit to several African countries by Prime Minister Bishop.*

### INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA

**First Address to the United Nations by Ambassador Kenrick Radix.**

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, Distinguished Ambassadors, Colleagues: On March 13th 1979, Grenada had a new Government and it is the first time we have the opportunity to address

you. Allow me then, on behalf of my Prime Minister, Mr. Maurice Bishop, the members of the new revolutionary government, the people of Grenada, and on my own behalf to offer you warm and sincere greetings, and to say how proud we are as a new people to be here represented.

For too long the unpopular and oppressive government of South Africa has been defying the high organs of the United Nations and world opinion on the acute question of self determination for the people of Namibia. The question of Namibia first came to the attention of the United Nations over thirty years ago when South Africa decided to annex that territory and spread the cancer of apartheid to the Namibian land and people. Despite the brave and vigilant struggle of the Namibian people the Fascist Pretoria Regime divided up families and banned the people from owning and enjoying the land of their birth. They plundered and raped the human and material resources of the people in the false hope of fully subjecting the land of the courageous people of that territory.

The Security Council in recent years has come to regard the vicious and flagrantly illegal acts of South Africa in Namibia as threats to world peace and security. Repeated calls by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice and the International Community that South Africa relinquish its illegal hold on Namibia, have fallen on deaf, racist ears. The continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa is an act of war. Under the steadfast leadership of SWAPO the Namibian people have risen to fight South Africa for the liberation and complete independence of the territory.

Every day the arch enemy of mankind, South African apartheid, is driven out inch by inch from the presence of the Namibians and flung into the ocean. As the struggle of the Namibian people moves to newer and higher stages of success the fascist and racist regime becomes more and more repressive. No longer content to wage war in Namibia, acts of grave aggression with criminal intent are being waged against the fully independent and sovereign front line states by the international bandit in Pretoria. Mr. President, the massacre of men, women and defenceless children on May 4th, 1977 at Kassinga in independent Angola is one of the cowardly, brutal and nauseating acts in the total history of the modern world. Such murderous acts have been repeated, each assault being more vicious and hostile than before. It would appear that the South African fascists are bent on the complete eradication of all forms of human existence in that mineral rich land. But it is the blood of the Namibian martyrs which is the cement upon which the nation of a free Namibia is being built.

Mr. President, the people of Grenada have only recently overthrown a brutal dictator, and in doing so released ourselves from oppression. We in Grenada have our eyes fixed on those nations who claim to support the high ideals of the Charter of the United Nations, but who in the same breath give aid, comfort, and support to the racist regime. For the sake of a few dollars, many nations sell their souls to keep that minority clique in power. But the eyes and the consciences of the world see them and know who they are. All their support cannot defeat the will of the Namibian people for their self-determination, independence, and national liberation.

The holding of sham elections by South Africa in Namibia and the pretended victory of their puppet, the Turnhalle Alliance, will not be recognized nor tolerated by the people, nor the revolutionary government of Grenada. We have suffered through the experiences of slavery, colonialism, racism and neo-colonialism, so we know first hand what racist oppression is. As I mentioned before, only two months ago, through a popular and bloodless revolution we acclaimed the right of self-determination and real independence. The majority of our people are of African descent and therefore through contemporary understanding of the plight of Black and Third World Peoples, we share each day, in an intimate and intense way, the sufferings of the Namibian people.

Grenada therefore embraces the call of the United Nations that 1979 be observed as the year of solidarity with the People of Namibia and calls for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 385/1976 and 435/1978; Grenada is also pleased to add its name to the list of co-sponsors of Resolution A/33/L37. We adopt the call by the OAU that the apartheid regime of South Africa be isolated and that maximum pressure be brought against those vested interests who act in concert with them. All forms of support will be given by the Government and people of Grenada, to the Namibian people and their vanguard SWAPO in their liberation struggles.

The time has come, Mr. President, when the United Nations with the total support of the international community must take firm and resolute action against South Africa, the only country in the world which has for so long defied not only the United Nations, but people of goodwill throughout the world.

South Africa poses a threat not only to Namibia but to the whole of Southern Africa. All peoples of the world united to defeat the fascism of Hitler. We are therefore commanded to action before the world is

plunged into racial war. The time to act is now. Grenada therefore urges that the cancer of South African apartheid be removed by mandatory measures contained in Chapter VII of the Charter. The year 1979 must be recorded in history not only as the year of Solidarity with the people of Namibia, but also as the year of their total victory.

*FWI, June 16, 1979*

### PAN-AFRICANISM SAYS WE ARE ALL ONE

Pan-Africanism is first a positive statement of identity between all those of African descent whose forebears experienced colonial subjugation and the dislocation resulting from it—whether those people live on the African continent or anywhere else in the world. It is the affirmation that “We are all an African people.”

Secondly, it is a call to regain what was lost in the colonization process, namely, African sovereignty: the right to live in, develop, and govern the continent as they see fit, independent of external manipulation and control. In other words, “Africa for the Africans.”

Thirdly, it is a strategic perspective which places the struggle for African liberation at the centre of the anti-imperialist struggle internationally.

*FWI, May 23, 1981*

### WELCOME SAMORA

Mozambique President Samora Moises Machel will get a warm reception from Grenadians when he touches down at Pearl's Airport on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Scores of Grenadians are expected to be at the airport with bunting and flags in the gold, white, red and green colours of Mozambique, to welcome Pres. Machel.

Among Pres. Machel's 37-man delegation, are the Minister of Foreign Affairs, secretary of FRELIMO'S Central Committee responsible for Foreign Relations, and member of FRELIMO'S Political Bureau, Major General Joaquim Alberto Chissano; and the Minister of Agriculture, and Central Committee member Colonel Sergio Viera.

Young Pioneers from Grenville will welcome Pres. Machel and his delegation with a song, and will present bouquets to them.

A 21-gun salute will announce Pres. Machel's arrival. He will then inspect the guards along with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Members of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) will be presented to

him, and he will in turn present his delegation. Chief Protocol Officer Shahiba Strong will present the PRG's diplomatic corps.

PM Bishop will welcome Pres. Machel, and he will reply.

Pres. Machel will then leave the airport in a motorcade, which will travel from Grenville to St. George's. He will be welcomed by villagers lining the route.

On Sunday, Pres. Machel will visit the international airport and later will proceed to Seagoon, St. Andrew's, to deliver the feature address at an African Liberation Day (ALD) rally. Thousands of Grenadians are expected to turn out to hear him speak, and to celebrate African victories, and give solidarity to continuing struggles.

ALD is recognised as the day on which the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity was signed, on May 26, 1963 at an all-African conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It has since been commemorated by many countries throughout the world to celebrate African victories, and to express solidarity with African countries still in bondage.

*FWI, May 22, 1982*

### AFRICA'S STRUGGLE IS OURS

“Africa's struggle is our struggle,” said Minister of Agriculture George Louison, addressing an indoor rally in St. John's to mark the 20th anniversary of African Liberation Day (ALD) on Sunday.

Speaking to over 500 persons at the St. John's Anglican School, in Gouyave, Min. Louison said ALD has been celebrated in Grenada for 12 years. “In those days, we did not function as the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the party having been formed in 1973,” he explained.

“One of the things we were able to prove,” he said, “was that there were hundreds of Grenadians who identified with Africa.”

He said that in 1971 many African countries, including Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau were still fighting for their liberation, but because of their struggles, these countries are liberated today.

“Some of these countries which went on the battlefield lost many of their soldiers, but many of them knew that their blood will be used as fertiliser for the struggle,” he said.

Speaking about the apartheid system, he said it was but a child of imperialism and it was through imperialism that apartheid came to Africa.

The moving of millions of Africans in carts and trucks to special reserves called “homelands” was very dehumanising, he said.

Present at the rally were Minister of National Mobilisation Selwyn Strachan, Minister of Health Christopher De Riggs, Grenada's High Commissioner to London Fennis Augustine, Rickey Parris of the Barbados Peace Council and John Diabour, an African working with the Department of Sports in the Ministry of Education here.

Min. Strachan said that the kinds of improvement here that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has been trying to bring about are similar to those taking place in the free countries of Southern Africa.

"Since 1979 the imperialists have been going all out to prevent the process from going forward, but the people of Southern Africa and Grenada will never surrender," he said.

He said that the PRG and the NJM have embarked on a major task of preparing for the fifth anniversary of the Revolution. "Since the Revolution will be five years old next March, we believe it is important to prepare for that historic occasion now.

"We have to sit down and analyse carefully where we have made progress, where we have made little progress and where we have failed," he said.

One of the projects in preparing for the next anniversary is the Fifth Anniversary Community Project, which will repair very bad roads throughout the country, he said.

The project has already begun working on the New Hampshire, Woburn, La Borie and Shenda roads in St. George's.

Min. Strachan also urged workers to take their workers' education classes more seriously and to join the adult education programme of the Centre for Popular Education (CPE).

The minister also called upon Grenadians to step up their participation in defense of the Revolution, adding that "if we do not take defense seriously, all our gains over the last four years will be lost."

Solidarity messages were delivered by representatives of the Agricultural and General Workers' Union, National Youth Organisation, National Women's Organisation and the Productive Farmers' Union.

Poems were read by Wayne Andall of Victoria, St. Mark's, and Denis Branch of St. George's.

Parris in a short address, said that it is important to give full support to liberation struggles if the imperialist military threat was to be beaten back.

"Every blow struck for liberation touches every man and woman in our society," he said, adding: "Revolution ends that process of exploitation."

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## Afro-America and Afro-Britain

### Introduction

*Revolutionary Grenada was unique among English-speaking Caribbean nations in its outspokenness on racism in Britain and North America. The Afro-British population, in particular, is primarily of West Indian origin and its problems would seem of obvious concern to governments and media in the home countries. Yet this has usually not been the case.*

*The NJM leadership contained several persons who as university students were active in Black metropolitan communities. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in England; Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard in England and the United States; Minister of Education Jacqueline Creft in Canada; Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman in the United States—all of these and others had served their political apprenticeship as activists in Black communities in the metropolis. Their knowledge of racism in these countries was intimate. And unlike other West Indian politicians of similar background, they did not forget their metropolitan experiences on the way back home to the Caribbean. Denunciations of British and North American racism were especially severe during the first two years of the revolution.*

*From the perspective of the United States, Grenada's stand on this subject was especially threatening, since Grenada represented something new—a revolutionary Black, English-speaking country enjoying considerable prestige in Afro-America and situated on Uncle Sam's doorstep (if not in his backyard). As a member of a visiting Afro-American delegation put it, "Grenada is an inspiration to us. We need a victory every now and then, and this is definitely one."*

### BLACK LAWYERS DEFEND GRENADA

The National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) of North America has called on U.S. President Ronald Reagan "to cease and desist immediately

from all attempts to undermine the popularly-supported government of Grenada."

In a letter to Reagan the NCBL said it was "a violation" of international law and self-determination. "to exert political and economic pressures which constitute deliberate interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state."

The NCBL comprises 1,500 black lawyers and judges from throughout the U.S., Canada and the Virgin Islands.

It told Reagan it "is gravely concerned about efforts by representatives of your administration, which were directed at the undermining of a meeting" sponsored by the European Economic Community in Brussels in mid-April, to discuss financial assistance for the construction of the international airport.

The airport, the NCBL said, "is a major development project by the PRG to stimulate economic activity through tourism and to lay the basis for future self-sustaining economic growth and development."

Rather than impede the PRG's efforts "to develop an economy that will benefit the majority of the people," the NCBL said the U.S. "should lend its assistance to bring those efforts to fruition."

*FWI*, May 9, 1981

### PM LASHES U.K.'S RACIST BILL

The moves by Britain's Thatcher government to pass the Nationality Bill have come in for criticism from many Caribbean governments, including Grenada.

This brand new attempt to legalise and institutionalise British racism came in for attack from Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in his feature address at the May Day rally, in Queen's Park.

"At exactly the same time that we are ending police brutality, and discrimination against women, and removing all traces of racism from our country, there are big countries around the world that are moving to institutionalize racism and police brutality," he said.

PM Bishop pointed to the efforts by Britain's Conservative Party to pass the Bill, which he said "will ensure deep and tremendous discrimination against blacks and other ethnic and racial minorities living in the United Kingdom."

Under this bill, he explained, those people who formerly had the right to regard themselves as citizens of the U.K., who had the right

to a passport and security, who were either born, had grown up or lived in the U.K., are now discovering that "the rules have been changed overnight."

"And the rules are being changed in such a way that millions of Third World people in the Commonwealth will now find themselves stateless," he said.

"Many of them will discover that they are being discriminated against because of the simple reason that they don't happen to look like the original British, regardless of what contribution they have made to that country," he added.

He urged the workers and the people of Grenada to reflect on these things, which forcefully reminds us that in our country these principles no longer apply."

"Half the time when what they call race riots take place in countries such as England, what it really represents is a serious act of resistance on the part of people who regard themselves as colonized second-class citizens who have no chance to fight back," he pointed out.

PM Bishop said that was one of the reasons behind the Brixton uprising, by thousands of blacks living in the Brixton ghetto without work, facing daily police brutality, facing arbitrary arrest or being picked up on "suspicion."

"These people, together with the poor whites in Brixton, got together and showed serious and massive resistance," he said.

He also referred to the recent situation in Lewisham, again in England, when more than 14 Caribbean children at a party were murdered by a fire-bomb thrown in the house. "Again, the Third World people living in the area came out in massive protest," he said.

These people, he continued, have not only been in the forefront of building these countries, but have also been in the forefront of fighting for their rights, always resisting oppression, victimization and racism "whenever it shows its ugly face."

PM Bishop also called on the workers and the people of Grenada to reflect on the situation in Atlanta, in the United States, where 26 young black children have been murdered in the past few months.

"Those children were murdered simply because they were allowed to go on the streets—a right that they have—and simply because they appear to have the wrong colour," he said.

"Yet, notwithstanding the mighty apparatus and mighty resources of the United States, after all these months, no justice has been done," he added.

But it is this same big and powerful country, which has been able to keep what former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young described as "political prisoners," and which practices so much racism against ethnic and racial minorities, that can nevertheless find the time to try to squeeze the poor and working people throughout the world who are fighting for their own liberation and social progress, he said.

*FWI*, May 9, 1981

### EXPOSED U.S. PLAN TO WEAKEN BLACKS

A leaked presidential review memorandum about the U.S. black movement and black Africa, is causing outrage in the United States.

The top secret memorandum from the National Security Council's Interdepartmental Group for Africa, is signed by the most powerful man in U.S. President James Carter's administration—national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski.

And it may well cost Carter the black vote and the election. For if Carter is to retain the presidency, he must hold on to the black votes, which won him it in the first place.

The White House, of course, has disclaimed the document. They claim it is a forgery, but admit "it has all the earmarks of a very professional job." It was "prepared with some skill and care," certain phrases it uses were "in current or common usage on such papers," and it is often racist in tone.

The memorandum dated March 17, 1978, discusses U.S. interests in Africa, and the means of securing these interests, which it states are both political and economic.

Black Africa is important to the U.S., it says, as "an outlet for U.S. exports and investments. The mineral resources of the area continue to be of great value for the normal functioning of industry in the United States and allied countries.

"In 1977, U.S. direct investment in black Africa totalled about \$1.8 billion and exports \$2.2 billion. New prospects of substantial profit would continue," the memorandum says.

U.S. policy toward black Africa, it notes, "is to prevent social upheavals which could radically change the political situation throughout the area."

It fears the West "many face a real danger of being deprived of access to the enormous raw material resources of Southern Africa, which are vital for our defense needs, as well as losing control over the Cape sea routes,

by which approximately 65 per cent of Middle Eastern oil is supplied to Western Europe."

A main threat to U.S. interests, the memorandum says, would be having Zaire, for example, go "the way of Angola and Mozambique" and having the nationalist liberative movement in black Africa stimulate organisational consolidation and sympathetic activity in the 25-million strong American black community.

Such joint actions, it predicts, "could include protest demonstrations against our policy toward South Africa, accompanied by demands for boycotting corporations and banks which maintain links with that country; attempts to establish a permanent black lobby in Congress, including active leftist radical groups and black legislators; the reemergence of pan-African ideals; and resumption of protest marches recalling the days of Martin Luther King."

The memorandum notes that . . . "this may lead to critical differences between the United States and the Third World, in general, and between the U.S. and black Africa, in particular."

To head off this threat to U.S. interests, the memorandum recommends steps to weaken the U.S. black community and to isolate it from black progressive Africa.

It suggests that "special clandestine operations should be launched by the CIA, to generate mistrust and hostility in American and world opinion against joint activity of the two forces, and to cause division among black African radical groups and their leaders."

Moreover, "the FBI should mount surveillance operations against black African representatives and collect sensitive information on those, especially at the UN, who oppose U.S. policy toward South Africa.

"The information should include facts on their links with the leaders of the black movement in the U.S., thus making possible at least partial neutralization of the adverse effects of their activity."

The memorandum analyses the present stage of the black movement in the U.S., noting its weaknesses as fragmentation, lack of organisational unity, sharp social stratification and "want of a national leader of standing comparable to that of Martin Luther King."

Then it sets out to aggravate these weaknesses. Its "range of policy options" include calls for special programmes designed:

- \* to perpetuate divisions in the black movement; to neutralise the most active groups, of leftist radical orientation, and to diminish their influence among blacks; to stimulate dissension and hostility between organisations



representing different social strata of the black community; to encourage divisions in black circles.

\* to preserve the present climate which inhibits the emergence from within the black leadership of a personality capable of exerting nationwide appeal.

\* to work out and realize preventive operations in order to impede durable ties between U.S. black organisations and radical groups in African states.

\* to support actions designed to sharpen social stratification in the black community, which would lead to the widening and perpetuation of the gap between the successful educated blacks and the poor, giving rise to growing antagonism between different black groups and weakening the movement as a whole.

\* to facilitate the greatest possible expansion of black business by granting government contracts and loans on favourable terms to black businessmen.

\* to take every possible measure through the (American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organisations) AFL-CIO leaders to counteract the increasing influence of black labour organisations which function in all major unions, in particular the National Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and its leadership, including the creation of real preconditions for adverse and hostile reaction among white trade unionists to demands for improvement of social and economic welfare of the blacks.

\* to support the nomination at federal and local levels of loyal black public figures to elective offices, to government agencies and the courts. This would promote the achievement of a two-fold purpose: first, it would be easier to control the activity of loyal black representatives within existing institutions; second, the idea of an independent black political party, now under discussion within black leadership circles, would soon lose all support.

Despite Carter's professed ignorance of the document, its policies do seem to have been effected. Since it was written two years ago, the black community has become further fragmented, no national leader has emerged and no independent black political party has come about.

*FWI, October 25, 1980*

### ANTI-CAPITALIST BLACK PARTY FORMED IN U.S.

Once again, black people in the United States are responding to stepped up repression, isolation, and the chronic unemployment which are the major features of their lives, by a new surge of political organisation.

This time, it is the forming of a new National Black Independent Party (NBIP). At its founding congress in Chicago, Illinois, in August, delegates representing over 1600 members came from 33 cities across the country. There were industrial workers, teachers, students, professionals, and long-time community organisers: a cross-section of the black community nationwide.

Addressing the Congress, the Rev. Ben Chavis (himself a victim of Ku Klux Klan terror in North Carolina) stated: "We must build a mass-based party from the bottom up in the interests of black liberation. If we do not organise black people nobody else will."

Reflecting the state of emergency in which the black community now finds itself, the NBIP's preamble states: "We aim to attain power to transform radically the present social-economic order, that is to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalist exploitation."

While traditional civil rights organisations in the U.S., such as the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the Urban League, and others still view politics within the framework of reforming the Democratic and Republican parties, NBIP's development has made a clear and unequivocal break with the capitalist system.

On international relations, the party is equally clear. NBIP stands committed to "support the heroic and just struggles of the people of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean against colonialism and neo-colonialism and for freedom, national liberation, self-determination, sovereignty, and independence."

In the context of President Ronald Reagan's new militarism, the party's program rejects the administration's policy of preparing new Vietnams. Specifically, it states, "we believe that no black person should be forced to fight in an imperialist war of aggression for the U.S. against people who are oppressed and fighting for freedom as we are here in the U.S."

The NBIP's founding at this time is of particular importance to countries like Grenada. It increases the ranks of our allies at the centre of the world imperialist system; it demonstrates to the world that the capitalist pattern of development brings no benefits and, indeed, inflicts great hardships on the masses of its people; and it is proof positive that no matter how many individual black leaders are assassinated, jailed, or co-opted by the U.S. government, the movement of those suffering at the bottom cannot be extinguished.

*FWI, September 26, 1981*

### GRENADA IS VICTORY WE NEED, SAY U.S. BLACKS

"The decade of the 1980s is decisive for us," agreed the 25 members of the National Black United Front (NBUF) of the U.S.A., visiting Grenada on a solidarity tour.

As organisers in the black communities where they live, they pinpointed both the objective and subjective factors conditioning their attempts to forge a unified progressive movement in the U.S.A. at this time.

Although many blacks have been brainwashed by the media into identifying with and believing in the U.S. system and many others are inactive because they fear losing their jobs or their lives if they get involved in organising for radical change, they said, most realize that "time is running out."

Adeyemi Bandele, leader of the NBUF tour, said, "while the U.S. government is spending billions on bombs, they're closing down hospitals in Harlem. Our bread, our butter, and our lives are at stake.

"As pressure mounts and capitalism is unable to resolve its own internal crisis, he continued, more brothers and sisters are drawn into the struggle. Once in the struggle, they're there."

Reflecting on the lessons that black people in the U.S. have learned from the last 20 years of battles for democratic rights, electoral power, and economic justice, members of the group agreed that today, political consciousness among the masses of blacks is higher.

"It's no longer enough to be black," they said. "You must also understand that it is the whole system that needs to be attacked. We used to look just to individual leaders for direction; now leaders are rising up and coming forward from the masses in collective forms at grass-roots levels."

In this connection, they said, "Grenada is an inspiration to us. We need a victory every now and then, and this is definitely one. When more black people in the U.S. learn the truth about the process being built here and, even better, come to see for themselves, they will be strengthened in their own work and see what is possible more clearly."

Since the 1960s, there has been no national focus for the U.S. black movement. But now conditions are forcing this to change. "We either get out a programme together, or we won't survive." For this reason, Bro. Bandele stated "NBUF is especially important."

Since its formation in June 1980, its growth has been constant. A large part of the reason for this, he continued, is that "it is the only national black organisation with a consistent and progressive international posture."

"Not since the Black Panthers were infiltrated and its most impressive leaders were killed by agents of the U.S. Government has any group had a clear policy or programme to combat apartheid, Zionism, or the global effect of Yankee imperialism in the Third World."

"We, in NBUF, consider this a priority. In large part, that is why we are here. We must make those connections."

A central commitment arising out of the group's stay in Grenada is to publicise the positive revolutionary developments occurring here.

NBUF's future plans to make this commitment a reality involve organising national forums on Grenada in the U.S., educating the people about U.S. invasion plans, using their organ "Black News" and other black newspapers and radio stations, such as WLIB in New York, for consistent coverage on Grenada, and pressuring the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus to mobilise public opinion to halt U.S. intervention and economic sabotage.

"Just as Grenada has set an important example in the international community by speaking out on the situation of black people in the U.S.," they said, "so we must follow that example in our home communities and wake up North American blacks to the situation here."

*FWI, September 5, 1983*

### U.S. CONGRESSMAN SUPPORTS AIRPORT

United States Congressman, Major Owens, ended a three-day official visit here yesterday, during which he met Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and other People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) ministers and officials.

Rep. Owens told the press that his visit came out of his concern over U.S. President Ronald Reagan's claims that Grenada is a threat to U.S. national security, because of the international airport being built at Point Salines with Cuban help.

At the very beginning of his visit, he said, he became aware of the genuine need for the international airport. His party was due to arrive in Grenada Tuesday evening, but because of the lateness of their flight, and because there are no night-landing facilities at Pearl's Airport, he could not get a flight to Grenada, and had to overnight in Barbados.

Rep. Owens, in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past seven months, said he represents a district in Brooklyn, New York, where many Grenadians and other West Indian emigrants live. He wants to be able to go back and answer all their questions about Grenada, he said.



His interest in visiting Grenada, he said, was heightened by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's successful 11-day visit to the U.S. last month. He was very impressed by his meeting with the PM and by what he learnt from him about this country.

While here, Rep. Owens toured the international airport site and visited a number of socio-economic projects undertaken by the PRG, such as the Mt. Hartman Genetic and Livestock Development Farm, the Grand Anse Housing Project, the Sandino Industrial Complex and the Agro-Industries Factory in True Blue.

Accompanying him was the Reverend Herbert Daughtry, chairman of the National Black United Front (NBUF) of the U.S.

Rep. Owens said that as a member of the U.S. House, he would like to help put a stop to the Reagan administration's errors about Grenada.

He was very impressed, he said, by the PRG's policy of involving the people in the decision-making process, its success in reducing unemployment and its fight against illiteracy.

Rep. Owens has also been serving in the New York Senate for the past eight years.

He is the fourth U.S. Congressman to have visited Grenada since the March 13, 1979 Revolution. The others were Reps. John Conyers and George Crockett of Michigan and Ron Dellums of California.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Clairborne Pell, senior Democratic Party member of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, has objected to the Reagan administration's failure to move to normalise relations with Grenada.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last month, Pell urged the U.S. to establish full diplomatic relations with Grenada.

Pell next put his call for normal relations to the Senate floor, at a committee hearing.

FWI, July 9, 1983

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## Internationalism

### Introduction

*In the tradition of many twentieth century revolutions, Grenada emphasized the value of "proletarian internationalism." Progressive people from around the world were attracted to the country. Progressive and left groups of all description found their way there to see what was going on and to offer solidarity. Governments, notably Cuban, sponsored internationalist workers. Many, however, came on their own. Some sacrificed jobs and careers elsewhere for a chance to work in a revolutionary environment. Grenada sponsored its own first internationalists to Nicaragua in 1981.*

*International solidarity conferences also played a role in Grenada's diplomatic offensive against attempts at isolation by the United States. Several of these took place, sponsored both by Grenada and by foreign organizations.*

### GRENADA IS NOT ALONE

The deserved praise directed at Cuban workers in Grenada often neglects an equally important internationalist display of collective revolutionary solidarity and sacrifice. Grenada's revolutionary process is being aided by peoples from all of the earth's continents.

They come from close-up, a 20 minute LIAT flight away, and from far away places requiring hours of flying time. All have similar purposes: to lend tangible support to Grenadians, and to take instruction from the masses.

They come, not as aloof "experts," but as those with specialized skills and deep enthusiasm to offer, and much knowledge to gain.

Grenada's expanding revolutionary democracy has international importance for the global anti-imperialist struggle, and for peace, regional security

and working class emancipation. Its inspirational emphasis on progressive social development, creative self-reliance and international solidarity has attracted many international workers and visitors.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop repeatedly stresses: "Come and see for yourself." And this is impressively happening. Folks are not only watching, but are experiencing social and psychological transformations by being in one of the "little giants."

Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that nothing is more beautiful than a people building their revolution. That beauty extends to all such builders. In this "big revolution in a small country," a wonderful experiment is taking place. An irreversible multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-racial and multi-national atmosphere exists that is unique to the English-speaking Caribbean. It is history-making.

Throughout all of this, there is a commitment to and practice of working class leadership. True, the Revolution has an essential internationalist dimension, but not at the expense of Grenadians' themselves organizing and leading the process. Hence, there is no room for propaganda to manoeuvre that "foreigners are running things."

In the Revolution's first year, mainly Caribbean progressives came to lend assistance. Since then, comrades have increasingly come also from non-Caribbean countries whose peoples are willing to sacrifice their jobs, apartments, studies and otherwise interrupt their previous activities.

Free Grenada has had workers lending revolutionary assistance from such places as Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana, Canada, the U.S.A., India, Pakistan, France, England, Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria, Australia and Suriname.

These devoted internationalists are making sacrificial and deeply appreciated contributions in countless PRG projects and ministries. They may be seen in agriculture, education, external affairs, communications, legal affairs, construction, public works, agro-industries, health, in offices, in the streets and in the fields.

A vital aspect of their work involves transmitting skills through in-service or other training programmes whose purpose is to consolidate and expand the economy. Consequently, Grenadians are building their badly-needed infrastructure which serves as the basis for economic transformation and greater productivity.

Some internationalist workers are volunteers. Others are on government contracts. Still others are on loan from their governments or jobs. Some have resigned former positions. All could be earning large salaries elsewhere or living bourgeois life-styles in metropolitan countries. Yet all testify to having had our lives changed and fulfilled by being here.

We regard it as a duty, privilege and immeasurable joy to be in Free Grenada. We have developed a deeper sense of purpose in helping to advance the Caribbean revolutionary process. We recognize that by so doing, we also aid progressive struggles elsewhere.

The Revolution has taught us that change is possible, that apathy and indiscipline are destructive. We know that as Grenada makes it, then so too will other struggling peoples. By aiding Grenada, we aid ourselves.

For us, as internationalist workers, Free Grenada is indeed our home. With humility and love, by our work and acceptance here, we are learning that the only "foreigners" are those who exploit.

All of us are being socially integrated more and more each day. The sharing of our cultures is an added personal and social benefit. Because of the Revolution's popular base, there is no sense of mythical "outside agitators taking over," or resentment against non-Grenadians.

As we enter the third year of people's democracy, our daily work routine firmly convinces us that we are not "outsiders," but "insiders," brothers and sisters in the practical revolutionary senses of these bonds. And we have learned to be better and truer patriots.

As Fidel put it, internationalism is one way of repaying our debt to humanity. For us, "forward ever, backward never" is a living reality.

*FWI, March 13, 1981*

### WALTER RODNEY VISITS

Bro. Walter Rodney, well-known Guyanese historian and political activist has been in Grenada over the last few days.

Dr. Rodney on Tuesday gave a talk at the Anglican (Hindsey) School about the liberation process in Southern Africa.

The talk was so well attended by the public that many people could not get inside to hear Bro. Rodney.

This was the first time in years that such a meeting could be held publicly with the use of the microphone and be advertised on the National Radio Station.

*FWI, June 16, 1979*

### REVO BELONGS TO CARIBBEAN

Minister of Legal Affairs and Fisheries Kenrick Radix asserted that Marcus Garvey was a prophet and struggler for equality and justice for the black masses. The Revolution's goals were also equality and justice for the

majority of Grenadians, he said, noting that the "Revolution has rejected racism and colonialism."

On the U.S. invasion threat, Bro. Radix said the U.S. was "terrorist" in outlook and was using technology to frighten the people. He noted thousands of Grenadians had come out, thus demonstrating that we are "militant, conscious, united. The people are not afraid and are prepared."

Vice-president of the Media Workers Association of Free Grenada (MWAFG), Don Rojas, FWI's editor, said MWAFG "forcefully condemns the present U.S. military manoeuvres" noting the "concrete evidence" to show that the U.S. intends to invade Grenada. He referred to the Reagan administration's action as a most "vulgar, obscene display of international misbehaviour." Bro. Rojas quoted Garvey as saying "no ruling class will give up power willingly" and in today's context, he stressed, "imperialism through propaganda and economic sabotage was trying to turn back the Revolution."

Executive member of the UK branch of the People's Progressive Party, and of the Caribbean Labour Solidarity Movement (CLSM), Mongol Singh, affirmed that the Grenada Revolution was not only for the people of Grenada but belonged to "millions of oppressed people of the world." He emphasised that, "if they touch this island, they will have to touch all the other sister islands." His speech received thunderous applause from the crowd who sang, "Oh when they come, oh when the Yankee soldiers come, we will be in the frontline."

The general secretary of the Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) Dr. Bill Riviere asserted that the "revolutionary forces in Dominica were in total support of Free Grenada." He commented that the "Revolution here is as much the revolution of Dominica, the Caribbean, of the Third World Revolution, and worldwide," noting that the oppressed people of the world share the common historical experience of colonialism and neo-colonialism.

He said oppressed people world-wide had identified the common enemy, U.S. imperialism. His speech was punctuated with spontaneous applause, clapping and singing of various anti-imperialist songs.

Leader of the People's Progressive Movement, Bobby Clarke, commented that the Grenada Revolution would eventually "embrace the whole of the Caribbean." He referred to the Cuban Revolution in 1959 as the first major triumph which "sticks in the throat of U.S. imperialism." Comrade Clarke underscored the fact that the PPM would "react with violence, the only language the U.S.A. understands, when the Revolution is touched."

Nicaraguan Ambassador Marco Val Martinez, noted that while imperialism is strong and a threat to the Grenada Revolution, "never can it be great and strong as our two people." He asserted that Cuba and Nicaragua were alongside the people of Grenada in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and hoped that Grenada would continue to be "an example for other people."

*FWI, August 29, 1981*

### FIRST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA

Final declaration of First International Solidarity Conference with the People of Grenada:

"We the delegates to the First International Solidarity Conference with Grenada, representing countries from all parts of the world and meeting in St. George's from November 23 to 25, 1981, express our profound gratitude for the warmth, friendship and hospitality of the Grenadian people.

"After observing and experiencing the revolutionary process taking place in Grenada, we proudly declare our unshakeable solidarity with the revolutionary people and Government of Grenada.

"We acclaim and proclaim the enthusiastic involvement of the people of Grenada as an expression of people's democracy through the creation and growth of institutions and organisations such as Zonal and Workers' Parish Councils, the National Women's Organisation, the National Youth Organisation and the young Pioneers and other mass organisations.

"We have witnessed the participation and support of the masses of the people of Grenada for the programmes of the Revolution under the courageous, committed and inspiring leadership of Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement.

"We have recognised and appreciated that despite the fact that Grenada is an under-developed country which was devastated by the corrupt Gairy dictatorship, that despite the propaganda and economic destabilisation of U.S. imperialism, the Grenada Revolution, after only two years and eight months, has been able to achieve free education for all the people at all levels, free and improved medical and health care, the creation of over 2,500 jobs, the establishment of significant agro-industries, is successfully combatting and eliminating illiteracy, has established a modern fishing industry, has firmly and clearly expanded workers' rights and the right of trade unions, has given new dignity to workers through equal pay for equal

work, and fully paid maternity leave for all working women, has developed co-operatives for unemployed youth and women mainly, and has created new benefits for farmers.

"The Grenada Revolution has fought inflation through the Marketing and National Import Board by lowering the prices of essential goods and, among other things too numerous to mention, is constructing a new international airport which will advance the development of all sectors of the Grenadian society.

"We have noted the many threats of aggression, the several military manoeuvres conducted in the region and the world, the dangerous promotion of the arms race by the war-mongering Reagan Administration.

"We see all this as a deliberate and calculated attempt by U.S. imperialism to intervene in and to set back the great progress by the people of Grenada, Nicaragua and Cuba and the heroic struggles of El Salvador and other parts of the world.

"The Conference strongly denounces this policy of the Reagan Administration, which threatens world peace and stands firmly with the people in the struggle for their rights to economic and social justice and self-determination.

"The conference expresses its firm solidarity with the struggle of the people of the world against racism, colonialism, apartheid, zionism and fascism, and acknowledges and reaffirms the rights of all peoples to national independence and to choose their own economic, social and political system.

"The conference gives its fullest support to the efforts of all peace-loving countries to achieve disarmament, detente, co-operation and the preservation of world peace.

"We unanimously resolve to combat the campaign of lies and distortion against the Grenada Revolution and to provide and widely disseminate information about the great achievements and triumphs of the people of Grenada.

"We pledge ourselves to give all possible assistance to ensure the advance and development of the Grenada Revolution.

"We commit ourselves to defend Grenada against all threats and aggression and firmly resolve to establish friendship societies and solidarity committees in our respective countries to expose the reality and express our militant support for the Grenada Revolution.

"We also pledge to give the fullest possible publicity to this document."

*FWI, November 28, 1981*

## SPREAD THE WORD, SAYS C.L.R. JAMES

What will be the future of Grenada and what will it be able to do?

Trinidad-born historian and political activist C.L.R. James offered his answers to these momentous questions and discussed the steps he feels all Caribbean nations must take if they are to survive individually and as a region.

"Things cannot continue like this until 1990," he said.

Grenada, Barbados, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Martinique and the other nations of the region are but "small and geographically and economically insignificant islands," the 79-year-old James explained during his visit to Grenada this week.

These insignificant geographical territories must unite in some sort of Caribbean federation, James said.

"Not a federation like the one attempted in 1958. That was written in the colonial office in London," he said adding: "That wasn't a federation. It was a British crown colony get-together, a Caribbean calypso callalou."

### Socialist

James explained that the federation he envisions must be socialist, and it must get rid of all these little elitest special governments, which are doing nothing but continuing what the imperialists left behind.

"What new have they introduced?" he asked. "Manley is the only one who is trying to do something, and Grenada has introduced something new."

Unlike other nations in the region, Grenada is not a former colonial territory that is dressed up as an independent one, James remarked.

"Grenada has started a new orientation. Manley is trying to get a new one—that is what he means by democratic socialism."

"The other nations are drifting along just as they were," James said. "They have flags of independence; they have prime ministers; they have national anthems; but they are still economically and socially structured as colonial territories.

"That's what they have to get out of, he said emphatically. "And the only thing I think can get them out is a Caribbean federation."

Not only must the federation be socialist, James declared, "To have some future, it must begin with Cuba." Cuba is not now considered a part of the Caribbean, but a federation must begin with it, James believes.

The next nation to join must be Haiti, then the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica, he said giving a structural analysis. "Then we'll come down to the smaller islands, particularly Martinique and Guadeloupe."

As for Guadeloupe and Martinique's saying they are provinces of France, James countered: "What kind of nonsense is that?"

"They're Caribbean and they belong to a Caribbean federation," he said flatly.

The federation should comprise Trinidad and all the other islands, James went on.

"I've spoken to the boys from the Guianas," he added, "and they want to be part of the Caribbean, too."

"They don't want to get mixed up with Brazil and Argentina and all of those. They'll get lost there."

Regarding the prospect of federation under the present governments, James said: "I don't believe the present unions can unite. That's why I am so opposed to them."

"They have no sense of the future," he added disgustedly.

James admitted his vision of the federation may sound idealistic now, but he said it was no more utopian than Garvey, Padmore and DuBois must have sounded in 1935, when they spoke of a politically-independent Africa.

James argued that the stepped-up aggression by imperialist powers will not be a big problem in the move to federation, provided the local leadership has got the mass of the population behind it.

In that case, he predicts, the Americans will have to kill half the population.

Existing conditions necessitate that the people remove leaders like Gairy. "No objective conditions are known," James said. "The Caribbean simply cannot continue as it is."

Summing up the state of the region, James quoted a 16-year-old passage from his book "Spheres of Existence," which was reprinted with two other of his books in London this month. He read: "The position does not imperatively or inescapably demand revolutionary measures . . . such as took place in France in 1791 or Cuba in 1958."

It may call for such action," James interjected, "but I don't begin with that."

He continued: "Many elements both at home and abroad recognise the explosive character of the Caribbean scene. Many elements know it can't go on this way. Many people in the islands and elsewhere know that something's going to happen."

James advised Grenadians to spread the history of their revolution around. He does not believe enough people in the region know how the New Jewel Movement was founded, what it went through, and how it seized the power by seizing the time.

"This is the message I want to bring to the people of Grenada—a revolutionary people who've broken away from the old strings and entanglements and are going into the deep," James said.

"I am looking to them to play a great role in as much as they have broken the bonds."

FWI, August 2, 1980

### FEWER ARMS HERE THAN IN CHICAGO, SAYS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

In U.S. presidential elections it is often the relatively unknown third-party candidate who clarifies issues and challenges the imperial twins, the Democratic and Republican parties to take a stand.

Andrew Pulley is the Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) candidate for the presidency, in the November elections. And recently he visited Grenada to see the revolution firsthand and to help beat the imperialist slander campaign against progressive nations.

"What I've found here has been extremely inspiring and impressive, Bro. Pulley said, noting the greater availability of medical care, the creation of 2,500 jobs within the last year, and the standard of the education system.

"All of these speak very well for the future, contrary to what the U.S. press has been reporting," he said. "I've seen fewer people armed here than I've seen in an area of Chicago any given day."

Bro. Pulley theorises that the purpose of the media attacks on Grenada is to make the average U.S. citizen hate this country so he'll accept whatever criminal and terrorist activity the U.S. government may perpetrate.

This is particularly true for the black communities, which would readily identify with the ongoing progressive movements in Grenada, if they knew the truth, he said.

The SWP platform is raising many key issues, Bro. Pulley said. "One is the whole question of the military drive—its intentions to build up a big army to police the capitalist world and overturn the socialist revolutions that have taken place."

His party challenges the increased military budget in the U.S. and demands that proposals to reintroduce the draft be scrapped.

The SWP is against stepped-up military interference in the Caribbean, too. Specifically it demands that Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada be left alone; that adequate aid be sent to Nicaragua to compensate for U.S. supported damage done by the Somoza dictatorship; and that Guantanamo be returned to the Cuban people.

On the domestic front, things are rapidly deteriorating, Bro. Pulley said. Although the U.S. still boasts one of the highest standards of living, American workers have been squeezed economically and more than nine million people are out of work.

"Half of the young people in the black and Hispanic communities are permanently unemployed," he said.

Besides unemployment, Bro. Pulley explained, the inflation rate which now stands at 15 to 16 per cent means the average person is hard put to afford adequate housing, food and medicine.

SWP is committed to the nationalization of the oil industry, too. Companies like Exxon make more money than many nations," he said. "In one year they made \$4.2 billion, and it was due to one of the greatest swindles ever perpetrated, a manufactured energy shortage."

"The anti-draft movement is important here, not only because it speaks out against war, but because it recognises that any war is designed to benefit the oil companies and a few millionaires and billionaires."

"Thus," Bro. Pulley said, "the anti-war and anti-draft slogan now is: 'We won't go; we won't fight for Texaco—or Exxon!'"

SWP also stands firmly committed to the women's movement in the United States and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Though it receives less than its share of press coverage in the U.S., SWP is one of the largest left parties there. In 1976, it got 100,000 votes throughout the country. This November, Bro. Pulley's name will be on the ballot in 31 of the 50 states, but he expects no better press coverage.

As a black, born in the south, Pulley's political education began with racism. As a youth, he began recognising a lot of injustices, but it wasn't until he went into the army and met some socialists who put those injustices into scientific perspective that he feels his most important political education began.

Eventually, he was kicked out the armed forces for handing out anti-war and socialist literature.

Bro. Pulley has returned to the U.S. to continue the struggle inside the belly of the beast. As he campaigns, he said, he will tell the truth about the Grenada revolution and share the peoples' messages of solidarity.

*FWI, August 23, 1980*

## ANGELA ENJOYS THE JAB-JABS

Angela Davis is back in Grenada.

Coming in last Sunday from the United States, the black activist was in time for the Dimanche Gras show and the other Carnival activities. On J'Ouvert morning, she could have been seen moving through the crowd and taking photographs of the "jab-jabs" and other old mas' bands and individuals. She attended the pageant on Monday afternoon and saw the parade of the bands on Tuesday.

Grenada's carnival, she said, was one of the most fascinating experiences she has ever had. She had never experienced so much fun and festivity in an organised way, while still feeling safe, she said.

Although Sis. Davis had never seen jab-jabs before, she didn't feel threatened by them, she said. She moved around freely and some of the jab-jab dirt came off on her and her sister Fania.

She compared her experiences here with those in the U.S., where, she said, whenever so many people came together, there would be fights and pickpockets.

Here with her sister, mother and 12 other family members, Sis. Davis described this as a political holiday, which will last two weeks. She explained that she didn't see much of Grenada while she was here last March for International Women's Day celebrations, and would take the opportunity to do so now.

Accompanying her is Fannie Haughton, a close friend, who has taught for 15 years and is now training teachers. With Sis. Davis's mother, who has taught for 30 years, she will assist the Ministry of Education, while here.

Commenting on the struggle in the U.S., Sis. Davis said that although there has been a backward movement since 1971, when she was arrested, and particularly with Ronald Reagan's election, which saw racism on the increase with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the threat of nuclear holocaust, there has also been an increase in the level of consciousness of the U.S. people, and there is now greater potential for organised struggle.

This, she said, was because of the clearer historical direction of the entire globe, reflected in the rise of the national liberation movement within the last 10 years and the increased unity of the socialist world.

The tasks facing the Communist Party of the U.S.A., of which she is a Political Bureau member, she said, are the fights for nuclear disarmament, against racism, and decreasing unemployment, which now affects some 10 per cent of the U.S. people, and in some areas, 75 to 80 per cent of blacks.

*FWI, August 21, 1982*

### INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS TO MEET HERE

A high-level international youth and students' conference will be held in Grenada from June 27-30. The conference, sponsored by the International Union of Students, was originally planned for June 16-19, but was postponed.

The conference is being held in solidarity with the oppressed youth, students and people of South Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and will show the link between South Africa's racist apartheid regime and the fascist dictatorships in Chile and Latin America.

About 50 official representatives of youth and students' organisations all over the world are expected to attend the conference. The sessions, to be held at York House, St. George's, will be officially opened by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Many international figures are also expected to attend.

Grenada is not an official member of the organisation, but earlier this year was present as observers at an IUS conference in the German Democratic Republic.

Grenada's application for membership will be formally reviewed at the next IUS executive meeting in October.

Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, recently visited IUS headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and talked on the progress of the Grenada revolution. Bro. Coard denounced the destabilizing meddling plans promoted from abroad with U.S. government support through the CIA.

The IUS immediately reiterated its solidarity with the Grenada Revolution with a statement and letter of solidarity to the Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The statement, among other things, called on progressive youth and students the world over to support the people of Grenada in their fight against imperialist destabilization and aggression.

*FWI, June 14, 1980*

### OCLAE MEETING SUCCESSFUL

The first Consultative Meeting of the Continental Organisation of Latin American and Caribbean Students' (OCLAE) member organisations of the Caribbean, ended yesterday with an indoor rally in the St. Andrew's Junior Secondary School.

At the meeting were representatives from Barbados, Trinidad, Suriname, Guyana, OCLAE, and the International Union of Students.

OCLAE's representative, Grenadian Tarlie Francis, at the opening ceremony Thursday said the student movement in the region was included in a wave of action toward regional unity now flowing through the region, and the meeting was evidence of this.

He expressed OCLAE's commitment to democratisation of education to meet the needs and aspirations of the broad masses of students in the region, and reiterated its solidarity with students suffering under dictatorships in Latin America, and who are denied their rights to education.

The meeting reviewed OCLAE's last year's work programme, and made proposals for the coming year. It examined education and educational opportunities in the Caribbean and ways in which joint educational programmes will be implemented.

Francis said on Thursday, that OCLAE was committed to regional integration and supported bodies objecting to the proposed restructuring of the University of the West Indies.

IUS' representative Nazim Chandiraphal of Guyana, at the opening said that holding the meeting here was of great importance because Grenada's experience over the past three years can serve as an example for the student movement in the region.

Participating in the International Students' Day (ISD) celebrations here was important, he said, because the participants were able to see the extent of the enthusiasm with which students participated. ISD could only have been observed here, he said, because Grenada had a Revolution, and the state puts the interest of the youths and students in front.

He urged the students to struggle for peace and against the arms race, since it threatens their own survival.

The meeting opened at the Public Workers Centre, Tanteen, and was held at the Pope Paul's Ecumenical Centre, St. John's.

*FWI, November 20, 1982*

### AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT LEADERS IN GRENADA

Two leading members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) have described the Grenadian Revolution as "an inspiration."

Bill Means, executive director of the International Indian Treaty Council, a nongovernmental organisation at the United Nations, and Bill Wahpepah, a board member of AIM, were in Grenada for the recent Caribbean Workers' Conference.

They spoke of the present conditions under which American Indians live and AIM's struggle against the U.S. Government, to better these conditions.

AIM's main objective now, said Means, "is to try to educate the international community that we still exist."

When the white colonialists arrived in North America in the 1600s, most of the continent was occupied by Indians. But, in their greed for more land, the colonialists seized Indian lands and started destroying their hunting grounds.

Most of the Indians were forced into reservations, although, for over 200 years, they have put up a continuous, determined and legendary resistance against the white invaders.

Today, related Means, the remaining 1.5 million Indians still suffer from such diseases as tuberculosis, transmitted to them by the colonialists.

The infant mortality rate is very high and the average lifespan is approximately 47 years.

"Twenty five per cent of our women of child-bearing age have been sterilized," he said.

There are about 70 Indian reservations in the United States, all owned by the federal government, although some are managed by the states in which they are located.

Means and Wapepah are descendants of the Sioux and Kickapoo peoples respectively, and veterans of the 1973 Wounded Knee uprising.

On February 23, that year, members of AIM seized control of Wounded Knee, a small town in South Dakota, in an attempt to draw the nation's attention to Indian grievances.

They occupied the town until May 7, that year. Two people were killed by the U.S. government authorities, before the town was recaptured by Army troops.

"Massive repression was unleashed against the movement by the U.S. government after the uprising," the two observed.

However, they added: "We believe we have the right to control our own lands and be represented as Indian peoples." Land and treaty rights is an important issue in the present struggle.

Grenada, Means noted, was a small island which was successful in casting off the bonds of colonialism.

"Seeing that you don't have substantial resources, you were able to defeat some of imperialism's intrigues and manoeuvres," he said.

"The people are becoming involved in building a government from the bottom up—not from the top down.

"I am impressed by the work of the youths. And I hope many of our people can come and have a look. It's an inspiration."

*FWI, January 17, 1981*

## GRENADA'S FIRST INTERNATIONALISTS IN NICARAGUA

Grenada and Nicaragua are united, not only as revolutionary countries, but also in their efforts to improve the standards of their people.

This is best manifested in their similar efforts to bring literacy to the unfortunate people in the two countries, who have not had the opportunity to learn to read and write.

Two young Grenadian literacy teachers are now assisting Nicaragua's literacy campaign, in the Atlantic Coast town of Bluefields, where they are teaching English to the descendants of West Indians.

Spanish is the main language in Nicaragua, but the people of Bluefields speak English, since they are mainly the sons and daughters of immigrants from the days of the construction of the Panama Canal.

The campaign in Bluefields began last October, with Ceford Robertson of St. Andrew's and John Wilson of Carriacou, among the volunteer teachers. They are due back in Grenada this month.

The Nicaraguans have asked for 25 more Grenadian volunteers to continue at Bluefields, but due to the extent of work at home, CPE has not yet been able to meet this request.

The presence of Grenadian internationalists in Nicaragua is significant, as was noted by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in an address to the CPE Congress last October 18. He urged CPE volunteers to "use our own talent, experience and energy at the service of our brothers and sisters, in the region and the world, who are themselves struggling to free their countries from illiteracy."

Mentioning the two Grenadian volunteers in Nicaragua, he said their contribution is "extremely important" and was worth recognition of the congress.

Apart from the presence of the two Grenadians, CPE co-ordinator Val Cornwall also visited Nicaragua last year, where she attended the closing of the first phase of the Spanish literacy crusade. She also held discussions with members of Nicaragua's National Technical Commission.

*FWI, February 28, 1981*



Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and U.S. Ambassador Sally Shelton.



*Free West Indian*

## PART VI

# Counter-Revolution and Threats of Invasion

Cartoon attacking Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados.

Free West Indian

## THE YARD FOWL!



# 27

## Destabilization

### Introduction

*Destabilization was a constant problem for the revolution. Supporters of the old regime at home and United States hostility abroad provided a formidable alignment against the new government. The near bloodless nature of the seizure of power and the relatively small number of detainees, as far as revolutions go, made for a potentially sizeable local opposition. It can be surmised that many of this group were won over to the NJM cause as time went by. But the more intransigent elements were able to benefit from a fair amount of freedom of movement.*

*Local opposition (and perhaps hostile infiltrators) were helped by the openness of Grenadian society. Entry into Grenada was not difficult, the country still tried to attract tourists and the traditional patterns of inter-island trafficking and emigration to North America and elsewhere did not cease.*

*Destabilization took many forms. First there was violence. Some NJM supporters were ambushed and shot to pieces. In the most violent act of all prior to October 1983, a bomb exploded on June 19, 1980, under a platform where almost the entire top leadership of the People's Revolutionary Government was assembled. Three young women were killed and almost one hundred persons injured. In a pattern which sadly repeated itself in October 1983, the perpetrators of this violence aimed to kill and injure a large number of innocent people along with the NJM leadership. Persons sentenced to death in 1982 for this crime were summarily released in the wake of the U.S. invasion of 1983.*

*Economic destabilization was also severe. The hostile media of the United States, and some Caribbean territories as well, aimed at stemming the flow of tourists to Grenada. U.S. efforts to cut Grenada off from aid sources have already been mentioned. Rumourmongering was added to the list of destabilizing tactics. The frequent threats from official U.S. sources and the constant hints of imminent invasion added to the grim picture facing the PRG.*

*The PRG countered these threats by every means at its disposal, including an anti-destabilization propaganda campaign of its own and its energetic diplomatic offensive. It also strengthened its army and militia. Former CIA agents were even brought in to share their knowledge of "dirty tricks." One, Philip Agee, warned that the hand of the CIA might be anywhere, "particularly when an openly hostile U.S. policy is evident to all." His comments (reproduced here) make chilling reading in retrospect.*

### DON'T LET THEM STOP OUR PARTY

This is only the second Christmas the people of Grenada and the People's Revolutionary Government are enjoying together, in Free Grenada.

This, it is said, is the season to be jolly, for peace and good-will, exchanging gifts and making merry with food and drink a-plenty.

But peace, food and gifts do not fall freely from Heaven. They are produced and paid for by man.

In the past year, the people and the PRG have exchanged many gifts. The PRG has given money, materials and interest. And Grenada has benefited from better houses, roads, schools, health clinics, community centres, industrial plants and productive farm lands.

Gifts have come to Grenada from its new friends all over the world, from countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Libya, Iraq and Hungary, from international and regional international and regional organisations such as the Organisation of American States (OAS) and from organised supporters and individual well-wishers throughout the hemisphere.

The projects and equipment they have funded or donated have provided more services, created more jobs, kept more money circulating and, therefore, provided the extra cash for the pears, wine and dolls, this Christmas.

The land-reform programme is putting on the table more meat, fruits, and vegetables; the agro-industries local hams, salted fish, tinned juices and preserves.

Various training programmes are giving us skilled workmates and offspring; the Centre for Popular Education is turning out people who can now read and write greeting cards themselves.

The country is caught up in an expansive mood of moving forward towards a definite goal, of hope in the future, of pride in achievement.

Emulation and worker of the year awards have helped underline that pride and given new encouragement to individual initiative, creativity and conscientiousness.

It is indeed a time for showing appreciation and love.

But while we sing "Peaceful night, all is bright," let us not forget there are those around us, and in our midst, who do not wish us peace and prosperity.

There are those who bear us no love or goodwill, who do not share our joys and sorrows, and who, in fact, are awaiting the chance to cause us more grief.

They come bearing time-bombs left silently for our sisters and daughters, bullets whizzing towards the loving hearts of our sons and brothers. Their gifts to us are permanent injury, the early grave, and the destruction of our dreams.

It might be wise to reflect on who these people are and why they bear us, a warm, friendly, good-natured people, such evil.

This region is dominated by a handful of large transnational corporations, whose main interest in our countries and our peoples is making money from us.

They want our natural products and our working time and energy on the cheap, to produce fancy goods to sell back at high prices. They want to lend us money at high interest rates and under stringent conditions. They want to put in little and take out a lot, as they do throughout the region.

Anytime a country attempts to break out of their parasitic stranglehold, as revolutionary Cuba did, they see it as an example to others, and therefore as a threat to their continued power, luxury and pleasures.

They must, therefore, break that country's leaders, at any cost to life and limb. They did it to Cheddi Jagan in Guyana, Michael Manley in Jamaica. They have no qualms about doing it to little Grenada.

When our country is once again dependent and securely in their grasp, it will once again be left forgotten, neglected and run down. And the brutality and torture will again be unleashed on any native who dares complain.

So this Christmas, as at any time, beware of strange smart men bearing promises.

Some will be just waiting till we get high and carefree on wine, feasting and song, to strike us down and stop the party suddenly.

*FWI, December 20, 1980*

### THE UNSEEN HAND—THE CIA

"The CIA is employing, at this time, all the tools necessary to work against the revolutionary government of Grenada. It is not idle speculation to look for the hand of the CIA, all the time.

"As a general rule, it would be foolish not to be continually looking for the CIA hand in subversive activities against progressive movements particularly when an openly hostile U.S. policy is evident to all. It's not foolish speculation when terrorist bombs kill innocent people, or when unusual pests, blights or epidemics occur, because the CIA never sleeps and is never indifferent to political events in any country."

That advice comes from one who should know, Philip Agee, "the spy who came in from the cold" and is now visiting on a Grenadian passport.

Agee, aged 46, was secret operations officer for 12 years for what he called "a very rich, very powerful, international Mongoose Gang"—the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

A Floridian, Agee was recruited in university at age 21. Between 1957 and 1968, he served the CIA in Washington D.C.; under diplomatic cover as political attache in the U.S. embassies in Ecuador and Uruguay; and as U.S. attache for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico. "For 12 years I lived a lie," he comments.

His disaffection with the CIA started with his awareness of the poverty in Latin America, and, he said, "when I began seeing the type of people who were benefitting from my work. They were all wealthy, greedy, corrupt; not interested in any reform programmes."

It was gradual understanding of this, and of the CIA's role in serving these interests, that Agee said, "brought this disillusionment, which encouraged me to leave the CIA."

Since then Agee has devoted himself to exposing the CIA's dirty tricks and, as expected, his former bosses have not forgiven him. He has lived through attacks on his life, being followed, and having his room bugged and phone tapped. But Agee has learnt enough low dodges himself.

More unsettling is the harassment. Agee has been deported from several West European allied nations, and in December 1979, lost his U.S. passport. He now lives in West Germany, but only for as long as his wife, a resident, stays put.

The CIA, Agee said, was set up to handle U.S. secret foreign policy. Its goals are mainly to collect and analyse information so that the U.S. government knows what is happening around the world, and covert action, that is intervention in other countries. "The CIA has tried for over 20 years to manipulate institutions of power."

But the CIA doesn't act on its own, Agee said. Its activities flow from policy decisions made by the U.S. executive branch, particularly the National Security Council, chaired by the U.S. president.

Therefore, to put the CIA in the same category with other intelligence services is "to mix apples with bananas. Security services are as different as the governments and political movements they represent."

Agee explained: "The earnings of the corporations of industrialised countries depend on the best possible access to the raw materials and a docile labour force in much of the Third World."

"Among the imperialist powers, the CIA is the richest and most powerful of the secret police organisations designed to preserve the system on which the earnings of the corporations depend, and ultimately, of the owners and associated ruling groups in metropolitan areas."

Put in this context, and "of the priorities and escalation of U.S. efforts to prevent popular revolutions from occurring and, when they occur, from succeeding," Agee believes the threat of a U.S. invasion of Grenada is as real as the CIA.

"I myself worked in various Latin American countries, along with hundreds of other CIA officers, to subvert and destroy revolutionary movements."

"When I first went down to Latin America, our main job was to isolate Cuba."

"And when subversion by secret means is impossible, the only recourse is an attempt at violent overthrow of a revolutionary government."

The pattern of U.S. hostility against Grenada since the March 13, 1979 Revolution, including overt U.S. opposition to credit and loans for completion of the international airport, propaganda offensive to hurt tourism, and terrorism, Agee said, "are part and parcel of CIA tools and methods."

"The standard practice is to link up with opposition political forces or exiles, and supply them with money, training, arms and explosives, where appropriate, in addition to propaganda paraphernalia."

And, Agee commented, on the beaten themes used against the Revolution, "there's no area in which the CIA has been more effective than in promoting "free elections" and "free media." Anytime you hear that word "free" from the U.S. government, you have to be very suspicious, to look for the CIA. It means their freedom to intervene, to subvert."

"Human rights too," he said, "is often a diversionary ploy," as is "much of the preaching on pluralism. Pluralism always opens the door to the CIA and its operations."

The propaganda attempts to make Grenada look like a threat, Agee explained, "is to reduce support from its neighbours, to prepare them psychologically, and therefore, to reduce adverse reaction to U.S. aggression."

The "U.S. fear of tiny Grenada," Agee said, is actually fear of the awakening of confidence in revolutionary ideas and activities, and of the spread of the Revolution's influence, "ultimately back to the U.S. itself."

Grenada, Agee observed, "is a very open country. People come and go, with very little control."

And, since "the CIA routinely assigns people under non-official cover" it's logical that it would "assign people to live in Grenada, under any of a number of imaginable covers, to collect information and to provide support for subversive attempts within Grenada."

Their tasks would be infiltration and recruiting Grenadians who have access to PRG policy, military defence plans and areas of weakness in revolutionary organisations. "Just one, two or three people can do tremendous damage," he said.

Agee recommends a strong People's Militia as the best answer to the CIA, because "force is the only language the CIA understands."

"The militia's strength sends signals to the U.S. government and population that the cost is rising all the time, and is already too high, in terms of 'body bags' going back home."

And, Agee predicts that any U.S. invasion is doomed "because Grenada will win that struggle, both internally, and in the work of its many friends externally."

FWI, August 29, 1981

### STAY CLEAR OF AIFLD WARNS CIWU

The Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU) has called on local trade unions to stop sending members to seminars and courses sponsored by the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AIFLD).

The call was made by CIWU general secretary John "Chalkie" Ventour, in an address to the May Day rally at Queen's Park.

Earlier in the rally, Septimus Forsythe, president of the Trade Union Council (TUC), had indicated that yet another Grenadian, Christopher Strachan of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union (SFWU) would be attending an AIFLD course in trade unionism.

But Bro. Ventour who is also general secretary of the TUC, said that AIFLD has obvious connections with the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and has participated in the overthrow of several progressive governments in Latin America.

For this and other reasons, CIWU was calling for an end to AIFLD training for Grenadian trade unionists.

Bro. Ventour's charges against AIFLD are understated. AIFLD is an agitation arm of the CIA, and has helped overthrow many governments.

AIFLD's history is an impeccable record of counterrevolutionary achievements.

AIFLD was formed in 1962, as a junior partner to the AFL-CIO, an older U.S. trade union alliance formed to promote anti-communism after World War II. It is run by AFL-CIO leaders, and representatives of 70 major U.S. monopolies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean.

AFL-CIO's president, Layne Kirkland, is also AIFLD's president. And the present chairman of AIFLD's board of directors is J. Peter Grace, head of Grace and Company, which operates many corporations and banks in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The CIA connection goes back to 1955, when CIA operatives infiltrated all AFL-CIO affiliates in the U.S. and abroad. Their principal task was to engage in subversion and espionage in trade unions in other countries under CIA guidance. They gathered intelligence information, and brainwashed union members into organising strikes and coups.

With this foothold in the labour movement, the CIA then set up AIFLD.

The CIA men holding key posts in AFL-CIO and AIFLD affiliated unions aided the U.S. invasion of Guatemala in 1954, when the Jacobo Arbenz government was overthrown. And they gave generous assistance to Cuban counter-revolutionaries after the 1959 Cuban revolution.

In 1964, AIFLD helped bring down the progressive Guyana government led by the People's Progressive Party and Dr. Cheddi Jagan. And the year after, AIFLD set the trade unions in the Dominican Republic against the progressive government led by Juan Bosch.

AIFLD participated actively in engineering the overthrow of the progressive Salvador Allende government in Chile in 1973, and during the 1973-74 period, when Britain was in the grip of the crippling miners' strike, the CIA, through AFL-CIO, infiltrated over 40 agents into the British trade unions.

AFL-CIO bosses actively backed U.S. military interventions over a period in the Korean People's Democratic Republic (North Korea), Cuba, the Congo, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The basic foundation of AIFLD and AFL-CIO "seminars" and "courses" is anti-socialism, and with the growth of such ideas in the Caribbean, the region has been added to AIFLD's and AFL-CIO's international agenda.

Over the years, AIFLD has been able to penetrate trade unions in virtually every Caricom country, Grenada included.

Through its seminars, trade unionists are acquainted in the basic methods of attacking and combating the spread of progressive ideas in each island's trade union movement.

In Grenada AIFLD has been able to penetrate the SWWU. The heavy-weight in SWWU's executive Stanley Roberts, is responsible for AIFLD's training programme in the English-speaking Caribbean. SWWU's vice-president Valentino Sawney, who attended an AIFLD seminar after the Revolution, has publicly attested to the subversive nature of such courses and seminars.

And SWWU's recent efforts to encourage work stoppages by dockworkers and public workers, as well as its boycotting of the May Day celebration, attest to the reactionary nature of its AIFLD-trained leadership.

AFL-CIO's latest documented counter-revolutionary activities are in Poland, where it stepped up its activity last year. After last September's problems, AFL-CIO's council set up a "fund" for Polish workers, saying that the money would get into "the right hands."

But the American magazine, "Counterspy," recently revealed that anti-socialist literature and printing machines were being bought with the money and smuggled into Poland, while another newspaper revealed that the AFL-CIO has illegally smuggled \$165,000 (U.S.) into Poland for anti-government forces.

*FWI*, May 9, 1981

### ARMY CAMP TAKEOVER PLAN—THREE ARRESTED

Three persons were arrested Tuesday afternoon in a combined army and police operation in St. Andrew's.

Those arrested are—Kennedy Budhlall, Dennis Charles and Brian Felix.

The police and army are still in search of several others.

Those arrested will be charged with a variety of offences, including illegal possession of firearms and ammunition and other counter-revolutionary offences.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Information noted that Kenny ('Buck') Budhlall headed a group which organised the seizure of the River Antoine Estate near La Poterie several weeks ago.

The People's Revolutionary Government has condemned both the seizure of the estate and the fact that the group had led the workers of the estate and the people of La Poterie to believe the PRG had authorized the seizure.

In the weeks since the seizure, there have been complaints from many persons living in the St. Andrew's area that some members of the group have threatened small farmers and shop-keepers with seizure of the property also.

Ever since the seizure, the Agricultural and General Workers Union, and Lyden Ramdhanny of the PRG, have been holding discussions with the owners and workers of the estate in an effort to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem of very bad living and working conditions on the estate while making it clear to all concerned that the estate would have to be returned to its owners.

Meanwhile, however, the police received information as to the involvement of Russell, Kenny and Kennedy Budhlall in the large-scale growing and trading of marijuana.

It is felt that the chief motive of the River Antoine estate seizure was their intention to use the estate's bay as a point for their import-export and wholesale distribution trade of marijuana, as well as to add to their stock of lands for the growing of marijuana. It recently came to light that a few months ago, Russell Budhlall was arrested in a neighbouring island, for large-scale possession of marijuana in a package marked "PRA" (People's Revolutionary Army).

Last week, the security services discovered that as a result of the PRG's campaign, to stamp out the large-scale growing and selling of marijuana, the group led by the Budhlall brothers, which included some soldiers of the PRA camp at Pearls Airport, had begun making plans to seize three army camps, moving from there to overthrow the Government, in order to protect their million-dollar marijuana investment. . . .

Last Friday, members of the Pearls army camp were suspended from duty and fresh PRA troops moved into the camp. Following this, members of the group began issuing threats to members of the St. Andrew's communities which opposed their activities.

It was also found that they had retained possession of certain weapons which they had illegally hidden and Tuesday obtained, under false pretences, large quantities of free gasoline from the Public Works Department in Grenville.

The security services, which have been monitoring the plans and activities of these individuals, learned over the weekend that the group was firming up plans to overthrow the Government, in order to defend their marijuana Mafia operations. The security services therefore moved to arrest members of the group.

The Ministry of Information's statement has re-stated the PRG's position that arbitrary seizure of people's property and large-scale growing and



trading in marijuana will not be permitted, no matter who is involved.

"The full weight of the revolution will be brought against them" the statement says, "and the people are called upon to defend the revolution by revealing the whereabouts of any persons known to be wanted by the security services."

A further statement will be issued shortly concerning the group's connection with the CIA.

*FWI, May 5, 1980*

### PM-SAVAGE BLOW

Today imperialism struck a savage, most brutal, most cowardly blow against the revolution.

Today a monstrous crime was committed by imperialism and its local agents.

Today is a sad day for our country, a day when we have gathered together to commemorate, as we have always been doing, another important anniversary, on this occasion, the anniversary of Butler and Strachan, two of our national heroes.

Before the day was ended, even while we were commemorating the lives of these two outstanding Grenadians, we find now that in the future June 19 we will be commemorating new martyrs, new heroes, new patriots for our people's revolution and our struggle.

At this point two young sisters, two young comrades of ours are dead, murdered by these cowards, murdered by these vicious beasts of imperialism. At this point two more people of our country are gone.

What we see here is a situation where our people make a bomb and do it in a very clever way, in a way that indicates very clearly, that they received training. This is not local technology, this is not the way of Grenadian people.

We must know too that this was not an attempt to kill only the leadership of our country, important as it may be and would be for any of these murderers and reactionaries to wipe out the entire leadership at one time. We must note that this plan went beyond that. By their attempts to wipe out the entire leadership of this country, these murderers were prepared to kill hundreds, dozens, maybe thousands of ordinary Grenadians. In our situations only imperialism could be responsible for this.

Can one think of any one Grenadian agreeing to plant a bomb in a rally of thousands of Grenadians? When we look at the list of those who have died, those who will die, and those who are injured, some se-

riously, some in a very critical way, you can get an idea of the point I am making.

We think of the scientific way in which the imperialists have evolved their concepts of destabilization, of creating political violence and economic sabotage.

We think of the local opportunists used, local counter-revolutionaries who tried to build a popular base and have failed. And as a result of having to fool the masses, they turn to the last weapon they have in desperation. the weapon of open, naked, brutal and vulgar terror.

Having given up all hope of winning the masses, these people now then turn on the masses. They now seek to punish the masses, to murder them wholesale, to plant bombs in the midst of rallies, to make us afraid to continue to assemble, to try to break the back of the popular support of the revolution.

*FWI, June 21, 1980*

### WOMAN: I HELPED CARRY BOMB TO PARK

A 26-year-old woman of Rose Hill, St. Patrick's, has testified about helping carry a bomb to Queen's Park on June 19, 1980, and seeing her companion place it against a wall-post under the pavilion.

Giving evidence in the bomb blast trial on Thursday, at the St. George's High Court, Fitzlyn Joseph said that in a car driven by Layne Phillip, she and Grace Augustine brought the bomb to St. George's.

Both Phillip and Augustine are charged with the bombing that killed three young women. Joseph was originally charged with the other five defendants, but the charges against her were dropped.

Also charged are Russel, Kenneth and Roland Budhlall.

Joseph said that Joseph Charles, alias "Yussuf", told her and Augustine to place the bomb under the pavilion, at 2:45 p.m..

She said Yussuf instructed her to buy a "Five Roses paperbag" in which to put the bombs and vegetables that were to cover it. Augustine and the witness were given \$20 each to buy the bag and vegetables, which they did.

The two women then joined a march and entered Queen's Park, with Augustine carrying the bomb.

Augustine put the bomb in position, and at about 2:40 pm., they went outside.

While they were near the Queen's Park bridge, Joseph said she heard the bomb go off and saw people running and screaming. They joined the

crowd and ran to Granby Street in St. George's, where they met Phillip in his car.

Phillip told them he would return through St. David's, instead of the Grand Etang Road, for fear of being stopped by security forces.

In the car, Joseph said she expressed concern that innocent people were killed, to which Augustine replied, "Some must die for others to live."

Another witness, Eddie Richardson of Top Hill, St. Patrick's, told the court on Wednesday, that one day in 1980, using wires, batteries, "cigar-looking things," dried coconuts and flashlight bulbs Kenneth Budhlall and Joseph "Bateye" Williams constructed bombs.

Williams died in July 1980 when a bomb he was carrying exploded.

Richardson also told the court of having been in the company of Russel Budhlall, Williams, and two other men—one nicknamed "Duck" at a place called "Perrotte High Woods" in Top Hill. These men had bombs in their possession.

Richardson said Russel Budhlall told him he wanted him to go with him to "blow up some PRA." Richardson also said that he wanted bombs placed at Fir Pasture in Mt. Craven on African Liberation Day 1980, to "blow up Bishop and Coard."

Following the blast, Richardson saw "Bateye," who told him that a double bomb had exploded at the Park.

Presiding Judge Satrohan Singh had earlier overruled a motion by defence counsel Frank Phipps that Richardson was incompetent, since he was originally charged with the five accused and his name appeared on the amended indictment even though the charges against him had been dropped.

Under cross-examination, Richardson admitted to having lied to the judge earlier in the year, before hearing was adjourned, when he said that he had been tortured by security forces to give evidence. He said he was forced to lie by the Budhlall brothers, who advised him that if he stood with them, they all would be stronger.

Another witness on Wednesday was Denis Rush, a former member of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) who apprehended the three Budhalls on an island off St. Andrew's, on July 3, 1980.

In all, 21 witnesses gave evidence during the week.

*FWI, October 23, 1982*

#### FOUR FOUND GUILTY AS BOMB TRIAL ENDS

Four of the five persons who were charged with the June 19, 1980 bomb blast at Queen's Park have been found guilty, and were sentenced to death by Judge Satrohan Singh on Monday.

The other accused was found not guilty of the charges and was discharged.

Sentenced are Grace Augustine, Layne Phillip, Russel Budhlall and Kenneth Budhlall, while Roland Budhlall was found not guilty.

In passing sentence, the presiding judge referred to evidence given to the court by Fitzlyn Joseph and Eddie Richardson both of whom were originally charged with the others, but later had charges dropped against them.

Judge Singh agreed that both Joseph and Richardson were accomplices, adding that a conviction is not illegal just because it is based on the uncorroborated evidence of an accomplice. This, he said, is based on a law which was established in 1811. He however stated that caution was needed in approaching their testimony.

The judge said that both Joseph and Richardson had an air of confidence and were unhesitant and straight forward in replying to questions.

He said that he was satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Grace Augustine, Layne Phillip and Fitzlyn Joseph brought the bomb to the park.

Judge Singh said the bomb placed in the park was similar to those manufactured in Top Hill, St. Patrick's, and that enough evidence was presented to prove that Russel Budhlall, Kenneth Budhlall and another person known as Bat-eye, and others formulated a plan to blow up Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard on June 19, 1980.

Judge Singh said there was also evidence that Kenneth Budhlall and Bat-eye passed the devices to another person known as Yussuf, who then gave them to Grace Augustine and Fitzlyn Joseph to place in Queen's Park.

He drew attention to Fitzlyn Joseph's testimony that she was reminded about the time to place the bomb at the Park by Layne Phillip.

The Judge found that the only evidence produced against Roland Budhlall with bomb-making materials, adding that it proved nothing. He said that he was satisfied that Roland Budhlall lied in giving evidence, but that was however insufficient to convict him.

In his hour and a quarter submission, Judge Singh also spoke about the rule of law in Grenada. Last week defence counsels Frank Phipps and Israel Khan implored him to assure that the rule of law prevailed in the trial. The judge said that there was never any attempt to interfere with the judiciary during his two years in Grenada, and expressed confidence that the rule of law was secure.

A battery of ten lawyers participated in the two-week hearing and twenty-five witnesses were called by the prosecution.

*FWI, November 3, 1982*



### IMPERIALISM ATTACKS WITH WORDS AND RUMOURS

"This is Major Basil 'Akee' Gahagan speaking. I would like everybody in Grenada to know that I am alive and well, in good health. I am not sick, and I am not dead."

When Grenadians heard the voice of one of the nation's most senior soldiers over Radio Free Grenada (RFG) this week, many were relieved.

And they had reason to be, because for the past few days, a strong rumour has been circulating that he was dead.

According to the rumour Major Gahagan and a large number of PRA soldiers had been killed in El Salvador, and were sent back to Grenada for burial.

Their bodies were supposed to be aboard a vessel anchored outside St. George's harbour since last week.

The rumour was spread in different ways, the numbers of dead soldiers varying from 50 to 200, and in one case, it said that they were being buried, five at a time, at night.

Major Gahagan's voice cleared it up: "I want everybody to know that I have never been to El Salvador, and that although our country is internationalist in outlook, we have never interfered in the internal problems of other states, and therefore none of our soldiers have ever been to fight in El Salvador".

The boat the rumour referred to turned out to be a Cuban vessel which had escorted the latest four fishing boats donated to Grenada by the Cuban government.

It had broken down soon after arrival, and was awaiting spare parts to return to Havana.

Major Gahagan, who spoke from the Grenadian embassy in Cuba, called on the PRG to "deal firmly" with those responsible for creating and circulating such rumours.

But it is not only Major Gahagan who wants such action. His resentment is shared by the majority of patriotic Grenadians, who have been fed an overdose of rumours since the Revolution.

These rumours circulating at home and abroad have become the reactionaries' weapon in their efforts to keep away tourists, frighten residents and destabilise the economy and the people's revolution.

Recently, one rumour was circulating in New York that a bomb had exploded at RFG, destroying the station. Another was that a bomb had exploded aboard a tourist ship in St. George's harbour, killing many tourists.

The most blatant propaganda effort, however, appeared in Aruba over the weekend, during Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's visit there to attend an international conference of the ruling party.

The same picture of a large crowd attending a flag-raising ceremony in the Dutch colony appeared in the two leading local newspapers. But while one paper acknowledged that it was the flag-raising ceremony, the other said it was a large crowd demonstrating against PM Bishop's visit.

This is all part of imperialism's plans and activities aimed at giving the Grenada Revolution a bad international image and destroying the PRG's image at home.

But, as with the Gahagan story, such rumours are doomed to failure as the people get to know the truth.

And, as a student said after hearing Major Gahagan's voice on RFG: "Imperialism attacks, not only with gunboats, but with words and lies as well."

*FWJ, March 28, 1981*

### VULGAR LIES ABOUT SOVIET PLANES, SAY PRG

A spokesman for the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has said that he views "with both amusement and utter contempt," a recent report appearing in the "Washington Times," which quoted extensively from the "publicity-seeking mercenary" Michael Sylvester.

In yet another ridiculous lie against the Grenada Revolution, Sylvester told the magazine that Grenada received in crates, 10 fighter planes from the Soviet Union recently, and that the Revolution was a threat to neighbouring countries.

The PRG spokesman said it is obvious that this latest attack on the Revolution is part of the general build-up to attempt to isolate the Revolution and eventually to set the basis for a mercenary or direct invasion of our land.

What is incredible, he said, is that imperialism now has to hide behind a known liar and madman, whom even corrupt Gairy had to get rid of for corruption and total loss of credibility. This, he pointed out, shows the extent to which imperialism will go. It is prepared to scrape the bottom of the barrel and literally go into the gutter to build a cage for isolating Grenada, he said.

Imperialist counter-revolutionary attempts at economic aggression and threats of direct or mercenary invasion, he noted, have not had the effect

of slowing down the pace of the Revolution nor of reducing its popularity in the eyes of its neighbours.

Even more amusing, he said, the "Washington Times" went further and had the guts to report that the Grenada economy was now in shambles, despite the recent World Bank report to the contrary. . . .

Overall, the report was so positive that many who oppose the Revolution are green with envy over it, he said. "We can understand, therefore, why they must invent more lies everyday."

He said imperialism and counter-Revolution must understand that none of their crude and vulgar lies and outright slander will succeed in isolating the Grenada Revolution in the eyes of the masses in the region. The Caribbean people continue to come to Grenada to see for themselves the benefits that have come since 1979.

In fact, only last August, over 400 people from the region came to Grenada to participate in the Carnival celebration and to see the Revolution in action.

He noted that the attempts at isolating Grenada are bound to fail, pointing out that the Revolution will continue to be respected in the region and internationally, despite attempts by imperialism and their allies to make it seem like a threat to its neighbours.

*FWI, October 20, 1982*

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## The People's Armed Forces

### Introduction

*The People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) officially came into existence on March 13, 1979, when Hudson Austin (later General Austin) led his small band of fighters against Gairy's barracks. To all appearances the PRA became in time a well-armed and well-trained unit, though there were occasional mumblings about excesses on the part of individual soldiers.*

*In the tradition of revolutionary armies the PRA made efforts to feed itself and involve itself in various ways in the day-to-day activity of the people. Its protestations of loyalty to the people and to Commander-in-Chief Maurice Bishop (reproduced below) make poignant reading in light of the events of October 1983. The army was, as in most countries, supplemented by a militia force.*

### PRA TO FEED ITSELF

"Our army will move forward in 1981 with greater discipline, loyalty and dedication. As revolutionary soldiers we have a responsibility to be always on duty, on call 24 hours a day serving the interests of the masses and defending the Revolution . . . and by the end of this year the PRA will be able to feed itself, thereby easing a burden on our economy."

So pledged General Hudson Austin, commander of the nation's armed forces, at an impressive ceremony Tuesday, marking promotions in the People's Revolutionary Army.

Describing the event at Fort Rupert as historic and important, Gen. Austin said it represented the largest volume of promotions to higher ranks that they will witness for a long time. He added that the promotions will mean an increase in responsibility for our patriotic soldiers.

There were promotions from all ranks of the army and those who received promotions were acknowledged at the ceremony. Majors in the army are Brothers Ewart Layne, Tan Bartholomew, Einstein Louison and Chris DeRiggs.

Secretary for Defence and National Security, Bro. Hudson Austin has been promoted from the rank of colonel to general, and member of the PRG, Brother Liam James, is now a Lieutenant Colonel.

Stressing the urgency to increase production in this Year of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, the nation's top soldier promised that the PRA will contribute to this effort by producing enough food on its farm to feed itself "because our economy cannot continue to support us."

"Ours is not an army that can sit back and polish its boots. We must be engaged in productive work growing crops and rearing cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens. Furthermore, we will continue serving the masses in 1981 by stepping up our voluntary community work," he said.

Gen. Austin thanked the leaders of the New Jewel Movement for their "guidance, inspiration and commitment" and said that he and his soldiers "are always ready and willing to obey any order from our commander-in-chief, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop."

In addition to Cde Bishop, others in attendance included members of the Political Bureau, the commissioners and senior officers of the Police and Prison Services, captains of the People's Militia and the Police Band, which gave a stirring rendition of "Forward March Against Imperialism."

Congratulating those promoted Cde Bishop said the promotions "of our people in uniform" were not based on whim, on patronage or on any popularity contest. Instead, they were based on discipline, proficiency and efficiency, commitment to the people, loyalty to the Revolution, selflessness and self-sacrifice, responsibility and care for state property and fraternal spirit and attitude.

Echoing the importance Gen. Austin placed on agriculture, the PM described it as "the motor and heart of our economy," the productive sector, which provides money to pay salaries, to buy medicines, to import manufactured goods.

He applauded the army for getting more involved in agriculture and said that for the PRA, 1981 should be the year of production and defense. He also called on the nation's soldiers to increase discipline, efficiency and preparedness and to raise their political consciousness.

"As comrades on the front lines of the struggle you have a serious task," said Cde Bishop. "We are confident that you have the qualities and material to accomplish these tasks especially since you are led by Gen. Austin, an outstanding human being, a patriot and a fine revolutionary."

The programme ended with lively cultural presentations by Captain Cecil Belfon ("Flying Turkey") singing a revolutionary rockers number, "Innocent Blood Shed in Vain" and by Lieutenant Alan Lowe, offering two of his militant, anti-imperialist poems.

FWI, January 7, 1981

## THE PEOPLE ARE ONE WITH THEIR ARMED FORCES

As the oath of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (PRAF) states, the primary duty of every soldier is to defend the Revolution, while being totally committed to the masses. He is to protect the Revolution's gains from any form of aggression, even to the extent of dying in the process.

Last year, PRAF members carried out many different activities in an effort to raise their political consciousness, increase their patriotism, and train for rigorous defensive combat. These activities were designed to make PRAF members more aware about who are the Grenadian people's real enemies, how to fight them, and when to do so, in defence of the Revolution.

A lot of time was also spent on classes geared at raising the armed forces' cultural level. "Because we don't know when the imperialist invasion will come, we have to be constantly prepared," said Deputy Secretary of Defence, Captain Chris Stroude, recently.

Also PRAF Chief of Education and Politics, Capt. Stroude said the preparations of leaders and officers at all levels in training schools went well. PRAF mobilised for many mass activities, such as rallies, conferences and seminars, among others, while doing voluntary construction work on projects such as the new international airport, feeder roads, camp buildings and St. Paul's Community Centre, along with repairing roads, cleaning drains, cutting overhangings, and painting different communities together with other villagers.

We moved from forces of divided sections to where Grenada now has a totally united, more organised and controlled armed forces," said Capt. Stroude. Army, people's militia, police, prisons, cadets, coast guard, fire service, immigration and security are now united under one banner, to move forward with one code of discipline.

"In January this year, we held our first anniversary, marking one year since all areas of the armed forces came together under a common banner." This brought a week of activities—Armed Forces Week, creating an avenue for PRAF members to display their talents in culture and sports. "All this showed we are moving from strength to strength," he said.

"Last year we were able to achieve many things while on our way to becoming self-sufficient," said Capt. Stroude. "This year we already gave ourselves the task of cultivating every square inch of land around our camps, while pushing different forms of production on our farm." Besides cash crops, PRAF will begin growing livestock on a large scale.

"In this Year of Economic Construction, with the energies, commitment, and dedication of us all, we feel confident of success in cutting waste, increasing production, and advancing the economy," he added.

Emulation programmes at all levels will begin soon, he added. The best individuals for a particular period would be selected as the most outstanding soldier, policeman, or militia member, as the case may be. This would generate greater discipline and more commitment, explained Capt. Stroude.

Meanwhile PRAF is looking at the possibility of publishing a journal which will highlight its members' creative works, along with other burning issues affecting PRAF systems and structures. Radio programmes on a consistent basis are also being considered.

Born with the March 3, 1979 Revolution, Grenada's PRAF started a new relationship between "the people in uniform" and the masses of simple, ordinary working people. Being good from the very first day, this relationship continued to blossom, "getting better and better."

"Our relations are particularly good because our armed forces are part of the masses: our armed forces and the masses are the same. We are not there to subdue, repress and oppress the people, but to assist them in building and defending the Revolution, while we march towards the new society," Capt. Stroude said.

In all the mock battles and defence trials, in all the route marches and manoeuvres, how Grenadians feel about PRAF was convincingly displayed. When the revolutionary troops were in the countryside and towns, in the bushes, and on the sea coast, the smiles on Grenadian faces, over stretching hands bearing food and drink for the hungry units, told the story of love and loyalty clearly enough for all.

The success of the two national manoeuvres held recently, consolidated PRAF's popularity. The "Heroes of the Homeland" manoeuvre was very significant in responding to the United States' hostile invasion manoeuvres last August, while mobilising thousands of Grenadians to show their willingness to fight, and die, if necessary, to defend the benefits they have won through sweat.

Grenada needs a powerful people-oriented armed forces, not one to threaten, intimidate, and make war on neighbours or peace-loving man-

kind, but one there to defend all Grenadian men, women and children as we build a new and just social order.

"The armed forces must come from the people themselves, and it must serve them and not harass them. All these qualities are being emulated and followed today in the PRAF."

This is very different from the past when Gairy's things, the "Green Beasts" army and Mongoose Gang secret police, got together to beat up innocent children.

*FWI, March 13, 1982*

### THE ARMY AND THE ECONOMY—A SOLDIER'S VIEW

I was a delegate for the People's Revolutionary Army at the National Conference on the Economy, and a workshop leader at our local zonal council in St. David's.

At the conference the overall participation of the people was real good, with a lot of important contributions. The soldier delegates too came up with a lot of suggestions and concrete proposals as to how the economy could be developed to really meet the needs of the working people. We questioned ourselves hard on how we could cut down waste in the armed forces. For example, in our use of military vehicles and gasoline and also the reckless driving which some young soldiers had been guilty of, resulting in a number of accidents and mashed-up vehicles. We became far more conscious of the cost of all this to the country and the people, and we were very self-critical. We also criticised ourselves for not being productive enough, and we came up with proposals to start up farms and really set about feeding ourselves seriously.

Since the budget process we have made sure that our accident rate has gone right down, and a log-book system has been implemented to keep a tight rein on the gasoline. If a driver takes unnecessary or longer routes than he should, he is now disciplined. Then in terms of the productive side we have developed plots next to our camps to grow corn, peas and cabbages, and we now have our own farm at Hopevale, near Calivigny, with sheep, goats, pigs, cows and fowl. Then at Camp Fedon we have as many as sixty beautiful pigs, and our target for the end of the year is two hundred. So the suggestions that were raised at the National Conference were taken very seriously by the PRA, and we now have a system where all the soldiers go on a once-weekly basis to work at the Hopevale farm.

Quite a number of our soldiers became leaders of parish workshops, and this helped very much to increase their confidence and ability to mix

directly with the people. At St. David's Zonal Council I led the workshop with the local farmers. They didn't see it as strange that a soldier should be leading their discussion, as I know most of them and we often help local farmers in community activities and road repairs. Their main concern was with prices—not only the low prices they were getting for their nutmeg, banana and cocoa, but the high prices they were paying for their implements and fertilisers. They were also interested in finding markets for non-traditional crops like egg-plant, tomatoes and cabbages. Since March, they have certainly seen the price of fertilisers drop, so they know the government was listening to them.

In the Gairy days you would never find soldiers in activities like this, so close with people. He would never have brought the Budget to the people anyway, and his soldiers were only good for robbing and brutalising the masses and squandering their money, never working alongside them. We are trained to work with and consult the people all the time. Our army is of the people and our first duty is to the people. This is our sacred duty. So it is a natural process for us to be involved in the budget consultation, side by side with the people.

We had our own meetings too in the armed forces, and we discussed the issues of the Budget and the Economy ourselves. Each unit had its own council and we all agreed on the need to cut our food bill and eat local. What Grenada produces, we must eat! We should stop importing tinned foods when we could get the fresh thing here. It would make us more healthy too to fight imperialism!

Since the Budget process we have definitely seen a real change in our soldiers' consciousness and attitudes. They have begun to really understand what the economy is all about and how we must both cut back and produce. They now understand that they have to be actively involved in building the economy. Every now and again you would hear a comrade say, if we were doing some wastage or cooking too much food, 'You all want us to be parasites for the rest of we days?' Or you would see posters made by the soldiers saying that we must not forever live like parasites on the backs of the working people! The comrades are definitely much more economy-conscious now.

The Budget process also helped us to improve the cultural and educational level of the armed forces, and there is no doubt about that! This aspect is key for our development, and you would see its results in more of our posters in our camps, like: "The political, cultural and combative preparation is vital for defence!" Grenada has had enough of ignorant, brutal soldiers like Gairy's Green Beasts. We are a new type of soldier and our

army is an army that respects as well as defends the people. One of our criteria is fraternal co-operation—how well you co-operate with your comrades and how well you relate to the people.

But looked at overall, the whole budget process clearly lifted the morale of the people. It has encouraged them to really work harder, produce more and build a people's Grenada. It did bring home the fact too that in Grenada we do have true democracy, and that our people are definitely running the country. They are the true managers of the economy.

It also had regional and wider international effects. It was certainly a booster to the other Caribbean countries to struggle harder to have people's government and build socialism in their own islands.

For me personally, it has made me a lot more conscious—even in terms of taking greater care of my uniform and boots, because they come from the people's money too! It has caused me to work harder in my community work and to struggle harder with the youth, so that we could be much more effective in building with the new society.

FWI, December 4, 1982

### MILITIA PROCLAIMS LOYALTY

Militia Chiefs from the People's Revolutionary Militia of St. Andrew's were formally presented with their weapons by Commander-in-Chief of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (PRAF) Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in an impressive ceremony at Seagoon, St. Andrew's, on Wednesday afternoon.

Properly uniformed militia units from throughout St. Andrew's turned out for the occasion and pledged aloud their loyalty to defend the gains of the Revolution and the Grenadian working people.

The weapons presented to the chiefs would be used solely to defend the Revolution, stressed political commissar, Francis Gill.

PM Bishop termed the occasion an "historic and momentous one," adding that "St Andrews' militia comrades have reached a high level of discipline and efficiency."

"People of St. Andrew's," he said, "can now feel a lot more confident that their Revolution is in good hands—in the hands of the militia."

He reiterated that a strong people's militia is a "bulwark and bastion for the Revolution's defence against both external and internal enemies."

According to PM Bishop, the Revolution has three main pillars that are closely inter-related: people's participation in the decision-making process, a strong national economy and national defence.

Strengthening the people's militia means building the national defence pillar, which cannot be separated from the other two, he said.

He urged the militia members to increase their level of skills and efficiency, deepen their political understanding and ensure that their structures and units are complete and consistent.

The St. Andrew's militia pledge, which he presented to PM Bishop, highlighted the danger U.S. imperialism poses to the Grenadian, Cuban and Nicaraguan revolution.

And, it pointed out, "our arms will never be used against the working people."

On Thursday in the Parish of St. Patrick's PM Bishop made a similar presentation to militia units from St. Patrick's and St. Mark's.

Also present were Minister of Agriculture, George Louison and Minister of National Mobilisation, Selwyn Strachan.

PM Bishop said that when he inspected the troops, he was pleasantly surprised to see a unit comprising several women. "It was really a heart-warming sight," he said.

"We are seeing one of three main pillars of the revolutionary process being solidified by this process," he said, adding that all three pillars needed to be standing at the same time.

"Our country, with a poor economy, can never reach the stage of having a permanent army and that is why the militia is of such importance," he explained.

Major Tan Bartholomew said that this was an extremely important day in PRAF's history. It had followed weeks and months of hard training.

"Over the past months, you have displayed your seriousness and determination to defend the Revolution at all times," he said, echoing compliments to the militia units for their training.

*FWI, September 11, 1982*

## 29 Invasion Threats

### Introduction

*The entire revolution was acted out against the backdrop of an overriding fear of invasion. In the early days it seemed that a mercenary force, backed by Gairy and the United States, might be the most likely scenario. As time went on, however, the possibility of a direct United States invasion seemed more and more plausible. Precedents for both were easy to come by. The mercenary Bay of Pigs invasion against Cuba in 1961 and the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 were two of the more recent. Even as the PRC tried to consolidate in Grenada its Nicaraguan allies were locked in combat against the U.S. backed "contras."*

*And then in March of 1983 President Ronald Reagan dramatically announced to the world that Grenada was a threat to U.S. security. This came amidst a steadily escalating tempo of U.S. military manoeuvres in Caribbean waters and airspace. One of these exercises, the notorious "Amber and the Amberines" manoeuvre of 1981, was codenamed after Grenadian geographical locations. When the invasion finally did come in October 1983, it was shown to have been a rerun of well-rehearsed earlier manoeuvres.*

*Not insignificantly, Grenada accused some of its Caribbean neighbours of complicity in the developing invasion drama. President Reagan's visit to Barbados in April 1982 helped convince Grenada of this.*

### U.S. PRACTISES GRENADA INVASION

Only the force of international public opinion can stop a planned military invasion of Grenada by the United States' administration of Ronald Reagan, now that it has already been rehearsed, the People's Revolutionary Government has stated in a world-wide appeal.

The invasion rehearsal came in the Caribbean phase of the U.S. and its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies' military manoeuvres,

code-named Ocean Venture '81, and heralded by the U.S. Defence Department as "the largest maritime exercise" since World War II.

Over 120,000 troops, 250 ships and 1,000 aircraft from 14 nations are participating in the manoeuvres, from August 1 to October 15, stretching from the South Atlantic, through the Caribbean, to the Baltic Sea.

The Caribbean phase, co-ordinated by Rear Admiral Robert P. McKenzie, commander of the Caribbean Contingency Joint Task Force (CCJTF) at Key West, Florida, is being conducted at Vieques Island and Salinas in Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, from August 9-21.

According to the script of the first mock battle, rehearsed last week in Vieques, the target is the Eastern Caribbean country of "Amber and the Amberines," an obvious reference to Grenada and its island wards of Carriacou and Petit Martinique in the Grenadines.

"Amber" is described as being influenced by "Country Red" (obviously socialist Cuba) to "export terrorism to various countries in the Caribbean Basin" and engage in various "anti-democratic activities." These are propaganda themes used consistently by the Reagan administration against Grenada.

Amber is supposed to be supporting a guerilla movement of about 300-500 in "Country Azure," described as "a small island" with an inadequate police force.

U.S. military forces have been "invited" by Azure to neutralise the guerillas, the scenario says.

The practice invasion of Amber, "to rescue 20 U.S. citizens held hostage there after negotiations with the Amber government had broken down," began August 9, with a dawn parachute drop into Vieques of over 350 troops of the 75th Ranger Battalion, based in Fort Lewis, Washington.

The paratroopers flew during the night non-stop from Norton Air Force Base, California to Florida, covering roughly the same distance as from their Washington base to Grenada.

During the night, an unknown number of support combat troops landed in the western mountains of Vieques, to prepare for the drop.

Grenada also has mountainous terrain, the PRG noted, and the combat units used were specially trained for warfare in such rugged conditions.

The drop was followed up by the landing of 1,000 marines in amphibian units on Vieques' southeastern shore, and air assaults.

An area on Grenada's southern tip is called Amber, and is close to a security zone and the site of the international airport now being built, the PRG pointed out.

The battle supposedly lasts 17 days, while an unconventional force of Army Rangers, Navy underwater demolition teams and other special forces—"the guys that do the dirty tricks," says Navy Captain Dale Lewey—move to free the hostages on Amber Island.

After rescuing the hostages and seizing power, Rear Admiral McKenzie said the U.S. troops would stay on Amber Island until elections are called, and "install a regime favourable to the way of life we espouse" and opposed to the previous "unfriendly" Amber government.

Again, these are frequent U.S. propaganda themes against Grenada.

Justifying the need for the war games, McKenzie described Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua as "practically one country," alleging that no passports or visas are necessary to travel among them.

"What we have here is a political-military problem," McKenzie said. "When Carter created the Task Force, he did it for political reasons. Now we see that it fulfills one of the most valid military reasons," which, he said, was the need "to respond to the activities of Cuba and Castro."

The manoeuvres, he said, would reinforce U.S. military commitment, and "give an example of one facet of U.S. capabilities to respond in the Caribbean basin."

Also taking part in the Caribbean phase, the U.S. Defense Department reported, are units from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, both of which have colonies in the region.

"In addition to the Navy and Marine corps, U.S. participation," according to the Department, "will include Army Ranger and air assault forces, Air Force Military Airlift Command, Tactical Air Command, Strategic Air Command, and the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), as well as elements of the Puerto Rico National Guard, along with reserve forces from all services."

Calling this development "shocking," the PRG noted that earlier intelligence reports it received, indicated that "either a mercenary invasion or direct U.S. military aggression" against Grenada, would take place before November 1981.

Noting its initiative to have the Caribbean declared a zone of peace, the PRG said these developments "pose a grave threat to our country and to the peace and security of the entire Caribbean."

"We firmly believe that the Caribbean will never be able to achieve true social justice and equality for its people in an atmosphere of tension and insecurity. It is surely the right of all peoples to develop their own processes in their own way, free from all forms of external dictation and pres-

sure," the PRG said.

It therefore urged "all peace-loving and democratic peoples" to protest the threatening situation, and "ensure that the Reagan administration does not proceed with its monstrous plan."

*FWI, August 22, 1981*

### GROUPS LASH U.S. MOVE

In the face of growing threat of United States' invading Grenada, a number of local and regional and international organisations have expressed strong support for the Grenada Revolution, and have condemned the current military manoeuvres which are dress rehearsals for the attack.

Locally, solidarity statements have come from several mass organisations including the Media Workers Association of Free Grenada (MWAFC), the National Youth Organisation (NYO), The National Women's Organisation, the Trade Union Council, the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces and a number of New Jewel Movement support groups.

Internationally, support and solidarity have come from the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), the Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM), the Canada/Grenada Friendship Society, the National Black United Front of the U.S., the United People's Movement (UPM) of St. Vincent, the People's Progressive Party of Guyana, the Grenada Revolutionary League of the U.S., the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, the Trinidad and Tobago Peace Council, the February 18 Movement of Trinidad, the Council of Progressive Trade Unions of Trinidad, the Latin American and Caribbean Study Group of New York University, the Progressive Labour Party of St. Lucia, the Workers Revolutionary Movement of St. Lucia, the "Militant," organ of the Socialist Workers Party of the U.S., the NJM Support Group in the UK and the Movement for National Liberation of Barbados.

Expressing its deep concern at the threats, the MWAFC has called on all the media workers in the region "to condemn the obvious propaganda campaign directed against Grenada" and have urged all patriots to participate in the military manoeuvres at the end of this month.

NYO's firm statement of condemnation denounced the imperialist plan to invade Grenada, "two years after the new found freedom of the Grenadian people." It called on all youths to join the militia and participate in the national manoeuvre.

NYO stated it would not stand by "and" let imperialism attack the homeland. More than that, it would ensure that its entire membership

would be in the forefront of the leading squads, platoons and battalions that would meet any invaders.

The Canada-Grenada Friendship Society asserted its "support for the Grenada Government, people and Revolution is based on the concrete evidence of the aspirations of this country for peace and progress, both within and without Grenada. . . . In the strongest possible language then, we condemn all attempts by the U.S. to terrify and destabilise the Grenada Government."

The DLM condemned the U.S. military manoeuvres and "denounce even more forcefully, the U.S. planned invasion of our sister island, Grenada, as a most obscene violation of the principles of international law. . . . We therefore call upon regional governments separately, and under the banner of Caricom, to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. military penetration into our region."

The UPM expressed severe concern about the U.S. military manoeuvres. "From all appearances it seems that these exercises are preparatory threats to an invasion of revolutionary Grenada. . . . The Caribbean must remain a zone of peace, and now, before it is too late, Caribbean leaders must issue a stern warning to the U.S. Government to desist from interfering in the internal affairs of Caribbean states."

The WPJ affirmed "total solidarity with the revolutionary people and government of Grenada, faced with the danger of U.S. military intervention in their internal affairs and is absolutely confident that the imperialists will pay a heavy price for such invasion. The WPJ further calls on Jamaica and other Caricom Governments to make known to the U.S. Government . . . their unqualified opposition to any further attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the sister island of Grenada."

To celebrate the 94th birthday of one of the most popular Caribbean black heroes, Marcus Mosiah Garvey (1887-1940), the MWAFC and PRG will hold tomorrow a Block-o-Rama at the Market Square beginning at 2 p.m.

At 6 p.m. the action will be followed by a massive anti-imperialist rally which will focus on the U.S. military manoeuvres.

At the rally, former CIA officer Philip Agee will reveal how the CIA works to overthrow and/or destabilise progressive governments world-wide.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop will give the feature address, centering around the country's preparation for the impending U.S. military invasion. In addition, leaders of Caribbean liberation movements will give solidarity messages.

Free transportation will be provided.

*FWI, August 22, 1981*



### THE ELEPHANT VS THE ANT

We note with horror that Operation Ocean Venture '81 is the largest Western military exercise since World War II.

The Yankee imperialist plans to invade our country which have been designed by the crooked cowboys in the White House and the psychotic warlords in the State Department and the Pentagon represent the most vulgar and obscene display of brute force by a huge country against a tiny nation. It is like the elephant planning to crush the ant.

Moreover, it is yet another blatant example of imperialism's total disregard for the independence and sovereignty of other nations.

We remember the consistent pre-election campaign threats by candidate Reagan to deal with the Grenada Revolution after coming to power. We see all these threats materializing today.

We note the recent CBS television programmes in the U.S.A. which aired for five consecutive nights in the New York City area and branded Grenada as a police state. Only last week, CBS presented a new and equally damaging programme on Grenada.

We also recall the recent film, "Attack on the Americas" which was designed to tarnish the good names of the Grenadian, Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutions.

We note likewise the recent United States International Communication Agency conference attended by editors of all the national newspapers of the English-speaking Caribbean except Grenada and Guyana.

At that conference, propaganda plans against Grenada were finalized and this has led to systematic, coordinated attacks against the Grenada Revolution in recent weeks by the most reactionary newspapers in the region.

The objective of all this is undoubtedly to psychologically prepare the people of the region and the world for the impending military invasion.

Since information of Operation Ocean Venture '81 has been played down by the imperialist puppet media in the region we are calling on our fellow media workers throughout the Caribbean to fully expose the true meaning of these aggressive manoeuvres since they constitute a threat not only to the Grenada Revolution but to the peace and security of the entire Caribbean and to join the international appeal for the Caribbean to be declared a zone of peace.

We further call on our colleagues in the regional media to always seek the truth of the Grenada Revolution and not be a part of the imperialist propaganda destabilization campaign now being conducted against Grenada.

We also call on media workers in the U.S. itself to expose and condemn Reagan's military adventurism and his callous disregard for world peace.

We're living in dangerous times and therefore we must prepare ourselves for any emergency. Indeed, we need to put the country on a war footing.

Reagan and his gang may be crazy but they're not joking. They're dead serious, and those among us who don't believe this cowboy means business let them take heed. He and his administration which represent the reactionary ruling class and the military industrial complex of the U.S. are dead set on destroying all revolutionary gov'ts and movements of national liberation around the world.

Other countries have been in similar situations as ours and they have emerged victorious in the end which proves clearly that imperialism is not invincible.

FWI, August 22, 1981

### U.S. INVASION THREAT GROWS

Grenada once again faces a threat of invasion from the United States. This is evident in the renewed manoeuvres codenamed "Red X 183" being carried out on Vieques, an island off Puerto Rico.

The manoeuvres, held last week, involved bombings on the island and the use of thousands of troops and dozens of U.S. warships and planes.

These manoeuvres are part of the consequences of a two-day meetings of military chiefs from Latin America and the Caribbean (among them Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname), with top U.S. military men at the Pentagon, where they were briefed on how "to deal" with the development of popular people's movements in the region.

Since this meeting, there has been an obvious increase in the U.S.A.'s military presence in the region and also its propaganda attacks against countries which have won their liberation and those still fighting.

Since then, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said that within a matter of days, Washington will make a "decisive move to deal with the source of the problems" in Central America and the Caribbean, and claimed that Cuba is engaged in actively destabilising Caribbean governments. It must be noted that two days after he made this statement, Seaga's government in Jamaica broke diplomatic relations with the Cuban government.

Haig's latest position on the process Nicaragua is building was manifested yesterday, in a statement he made before the U.S. House of Representatives, that he does not rule out U.S. assistance (not excluding direct invasion) for attempts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

This clearly reflects his support for Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries and his willingness to turn back the Nicaraguan process. In answer to this, Nicaragua has expressed hope for support from Mexico in the event of a U.S. invasion.

During the joint sea, air and land exercises carried out in Honduras, close to Nicaragua's border, by Honduran and U.S. troops about a month ago, Haig stated that the Nicaraguan army is too large for the country's population.

The presence of one of the U.S. Navy's largest airplane carriers in Barbados waters now is a new addition to the U.S. military presence in the region, at a time of the U.S.A.'s major military exercises, and months after both countries carried out two manoeuvres on Barbados soil.

The U.S. claims that the carrier "S.S. Eisenhower" is on a goodwill visit to Barbados, but several political groups there do not share this view, as is evident from their protests. Among these groups is the People's Progressive Movement, headed by Bobby Clarke. The ship will carry out aerial displays.

These U.S. actions are not new in the region's history. These same methods of propaganda warfare and military build-ups were evident when the U.S. invaded Guatemala in 1953, and Cuba in 1961. These same tactics are now being used against Libya.

It is reported that the mood of Cubans now is similar to that in 1961, when the U.S. invaded the country—militant and fighting.

*FWI, November 14, 1981*

### BE ALERT, PM TELLS MILITIA

The Grenada Revolution is in danger, along with other revolutions and revolutionary processes in the region, members of the region one militia were told by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, at a meeting to issue ranks to militia members, Wednesday.

PM Bishop warned the militia members that there may soon be an invasion of El Salvador and Nicaragua at the same time, and also an attempt to invade Grenada or to step up counter-revolutionary activities here.

Now that the budget debate and the March 13 celebrations are over, he said, more attention must be given to the militia.

The next few days demand vigilance. This means militia members giving more time to training sessions to ensure that their units are ready, willing and capable to defend the country when the time comes.

PM Bishop said that a number of statements which strengthen his conclusions were made by the "Washington Post," a United States newspaper,

and confirmed by Senator Barry Goldwater, an extreme rightist, and former presidential candidate.

The "Post" said that President Ronald Reagan had approved a plan by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) since November last year, to put aside \$51 million (EC) to destabilise liberation forces in the region, and to finance a para-military force of 500 exiled elements to make sabotage against Nicaragua and other countries in the region.

PM Bishop said, however, that it would be madness for the U.S. to invade any progressive country. He quoted Voice of America radio as saying that some 87 per cent of the U.S. people are opposed to the U.S. fighting any war at present.

The U.S. economy was in shambles, he said, and although the military industrial complex thinks that a war can build it up, a war cannot sustain an economy for any length of time. Nearly all Reagan's allies are against his war policies and this is evident in the many peace marches in these countries.

Inside the progressive countries of the region, the people are willing to fight back and will not roll over and die.

The logical conclusion, PM Bishop said, is that it is irrational, illogical and insane for the U.S. to think of war, or sending troops to countries, but Reagan is behaving irrationally and desperately.

At the ceremony, PM Bishop called on the over 50 militia members given ranks to work and earn the respect of the other members because any disciplinary actions to be taken will be harder on those with stripes.

*FWI, March 27, 1982*

### U.S. MANOEUVRES A DANGER, PM TELLS ROTARY

Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Maurice Bishop, has described United States manoeuvres in the region last week as a total violation of the island's air space which endangered life in the region.

He made this statement on Thursday as guest speaker at a Rotarian luncheon at the St. James Hotel. He is the first Grenadian head of government to address Rotarians, who considered the occasion a red-letter day.

Speaking to the Rotarians on peace and understanding, their main focus as an international organisation this year, PM Bishop said the violation of the air space was "a classic example of the arrogance, contempt and insensitivity of the United States administration of Ronald Reagan."

Explaining how the manoeuvres began, he said that last Sunday night a message was received at Piarco airport in Trinidad, from the Washington Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control System Command

Centre, telling Piarco air space controllers to advise all the countries in the region to which they were responsible that as from 3 a.m. the next day, only three hours notice, military manoeuvres will start in the region.

He said Grenada received the message, after 6 a.m. Monday, saying: "Danger area exists in Piarco, surface to flight 29,000 feet from 3.31 a.m. April 26 to 5 a.m. April 29. Instrument flight rules not permitted within 50 miles bounded by the following coordinates. . . ."

The area marked out, PM Bishop said, defined an irregular area in the Caribbean Sea to the west of Dominica in the north, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and the Grenadines to the south. This area, he said, is approximately 100 miles north of Venezuela and 40-50 miles northwest of Grenada and 25 miles west of St. Lucia at its closest points.

It meant that Piarco suddenly had no control of the air lanes which the U.S. planes were going to use and that it would be unsafe for them to control flying in the region.

He continued that the move had serious implications for commercial and air traffic in the region because pilots had to use visual means in taking-off and landing.

It also meant that some pilots had to postpone flights until April 29 and that Piarco was no longer able to give technical coverage for a number of flights operating in the LIAT system.

PM Bishop said that when the Grenada authorities checked on the issue the next day "because we have no international airport to monitor the control tower at nights," they discovered that LIAT did not know officially until late on Monday.

The PM recognised the Rotarians' work over the 12 years of their existence in providing scholarships for students and equipments for the hospital among other things.

He told Rotarians that the world is threatened with war by the war-mongering U.S. administration of Reagan, and at the same time, noted the growing peace movement internationally even right within the U.S.

Observing that the Rotarians can play a significant role in supporting world peace he urged them to struggle for peace, independence and development, and to invite their counterparts, especially those in the U.S., to come to see the realities of Grenada and eventually prevent the U.S. from invading with their mercenaries.

PM Bishop emphasised the importance of peace for development, saying that the two concepts are inseparable.

FWI, May 1982

## PM CALLS PEOPLE TO ARMS

Making a final call to the United States for sanity, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on Wednesday night warned Grenadians of an "imminent invasion" by U.S.-backed counter-revolutionaries, and urged them to prepare to defend their homeland and their birthright.

On a national address over Radio Free Grenada (RFG), the PM presented dramatic, new information, the most specific and detailed ever collected on any plot, which he said confirms the view that the Revolution faces its gravest danger yet of military aggression, backed by the U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan.

"The continuing economic crisis in the U.S. and its effects, the increasing successes of the popular liberation movements particularly in El Salvador, the continued deepening and strengthening of the revolutionary processes in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, the total collapse of Reagan's so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative, and the growing popular opposition to his mad nuclear policy, have made imperialism more desperate and determined to halt revolutionary processes in this region," PM Bishop said.

And even as he talked, Reagan was on nation-wide radio and television, showing an aerial "spy plane" photograph of the international airport at Point Salines, claiming it was evidence of a "military airfield" in Grenada.

PM Bishop said the intelligence services have been gathering information on counter-revolutionary groups who have publicly declared their intention to overthrow revolutionary governments in the region, and have discovered that the key figures have been meeting more frequently recently, and have begun to resolve their leadership differences with the aim of creating a more united front.

Their co-ordination with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has stepped up, he said, and they have got money, arms and training from the CIA, offers of transportation, logistical support and supplies, and a promise of recognition for their counter-revolutionary governments, as soon as they attack Grenada.

PM Bishop said the PRG knows the name and full background of the main CIA case officer co-ordinating the plot and the other revolutionary processes he has tried to subvert, as well as that another CIA case officer involved was also the director and mastermind of the bomb-blast attempt to assassinate the PRG in June 19, 1980.

The counter-revolutionaries have established links with the Cuban exile group responsible for the Air Cubana sabotage off Barbados in 1976, and with supporters of the late Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

With CIA help, they have been able to get criminals trained in Miami, in the same camps that have trained various mercenaries and the Somocistas now involved in the invasion of Nicaragua, he said.

The CIA, he added, allocated different groups for the invasion of Nicaragua and Grenada, and planned several weeks ago to attack during this period, to coincide with the massive U.S. military manoeuvres taking place in the region.

PM Bishop said the main base of operations is in a neighbouring territory, a few miles away.

The PRG knows, he said, not only of the actual plan to overthrow it, but also of the actual period in the near future they are hoping to use.

It also knew the approximate number of men to be used, the number and type of arms they have, the kind of logistical support they expect, the targets they intend to destroy, the persons they plan to arrest, those they plan to kill and "and how they plan to strike terror and fear among the broad masses," he added.

Noting that the U.S. has intervened militarily in this region well over 100 times in the past 100 years, the PM said that when Reagan, commander-in-chief of one of the largest and most advanced armies in the world, classifies a tiny island as a threat to U.S. national security, "this must be cause for serious concern."

Therefore, he called the people to arms, saying "we have to shoulder our fundamental responsibility to defend what we fought for and won after many years of bitter struggle."

The fundamental duty is to be prepared for attack in whatever form or at whatever time it comes, he said, urging people to join or reactivate themselves in the People's Militia.

He stressed that there was a role for everyone—even the elderly and the young, to play in time of war, since invaders do not choose who to kill.

"There are trenches to be dug, vehicles to be driven, food to be cooked and distributed, first-aid assistance to be organised, the care of the young and elderly to be guaranteed, and many more specific tasks."

PM Bishop also announced that there will be recruitment into some sections of the People's Revolutionary Army and the Police Service, and there will be a massive military manoeuvre, the "Jeremiah Richardson Defence of the Homeland Manoeuvre" from April 21-24.

However, he added, "even at this late hour, we want to repeat that our preference is for peace and normal relations with the U.S. administration.

"We do not want war," he said, noting that only an environment of peace would allow Grenada and Grenadians to develop.

Nevertheless, he added, "we are not prepared to give up our birthright or to allow others—no matter how big and powerful they are—to shape our destiny for us, or to tell us what we can do, when we can do it, and how we must do it."

*FWI*, March 26, 1983

### GEN. AUSTIN—IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT WIN WARS

Ordinary Grenadians are the country's defence and are armed to defend every aspect of the Revolution, General of the Armed Forces and Minister of Construction and Public Utilities, Hudson Austin, said Thursday.

In a special session of the radio and television programme "Perspective '83," he said that members of the Grand Mal militia had intercepted a boat without lights with five men approaching shore near the Emulsion plant and fuel storage tanks.

The Coast Guard also intercepted a Venezuelan ship with South Korean and Venezuelan crew, fishing in our waters last Sunday. Militia members guarding Pearl's Airport apprehended a foreigner walking around the airport at 2 a.m. on Thursday, and have turned him over to the security forces for questioning.

He commented that the militia was the "eyes and ears" of the Revolution. "Imperialism," he said, was always afraid of a country's militia, because they are not easily identified and are everywhere. Armies, he said, can't win wars, only a people knowing what they're fighting for.

The defence plans for key economic installations are in the militia's hands, Austin said.

This latest invasion threat to the Revolution is the most serious so far, he said, because it is the first time that a United States president has attacked the country twice within days.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's national broadcast on U.S. radio and television Wednesday night, when he showed a photo of the international airport at Point Salines, saying it was a military base, has reaffirmed the seriousness of his threats.

In response to this claim, Gen. Austin said that U.S. medical students at the St. George's University School of Medicine, know that Reagan's claims are false, since they are located at the end of the runway, and run in the vicinity daily.

The PRG, through its ambassadors in the U.S., has been mobilising international condemnations of plans to invade the country, and has scored some success. Groups and organisations, such as the Black Caucus of the

U.S. Congress, have been sending the PRG letters protesting Reagan's claims that Grenada is a threat to U.S. national security.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Unison Whiteman is now in the United States, and with ambassadors Dessima Williams and Caldwell Taylor, is mobilising Grenadians to protest the planned invasion.

Here in Grenada, General Austin urged the people to join the militia and receive military training, to get together and do whatever is necessary to secure food, young children and old people, and to begin digging trenches.

To the "doubting Thomases" who believe that Grenada wouldn't be attacked while there were U.S. citizens here, Gen. Austin pointed out that when Cuba and the Dominican Republic were attacked, there were U.S. citizens there.

Asked if the PRG had notified the neighbouring country where it had identified local counter revolutionaries gathering to invade Grenada, Gen. Austin said, it wasn't always necessary to notify a government of these things, particularly when the government knows of them.

The PRG was waiting, he said, to see what that government had to say.

The Jeremiah Richardson Defence of the Homeland Manoeuvre, planned for April 22 and 23, has nothing to do with the expected invasion, which may come in a few days, Gen. Austin said. It is to commemorate the martyrdom of Richardson, shot in April 1973 by a policeman of the Gairy regime.

He compared the upcoming manoeuvre with the ones the U.S. is conducting in Caribbean water and airspace. Grenada's manoeuvre was to practise how to defend the country from invasion, while the U.S. one is to prepare to land troops to invade other countries.

Gen. Austin, reiterated that Grenada's relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba were purely economic, and that Grenada had the right to choose its own friends.

*FWI, March, 1983*

### PRG ON DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

Putting confidence in world public opinion, the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has launched a diplomatic offensive to alert the world of the danger it faces from an invasion backed by the United States administration of Ronald Reagan.

This has become increasingly clear through frequent verbal attacks made in the past few weeks by Reagan and other top U.S. administration

officials, speaking of a massive military build-up in Grenada, and characterising Grenada as a threat to U.S. national security.

The most recent attack came Wednesday night from Reagan himself in a national radio and television broadcast, beamed by satellite throughout the world.

Speaking of a "Soviet military build-up" in the Caribbean region, Reagan showed three aerial spy-plane photographs: two of Cuba, one of Nicaragua and one of the international airport at Point Salines in Grenada, all obviously taken in violation of the countries' national air space.

The Point Salines airport he cited as an example of "the rapid build-up of Grenada's military potential."

This and a similar statement from Reagan on March 10, follows the invasion of Nicaragua by well-armed counter-revolutionaries last week, and ongoing U.S. military manoeuvres in the region.

The success of Reagan's attempts to arouse U.S. public interest in Grenada is indicated by two visits from U.S. television companies.

An NBC-TV news crew came last week, and on Thursday, following Reagan's last speech, an ABC-TV crew came to interview Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The ABC crew hoped to fly out on Thursday night, to put the PM's interview on TV immediately. However, because there are not night-landing facilities at Pearl's Airport, they were unable to leave, demonstrating to them the necessity of the international airport.

Before they left Friday, the ABC crew toured the international airport site.

Foreign Affairs Minister Unison Whiteman, who is now in New York at the United Nations, said that the focus on Grenada is so deep, that every few minutes on TV there is something about Grenada.

The PRG has made an official response to the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, again pointing out the civilian nature of the airport, as confirmed in a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on June 15 last year.

A copy of this letter to the U.S. Embassy has been sent to the Caribbean Community Secretariat in Guyana.

Ambassador Dessima Williams, delivered a similar letter to OAS secretary-general Alejandro Orfila.

Congressman Ron Dellums of California, a member of the Armed Forces Committee, said that before visiting Grenada, he had visited the headquarters of both the Atlantic Fleet and the Air Defense Command

and on both occasions was assured that the international airport "is of no consequence" to the U.S. and "further, it has not now or ever presented a threat to the security of the U.S."

The PRG expects that once the world is aware of the threat tiny Grenada faces from the mighty U.S.A. the shock and indignation that will follow will force the U.S., to hold back its hand, as it was forced to do after the 1981 practice invasion of "Amber and the Amberines."

It has also written to the President of France, the Prime Ministers of Spain, Sweden, and Greece, the Chancellor of Austria, the secretary general of the Commonwealth of Nations and Jamaica's Opposition leader, Michael Manley, who is also a vice president of Socialist International.

All the letters underscore Grenada's repeated attempts to establish good relations with the U.S.

The diplomatic staff in the U.S. are also mobilising support among U.S. Senators, Congressmen and university people.

In addition, the PRG has written its case to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Inter-American Sub-Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus.

On Thursday, as the UN Security Council debated Nicaragua's complaint of aggression backed by the U.S., Grenada was given the floor as an "interested party."

Grenada's Ambassador to the UN, Caldwell Taylor, underscored Grenada's support for Nicaragua's charges and also spoke for seven minutes on the threat facing Grenada.

FWI, March 26, 1983

### SOLIDARITY COMING FROM ALL QUARTERS

In wake of the invasion threat against Grenada and the current United States-backed invasion of Nicaragua, solidarity messages expressing support for the Grenadian people and Revolution have been coming from various quarters, regionally and internationally.

The Libyan government, in a statement issued by its foreign liaison bureau, reaffirmed "the Libyan people's support and solidarity with the Grenadian people and other friendly Latin American peoples."

It noted that Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, at a meeting of all ambassadors accredited to Grenada, including Libya's, informed them of hostile U.S. threats against the country.

These threats started last year December when U.S. vice-president George Bush attacked Grenada at a press conference in Miami, and es-

calated recently when U.S. President Ronald Reagan alleged that Grenada poses a threat to U.S. national security.

The military threat against Grenada, was real, particularly in light of the invasion of Nicaragua and naval manoeuvres now being carried out by U.S. battleships in the Caribbean Sea.

"All these hostile U.S. acts," the statement ended, "deserve strict condemnation by the world community and the unification of the world's progressive forces to deter U.S. aggression."

In Canada, Dan Heap, Member of Parliament of the New Democratic Party (NDP), condemned the Reagan administration's campaign of blackmail and threats against Grenada, and its using the international airport as an artificial pretext to justify such attacks.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Heap emphasized that the airport is being built to attract foreign tourists, adding that the British firm of Plessey Airports Ltd., and Finland, France and Venezuela are also involved in construction efforts.

On Monday, a demonstration to protest U.S. interference in the affairs of Central American and Caribbean peoples and to denounce its imperialism's subversive activity against revolutionary Grenada and Suriname was held in Guyana's capital, Georgetown.

The demonstrators called on all Latin American states to raise their voice in defence of Caribbean peoples, especially through the Organisation of American States (OAS), from Reagan's aggressive plans.

In condemning the counter-revolutionary invasion of Nicaragua, the Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) said: "We regard this latest act as a U.S.-organised attempt to turn back not only the Nicaraguan Revolution, but also the revolutionary processes in Cuba, Grenada and Suriname, the liberation movement in El Salvador and the anti-imperialist movement in the region."

Meanwhile, right wing Jamaican political scientist and commentator, Prof. Carl Stone on Monday called on Caribbean peoples to reject attempts by the U.S. to provoke militarism in the region and suggested to the Edward Seaga Government that it "whisper" to Reagan that his approach will produce more enemies than friends for Washington.

Stone, a supporter of Seaga and his Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), made this point in an article in the reactionary Jamaican "Daily Gleaner" newspaper.

Criticising Reagan's aggressive approach to Caribbean and Central American problems, Stone added: "The idea that tiny states like Nicaragua and Grenada represent threats to U.S. security is a simple-minded and

ludicrous distortion of regional power realities that insults the leaders of the region who are asked to believe this nonsense."

He said Reagan's allegations that Grenada was not tied to the so-called Soviet military axis placed it in "pretty much the same target for aggression as had earlier U.S. pronouncements on Nicaragua.

"The political conflicts in Nicaragua, Stone stressed, "have a basis that is quite independent of either the United States [or] the Soviet Union. Clearly their outcome so far has not comforted the States, and the same can be said for Grenada."

According to Stone, the interest of Caribbean people would never be served "by giving our support and endorsement to this U.S. effort to provoke militarism.

"The countries of the region have a responsibility to mobilise regional support for peace initiatives and de-escalation of military aggression through the OAS, the United Nations and other regional and international bodies which can help defuse what is building up as a serious threat to regional security."

*FWI, April 1, 1983*

### GUNBOAT SIGHTED OFF PT. SALINES

A foreign gunboat was sighted some three to five miles off Point Salines, near the almost completed international airport, on Monday night.

Coast Guard patrol boats saw the boat at around 11:15 p.m. while patrolling Grenada waters. The gunboat remained in the Point Salines area for about three hours, and then moved slowly up the north coast, according to a Ministry of Interior spokesman, "well within our territorial waters." It then disappeared.

The Coast Guard approached the gunboat and tried to establish contact through radio, but received no response. They came close enough to it, however, to note some numbers written on its stern. They saw no name.

The grey gunboat was reported to have shone a powerful light on the Coast Guard vessel, "blinding" its crew, when it approached.

On Monday morning, the vigilant Coast Guard crew rounded up three United States trawlers, but soon let them go after checking them.

*FWI, April 1, 1983*

### THIRD U.S. MANOEUVRE IN 18 MONTHS

The United States military manoeuvre now being held in the Caribbean Sea, is the third in 18 months, to be held in the region.

The manoeuvre, code-named "Readex," was preceded in May 1982 by "Ocean Venture '82" and in August 1981 by "Ocean Venture '81."

"Readex," which began in January in the Caribbean Sea near the Honduran border with Nicaragua, has, according to U.S. Navy Secretary Lehman, 77 ships, six of which are British warships, and one Dutch vessel.

The manoeuvre, he said, was designed to "reflect the lessons learned from the Falklands war between Argentina and Britain. We are applying the kind of tactics and lessons learned in the Falklands," he said.

Commercial flying in various parts of the Caribbean, and just north of Grenada, has become dangerous for pilots and passengers because of 300 aircraft in the manoeuvre.

Between March 23 and 27, pilots were forced to use their eyes only, rather than instruments, to check for air traffic on routes.

A message from Piarco Airport in Trinidad to Pearl's control tower here stated that "due to intensive military operations, military hazards to aircraft and missile firing, San Juan Centre (Puerto Rico control tower) will not accept instrumental flight ruled aircraft" within 50 nautical miles of some areas listed.

The manoeuvres, which mainly affect an area east of San Juan, and countries further north in the Caribbean, are close enough to Grenada to cause concern.

Grenadians leaving here for Puerto Rico or Anguilla, or Trinidadians leaving for the Dominican Republic, will get no guidance from the San Juan control tower, since it considers the area dangerous, and has thus restricted commercial traffic.

Pearl's control tower has not yet received any surety that the area is now safe. The warning is active from the surface up to 41,000 feet.

Meanwhile, the Puerto Rican based Caribbean Project for Justice and Peace (CPJP) has expressed concern for what it calls the "increased participation of the Puerto Rican National Guard (PRNG) in the Central-American Caribbean Region."

It claims that PRNG has had units participating in both Ocean Venture '81 and '82 manoeuvres, as well as in the Honduran-United States war manoeuvres which began on January 20.

The manoeuvres later grew, with forces from the North Atlantic Organisation (NATO) joining. Over the past weeks, the U.S. has had battleships in a number of Caribbean ports.

The CPJP fears that the U.S. will eventually use the PRNG to repress activities within Honduras and in military operations against the Salvadorean freedom fighters and Nicaraguan Revolution.

*FWI, April 1, 1983*



### N.W. ST. GEORGE'S CALLS FOR MORE MILITIA TRAINING

Expanded militia training and more shooting practice for old militia members, as well as immediate training for new recruits, were called for by residents of northwest St. George's on Monday.

At a zonal council meeting held at the Bernadette Bailey Secondary School to discuss their role in defence, the residents called for duty time for militia members guarding installations to be so organised as not to wear them out.

They called for training for volunteer drivers to learn to use army transport, and have advised that medical supplies be stockpiled.

A security committee was formed at the meeting to lead security work in the area. Places were identified for child-care and first-aid training.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Minister of Defence and Interior Liam James said that within the past few weeks, counter-revolutionaries in the United States have been meeting in Venezuela and Miami, with Cuban exiles responsible for the 1976 Air Cubana bombing, as well as with Nicaraguan counter revolutionaries.

The counter-revolutionaries have a three-man leadership, and are being directed by a U.S. diplomat in a neighbouring country.

FWI, April 1, 1983

### U.S. MANOEUVRE ON VIEQUES

The United States Pentagon has announced that another military manoeuvre is taking place in the Caribbean, in the island of Vieques, east of Puerto Rico.

The manoeuvre, code-named "Universal Trek," began on May 31 and will go on for a month, it said. About 5,000 U.S. troops and fighter planes are taking part.

U.S. Naval officials told the Voice of America on Thursday night that the manoeuvre is "to show how U.S. forces could land in a small Caribbean nation where a civil war is taking place."

Vieques Island was the scene in August 1981, of another U.S. military manoeuvre, part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) exercise code-named "Ocean Venture '81."

In that exercise, U.S. forces practised an invasion of "Amber and the Amberines," an obvious reference to Grenada and its Grenadines island wards of Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

The U.S. Navy's latest destroyer, the "U.S.S. Hayler", arrived in Bridgetown, Barbados, last Friday for a five-day visit.

The U.S. Information Service there said the ship has 280 men. It is also reportedly equipped with guided missiles and sophisticated electronic gear.

Last week also, two other NATO warships were in Bridgetown harbour. They were the British ships, "HMS Olna" and "HMS Penelope", on their way back to England from the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands off Argentina, in the South Atlantic.

FWI, June 11, 1983



Militia women.

Free West Indian