

The Grenada

NEWSLETTER

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FIVE YOUNG MEN GUNNED DOWN

Five young men were gunned to death on the night of November 17th in two separate incidents which Police sources suspect are manifestations of terrorist activity.

Shortly after eleven o'clock that evening, residents of the Plains area in the Parish of St Patricks at the north end of the island heard gunfire lasting two to three minutes, but it was not until around dawn that discovery was made of a blue Morris Mini Car, registration number 668, with the bullet ridden bodies of four young men.

The car belonged to Donald Stanislaus, 29, and his body was in the drivers seat on the right hand side. The bodies of two of his friends, Andy Courtenay, 18, and Stephen Lalsee, 20, were in the back seat. The driver's door was open and the body of Donald's brother, Dennis, 32, who was on holiday from the United Kingdom, was lying crumpled in the road on the driver's side of the car with its head in the car's doorway.

Times have not been established, but it appears that, about the time of this shooting, an abandoned Militia camp at Mt. Rose, about two miles away, was attacked and a man whose name has been given as Evan Charles, was killed by gun fire.

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

NEWSLETTER arrived at Plains about ten o'clock on the morning after the shooting. The four bodies had already been moved but the car was in place as found. It was on the left side of the road facing in the direction of the town of Sauteurs about 4 miles away, its switch key was turned on, the wind-shield wipers were upright and the handbrake was down.

Blood & Glass

All the glasses of the car were smashed, over 30 bullet holes (apparently of different calibre) were counted, the seats were soaked in blood and there were pools of blood and broken glass on the floor boards. The Police and Peoples Revolutionary Army were present investigating and there were hundreds of on-lookers.

Donald Stanislaus is reported to be the head of the military Cadet Corps in St. Patrick's Parish and is also a Sergeant of Police attached to Pearls airport. Both Lalsee and Courtenay are also said to be connected with the St. Patricks Cadet Corps.

The Stanislaus brothers are brothers to Superintendent of Police Raphael Stanislaus, and Courtenay is the son of Police Inspector Winston Courtenay who has been a detainee since last December 18th.

This is the third shooting incident in St Patricks in the last four and a half months. The first occurred on July 4th when a Militia Camp at Mt. Reuil was attacked and a member of the PRA and a member of the Militia were wounded. The second was on September 19th when Joseph Charles, suspected of having taken part in the first shooting, was killed by Security Forces.

Commissioner of Police James Clarkson confirmed to NEWSLETTER on November 20th that four men were "assisting the Police" in the investigation of the Plains and Mt Rose shootings, and NEWSLETTER asked the Commissioner to comment on a report that terrorists made the attack at Mt Rose and the PRA was alerted and went into action. The report says the four men in the car at Plains died as a result of mistaken identity by the PRA.

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"The police have heard many rumours in connection with this incident", Mr Clarkson said, "and every lead is being investigated but, as yet, we have nothing definite to go on and there is no official statement to be made."

(670 words)

ASSASSINATED MEN BURIED

Thousands of Grenadians crowded the Roman Catholic Church and Churchyard at Sauteurs, St. Patricks on the afternoon of November 23rd to be present at the funeral of five young men gunned down in unexplained circumstances on the night of November 17th.

The bullet ridden bodies of four of these men were found in a car at Plains, St Patricks, on Tuesday 18th November, and the fifth was shot and killed at an abandoned Militia Camp about two miles away sometime during the night before.

The funeral was jointly conducted by Roman Catholic Priest Patrick MacCormac and Anglican Priest Hermon Bholá and, addressing the congregation, Father MacCormac pleaded that there should be no thought of revenge. The attitude should be, he said, "forgive them for they knew not what they did."

"I am an Irishman", Father MacCormac said, "and I know that civil war is the worst thing that can happen to a country. If you seek revenge for this act, you have no thought for the welfare of Grenada."

Security

There was tight security at the funeral, armed, uniformed members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army being stationed at intervals for miles on the approach roads to Sauteurs. In the vicinity of the church, some people were searched including Dr Rupert Japal.

Dr Japal, a member of the Grenada National Party (GNP), was an unsuccessful candidate in the 1976 General Elections which GNP fought on a joint manifesto with Mr Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement and Mr Winston Whyte's United People's Party.

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Dr Japal was arrested on November 6th last year and was released on March 25th last. Mr Whyte was detained on October 15th last year and is still held at Richmond Hill prisons.

(284 words)

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE

Some 800 students demonstrated through the streets of St Georges on Thursday November 20th in protest against the slaying of five young men on the night of November 17th.

The bullet ridden bodies of four of these men were found in a car on the morning of November 18th, and the fifth was shot and killed at an abandoned Militia camp about two miles away from where the four were found. No one has been arrested in connection with these incidents but four men are reported to be "assisting the Police" in their investigations.

The demonstration was led by a banner reading, "Revolution has no room for terrorist (sic), join the Militia and fight terrorism", and dozens of placards carried by the students indicated belief that the killings were the work of terrorists.

Most of the students were in school uniform and some identified were from the State owned Grenada Boys Secondary School, the Anglican High School and the Roman Catholic St Joseph's Convent. The age group ranged from pre-teen upward and there were five or six adult cheer leaders. The atmosphere was a carnival one reminiscent of the anti-Gairy demonstrations of 1974 and the favourite chant appeared to be "They touch Bishop, they touch us too".

Leading the demonstration was a car with four members of the Militia of which at least one was armed with a submachine gun. Also on guard, on foot, were some half dozen members of the People's Revolutionary Army in camouflaged uniforms and carrying automatic weapons.

(264 words)

BISHOP/ADAMS "WAR OF WORDS" CONTINUES

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told a rally of some 3000 to 4000 persons on November 16th that, in his "war of words" with Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados, he could have written a 'nice note' in diplomatic language to the Barbadian Government. However, he said, he had used other language with a specific purpose.

"We wanted to use language that the masses, not only in our country but in the Caribbean, will understand", he said. "So, long nose Uncle Tom, dirty mouth Uncle Tom will get the message once and for all, leave the people of Grenada alone, hands off Grenada, get your dirty mouth out of Grenada's business, dont poke your long nose into Grenada's business !!!"

The controversy between Mr Bishop and Mr Adams started on November 4th when Mr Adams publicly called on the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) to hold the General Elections it had promised soon after the revolution of March 13th 1979. Mr Bishop heatedly replied with the accusation that Mr Adams is interfering in Grenada's internal affairs. He also dubbed Mr Adams a "yard fowl" and accused him of being an "Uncle Tom" to the United States Government.

Expectant Dog

"Like an expectant dog barking for his supper", Prime Minister Bishop said, "he (Mr Adams) rushes in to please his new master, (Ronald Reagan, like all good yard fowls, by attacking Grenada."

The rally on November 16th was held at Seamoan, an abandoned race track on the east coast near to Pearls airport, and commemorated "Bloody Sunday", an incident in 1973 when six members of the New Jewel Movement were attacked by then Premier Eric Gairy's "Mongoose Gang" of paid criminals.

Mr Bishop, Mr Unison Whiteman (now Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Tourism) and Mr Selwyn Strachan (now Minister of Communications, Works and Labour), were badly beaten and injured, and the six were held incommunicado for 24 hours even though urgently in need of medical attention. This incident raised great public concern and was the basis on which Mr Gairy was forced

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to appoint the Duffus Commission of Inquiry into the breakdown of law and order in Grenada.

Addressing the rally, Mr Bishop said that, when a person is in a position of strength, he must be magnanimous and, since Mr Adams had asked for an explanation of his (Mr Bishop's) remarks, he would give it to him.

The Prime Minister said the reason why he had called Mr Adams a 'yard fowl' is that, in the days of slavery, there were two types of slave, the 'field slave' and the 'house slave'. The field slave cut sugar cane under the master's whip, he said, and thought only about freedom and "how to plan revolution". They were the "genuine fighters", Mr Bishop said, and Grenadians are their descendents.

Kick Me Please

The house slaves, on the other hand, Mr Bishop said, did no work in the fields and, every time the master passed, they put on smiles and there was a "bending and bowing and scraping" to the extent that their heads touched the ground. "And every time they see master", the Prime Minister said, "they say, 'yes master, please master, no master, thank you master, kick me please master'."

Mr Bishop said it was the house type slave which had been called 'Uncle Tom', and he wanted his listeners to understand that, when Mr Adams had been given the name of 'Tom' at birth, it was a "scientific name". "They called him 'Tom' ", he said, "because they knew he was an Uncle Tom house slave" .

The Prime Minister defined a 'yard fowl' as one which "will kill his mother for ten cents", and one which will "bend and bow and scrape to any extent and any level to get two grains of corn falling off master's table."

"That is why", he said, "Uncle Tom could not even wait for the people in America to finish counting their election votes. Uncle Tom took no chance. He said, 'I'm not waiting for Reagan to say he's President. Before they say he's President, I say he's President. I take in front, I want my corn from now.' "

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Mr Bishop said the United States has a "backyard policy" of believing that the Caribbean is her back yard and "when they spit, we must open our mouths and collect it. He said Grenadians have declared they are in nobody's back yard but, wherever there is a back yard there must be a "yard fowl" and that is the role Mr Adams is playing.

Apology

"That is the explanation and that is the apology that the free people of revolutionary Grenada send to Uncle Tom", the Prime Minister said.

Mr Bishop said he was disclosing for the first time the fact that Mr Adams, in the first days of the revolution, "was spending every effort" to try to stop the United States, Britain, Canada and France from giving recognition to the revolutionary government.

"This man", he said, "is now going around pretending that it was because of him that the Government of the United Kingdom gave recognition to our Government and our country. The opposite is true. The fact is that he spent several days trying to block that recognition."

Mr Bishop said Mr Adams has a "history of constant interference and constant aggression against the people of Grenada and the Grenada revolution." He said that, in the early days of the revolution when there was a move "by some of these people" to try to stop Liat airlines from coming to Grenada, "Tom Adams was one of the main people involved in trying to push this move."

The Prime Minister said that, during the first weeks of the revolution, Prime Minister Adams and Barbados' Foreign Minister Henry Forde made hostile statements against the Grenada revolution and people. He said also that the "Beacon", the official organ of Mr Adams' Barbados Labour Party, has consistently attacked the Grenada Revolution.

Mr Bishop said the "Beacon" of September 26th last "tried to attack our fraternal allies and friends from Cuba", and he quoted the following from that publication :-

"The Cubans recently detained a Magistrate and it was only after the intervention of the Commissioner of

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Police that the Magistrate was released."

"Not even in Grenada itself have I heard the rumour by even the most vicious counter-revolutionaries even saying that any Magistrate was ever detained", Mr Bishop said, "but here you have Uncle Tom Adams and his Party newspaper saying that our Cuban comrades detained a Magistrate."

Criminal Offences

The Prime Minister accused Mr Adams of being part of a conspiracy and an accessory before and after the fact to "criminal offences attempted to be committed" in Grenada. He said the Peoples Revolutionary Government now knows "from what Adams himself has said" that people have been phoning him (Mr Adams) over the last few months, after midnight, using his private unlisted telephone number, calling on him to assist in the overthrow of the PRG.

"But observe carefully", Mr Bishop said, "the first time Adams has told the people of Grenada, the Government of Grenada, the people of Barbados and the people of the Caribbean of this is a few days ago."

Mr Bishop said Mr Adams' suppression of this "key and vital" information "threatening the survival of a Government in the Caribbean" shows clearly that the Prime Minister of Barbados "has been involved for some time now in plotting and planning and scheming to see if he could find ways of overthrowing our Government."

"If Uncle Tom is seriously thinking of maintaining any dreams of overthrowing this revolution", Mr Bishop said, "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 free revolutionary Grenada are ready, willing and prepared to fight and die to defend our revolution."

(1292 words)

TWO WANTED MEN KILLED

Security Forces shot and killed two wanted men on November 28th. Full details are unavailable but reports say the shooting took place in the Mt.Reuil area in the Parish of St Patricks.

The names of the dead men are given as Glen Simon alias Habib Ali and Wilber Charles alias Ayub.

Last July 4th there was a shooting incident in the Mt.Reuil area in which a member of the Peoples Revolutionary Army and a member of the Militia were wounded, and it is alleged that Simon and Charles together with Mikey James and Joseph Charles alias Yussuf Abdul were involved in the incident and were responsible for the woundings.

The four men were put on the 'wanted list and Joseph Charles was shot and killed by Security Forces on September 19th.

An unconfirmed report says four men associated with the dead men were arrested in the Conference area on the east coast. Another man, Matthew Pascal, is being sought by the Security Forces.

(162 words)

HABEAS CORPUS HEARING BEGINS

Hearing began in the High Court on November 28th of the application writ of Habeas Corpus brought by Ralph Thompson against the Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General Kendrick Radix and Commissioner of Prisons Patrick MacLeish.

Thompson was taken into custody on June 19th, the day a bomb exploded at a rally at Queen's Park killing three young girls. He is represented by Barristers Tillman Thomas and Lloyd Noel. Mr. Noel resigned as Attorney General and a member of the Peoples Revolutionary Government last June.

Addressing Chief Justice Mr. Archibald Nedd in the High Court Mr. Noel argued that provisions of the law with reference to detention had not been complied with. He said that, before a person is

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detained, a detention order must be made, that order must state the grounds on which the detention is being made and a copy of the order must be given to the detainee within 7 days.

Mr. Noel asked the court to note and put an interpretation on the sequence of events which took place between 23rd and 28th October. He said his application to the Court for permission to apply for a writ of Habeas Corpus had been made on October 23rd. A law purporting to amend retroactively the regulations for detention was passed on October 27th. And, according to an affidavit made by the Commissioner of Prisons Patrick MacLeish, the Commissioner received, for the first time, on October 28th, a Detention Order relative to Thompson. That order was dated June 19th.

Mr. Noel referred also to the "grounds" on Thompson's purported Detention Order and said these stated that Thompson was "reasonably suspected of counselling and conspiring" for illegal purposes. Mr. Noel said this is not specific enough to constitute adequate grounds and he thought this made the Detention Order invalid.

Guyanese born Crown Council, ex-judge Mr. Edwin Heyliger, in his reply to Mr. Noel said there could be no question that the Detention Order was issued and that it is valid. "On the face of it", he told Mr. Justice Nedd, "that Detention Order was issued on June 19th, it is here attached to the affidavit of the Commissioner of Prisons, and there is no evidence on which your Honour can go beyond that".

Referring to the Detention Order, Mr. Nedd commented on the fact that there was an interval of over four months before it was received by the Commissioner of Prisons. "What intrigues me", he said, "is what happened to the Detention Order before it came to the Commissioner of Prisons".

Mr. Heyliger blamed this delay on "bureaucracy" and said the reasonable conclusion is that the order "must have been lying down somewhere".

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Mr. Heyliger also argued that the "grounds" given on the Detention Order were adequate considering the significance of the fact that it was dated June 19th, the day on which a bomb exploded at the rally. In that context, he said, it is easy to imply the words, "to wit, the placing of a bomb at Queen's Park" as being included in the grounds mentioned.

Attorney General Radix told Mr. Nedd that, with the exception of Mr. Noel's arguments relative to the adequacy of the grounds, he considered that everything Mr. Noel had said was "without efficacy". He said Mr. Noel's arguments on the matter of grounds had taken him "by surprise", and he wished some time to consider them. Mr. Nedd adjourned the hearing until Tuesday December 2nd.

This hearing has generated considerable interest in legal circles in Grenada as it is the first time the legality of any action of the Peoples Revolutionary Government has been questioned in court.

(610 words)



GOVERNMENT TAKES "PROFIT MARGIN"

Decreases in the landed cost of gasoline will not be reflected in the price at which it will be sold to motorists but will result in revenue for the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG)

This is the effect of Peoples Law 56/1980, the Petroleum (Increased Profit Margin) Law which was passed on November 12th. According to that law, when there is a reduction in the landed cost of gasoline, the Minister of Finance may make an Order to have the Oil Companies pay that reduction into the Treasury.

The section of the Law which authorises that Order reads as follows:

"As from the 9th September 1980 when any reduction in the landed cost of gasoline imported into the State occurs and that reduction is not reflected in the controlled selling price of that article but results in an increased profit margin to the importer or his agent, the Minister may make an order in accordance with section 4 of this Law".

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Sources close to the Oil Companies told NEWSLETTER that, as a result of a glut on the market, gasoline and diesel oil were imported recently into Grenada at landed costs which showed reductions of EC\$22 and EC\$19 per imperial gallon respectively.

The Government controlled selling price of gasoline is EC\$5.25 per imperial gallon and that of diesel oil is EC\$5.14 per imperial gallon. A suggestion was made by the Oil Companies to the PRG that these selling prices should be revised to reflect the lower landed costs, but it was decided instead to stabilise the prices at their present level and have the Oil Companies pay the price reduction to Government.

NEWSLETTER is advised that several other Caribbean Community countries have benefited by the unusual fall in the landed cost of gasoline and that this fall has been reflected in lower selling prices to the public.

(307 words)

PREVENTIVE DETENTION TRIBUNAL TO SIT

A Government spokesman told NEWSLETTER on November 21st that the Preventive Detention Tribunal will resume sittings on December 1st.

This Tribunal was appointed one month after the revolution of March 13th 1979, its purpose being to review cases of persons detained and make recommendations to the Minister for Security. Headed by Polish born Dr. Adolph Bierzynski, 65, a medical practitioner the Tribunal also has in its membership, a housewife, Mrs. Alice McIntyre, 55, and businessman Mr. Bryce Woodroffe, 61.

The first sitting of the Tribunal was in May 1979. According to the law creating the Tribunal, sittings should have been every two months, but the next sitting was not until September 1979 and there have been no more since.

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The Government spokesman said the infrequency of sittings of the Tribunal has been because of "counter-revolutionary activity" and "limited man-power resources".

Recommendations of the Tribunal are not binding on the Minister for Security.

(152 words)

MORE MILLIONS SINCE REVOLUTION

Many more millions of dollars have come to the Caribbean over the last 20 months because of the Grenada Revolution which took place on March 13th 1979.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop expressed this at a rally on November 16th as part of a reply to a statement by Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados that some countries may withhold aid to the Caribbean because of the Grenada revolution.

"What the Americans, for example, have realised," Mr. Bishop said, "is that in their anxiety to try to prevent other revolutions taking place in the Caribbean, they have deserted and abandoned their policy of neglecting the Caribbean and, today, they are out here in numbers".

The Prime Minister said the United States is engaged now in "shuttle diplomacy" out of Barbados, visiting the islands frequently, and, he said, "now in most islands, certainly Barbados, several more millions of dollars have gotten into the Treasuries of those islands because the Americans are trying to pump money to see if they can get people to stop thinking about their problems".

Mr. Bishop said the Americans are trying to use money to stop "progressive development" in the Caribbean, and he warned Mr. Adams to "note another side of the coin". If the Grenada Revolution is overthrown, he said, it will mean an end to all of the extra dollars which the Grenada revolution is responsible for bringing to the region.

(234 words)

ECCA PUBLISHES YEAR END ACCOUNTS

The East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) has published a Balance Sheet, a Statement of Income & Expenditure and a Statement of General Reserve all with reference to the Authority's end-of-year figures at 31st March 1980. These Statements, together with a Report dated June 13th from the Authority's Auditors, Messrs Pannel Fitzpatrick & Co, have been published in the Government Gazette of November 14th.

BALANCE SHEET @ 31st MARCH 1980
(Expressed in East Caribbean Dollars)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Demand Liabilities	123,023,715	99,527,329
Proposed Distribution to Participating Governments	11,535,060	8,644,748
Bankers Deposits	83,226,085	72,732,390
General Reserve Fund	12,302,371	9,952,733
Special Reserve	1,546,560	1,546,560
Other Liabilities	<u>39,741,740</u>	<u>40,142,865</u>
Represented by:-	<u>\$271,375,531</u>	<u>\$232,546,625</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>External Assets:</u>		
Other Securities	68,303,497	76,149,846
Fixed Deposits & Money at call	150,045,490	115,354,866
Bankers Balances	1,376,051	690,922
Regional Currencies	<u>4,035,534</u>	<u>4,372,513</u>
	<u>\$223,760,572</u>	<u>\$196,568,147</u>
<u>Internal Assets:</u>		
Participating Governments' Securities	35,425,863	29,420,151
Bankers Balances	2,211,825	2,073,239
Freehold Properties	<u>476,257</u>	<u>476,257</u>
	<u>\$38,113,945</u>	<u>\$31,969,647</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Interest Accrued on Securities & Deposits	6,045,192	3,899,501
Accounts Receivable & Prepaid Expenses	6,846,807	994,429
<u>Less</u> Accrued Liabilities & Provisions	<u>(3,390,985)</u>	<u>(885,099)</u>
	<u>\$9,501,014</u>	<u>\$4,008,831</u>
	<u>\$47,614,959</u>	<u>\$35,978,478</u>
	<u>\$271,375,531</u>	<u>\$232,546,625</u>

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STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
(Expressed in East Caribbean Dollars)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
<u>Interest</u>		
United States Government Securities - Treasury Bills.	2,218,239	1,000,855
Other Securities	3,957,141	3,173,968
<u>Participating Government Securities</u>		
- Treasury Bills	1,119,127	853,164
- Securities	1,138,204	1,125,632
Repurchase Agreements	234,484	189,462
Money at Call and on Deposit	<u>19,096,402</u>	<u>10,201,954</u>
	27,763,597	16,545,035
Commission on Currency	443,411	364,534
Commission on Inter-regional settlements	227,609	169,588
Gain on purchase & sale of foreign currencies	659,443	507,873
Loss on sale of United Kingdom Govt. Securities	(4,725)	-
Income from Commemorative Coin Sales	5	4
Agency Fees	4,800	3,600
Miscellaneous	<u>217</u>	<u>1,508</u>
	29,094,357	17,592,142
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Administration Expenses	1,106,857	967,416
Inter-territorial transfer of currency	96,539	76,297
Supplies of currency	1,967,615	1,142,803
Interest paid on Bankers' deposits	5,056,404	4,199,802
Interest on Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility	<u>1,371,049</u>	<u>687,245</u>
	9,598,464	7,073,563
<u>INCOME BEFORE PROVISIONS & APPROPRIATIONS</u>	19,495,893	10,518,579
Provision for new coinage	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	-
<u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	17,995,893	10,518,579
Foreign Currency transactions	(71,394)	389,780
Depreciation of Securities	<u>(4,039,801)</u>	<u>(1,213,313)</u>
<u>NET INCOME BEFORE APPROPRIATIONS</u>	13,884,698	9,695,046
Amount transferred to General Reserve Fund	<u>(2,349,638)</u>	<u>(1,050,298)</u>
<u>BALANCE DISTRIBUTABLE AMONG PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS</u>	\$11,535,060	\$8,644,748

STATEMENT OF GENERAL RESERVE
(Expressed in East Caribbean Dollars)

<u>GENERAL RESERVE FUND</u> - At beginning of Year		
Year	\$ 9,952,733	\$8,902,435
Amount allocated out of Excess of Income over Expenditure to maintain Reserve at 10% of Demand Liabilities	<u>2,349,638</u>	<u>1,050,298</u>
<u>GENERAL RESERVE FUND</u> - End of Year	\$12,302,371	\$9,952,733

GRIM PROSPECTS FOR NUTMEGS

Nutmeg farmers in Grenada have been warned they may have to tighten their belts. World market conditions are bad and the warning has come from the Board of Management of the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) in its Report on the Trading of the Association during the year ended June 30th last.

"The cash liquidity position of the Reserve Fund is at an uncomfortably low level", the Board says, "particularly so in view of the continuing poor state of the market and the grim prospects of an even lower trading surplus next year".

The Board's concern is that, for two consecutive years, funds have had to be taken from Reserves. The system is that produce is "bought" from the 6000 plus nutmeg farmers during the year and, depending on the trading surplus, a "bonus" is paid in time for Christmas. The problem is that, in both 1979 and 1980, the surplus has been poor and has been supplemented from Reserves.

GCNA has operated since 1947 and has been of tremendous advantage to farmers. Prior to 1947, middle-men dealers bought growers produce and exported it. Under that system, there was no unified price for Grenada nutmegs on the world market and competition for sales to brokers abroad drove prices down. In addition, profits of export dealers reduced returns to the growers.

Opposition

By legislation enacted in 1947, GCNA was created to control the export of nutmegs and develop the Industry. There was great opposition to this from export dealers but, eight years later, the existence of the Association was more than justified when it provided a cooperative approach to the destruction caused by the disastrous hurricane of 1955.

Addressing the legislature a few days after the hurricane, the Governor, Mr. C.M. Deverell, said that, not only had there been great loss to individuals and to the State through dam-

age to property, but destruction to crops would disrupt Grenada's agriculture for years.

"This is, indeed, a sombre picture", he said, "and the situation it depicts will clearly call for all our resolution and unity of purpose in the years to come".

The Nutmeg Industry is one of the principal foreign exchange earners of Grenada and the "unity of purpose" provided by GCNA at that time was invaluable. Damage to nutmeg plantations was estimated at 80% and this was the heaviest blow to the Industry since the island began to export nutmegs late in the last century. The outlook was dark, there was despair that the plantations could ever be restored and it was feared that the Industry might disappear with this disaster.

Rum Punch

The nutmeg (*Myristica Fragrans*), although incorporated in the national flag, is not indigenous to Grenada. It came to the island as a curiosity. In the 1830s, Westindian overseers went to the East Indies to advise on sugar extraction and, on their return, brought back the nutmeg especially for the flavour it imparts to rum punch.

The first nutmeg trees were planted in Grenada about 1843 and, inside the next few years, many estate Great Houses had trees growing in their back yards to supply nutmegs for Sunday morning punch parties. In 1851, however, disaster suddenly struck the nutmeg plantations of the Far East, gave the Grenada nutmeg a new perspective and altered the agricultural history of Grenada.

Far East plantation owners found that, overnight, they were losing their nutmeg orchards. During the dark hours, a worm attacked the trees. By next morning, the top branches had withered and, within a few days, the tree was dead.

Many large plantations in Singapore and other parts of the Far East were reduced rapidly to garden plots. There was a shortage of nutmegs on the world market and Grenadian planters saw their opportunity. By 1860, nutmegs were being planted seriously as an economic crop and, by the 1880s, exports were made.

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The plantations in the Far East recovered from their heavy blow as did the Grenada plantations after the 1955 hurricane. The Far East Nutmeg Industry is now centered in Indonesia and that country supplies some 70% of world requirements; Grenada supplies almost all the remainder.

Problem

One of the big problems facing the Nutmeg Industry is that there is no cooperation between Grenada and Indonesia and so no control of world prices. Early this year, the GCNA Manager, Mr. Robin Renwick, visited Indonesia and had talks with officials there. Contrary to what obtains in Grenada, however, there is no single Body controlling nutmeg exports from that country. Mr. Renwick was unable to make any arrangements and there have been no positive results from his visit.

More recently, Grenada's Minister of Finance Bernard Coard had discussions with Indonesian Minister of Finance Ali Wardhana when the two men were in Washington for an International Monetary Fund meeting in September. The Peoples Revolutionary Government has announced that Indonesia has asked for details of Grenada's nutmeg trade so that a suitable marketing policy may be developed, but no scheme of cooperation is as yet in effect.

In the meantime, the market outlook continues to be discouraging and fears of the GCNA Board seem well grounded. GCNA had nearly EC\$4.5 million in liquid cash reserves at the end of the 1978 trading year. During the following year, however, trading conditions deteriorated and cash reserves had to be depleted to supplement the year-end surplus payment. For the same reason, reserves had to be used again this year and liquid cash reserves at the end of the 1980 trading year stood at under EC\$ $\frac{1}{2}$ million.

The worsening situation and falling demand is blamed on the general world recession, and GCNA Manager Mr. Robin Renwick told NEWSLETTER that, since the end of the 1980 nutmeg trading year last June 30th, the market has become even worse.

"Unless there is an ease in the world recession", he said, "our prospects for next year are grim".

EAST CARIBBEAN CURRENCY AUTHORITY

Today, NEWSLETTER has had available only three Statements of Assets & Liabilities relative to the East Caribbean Currency Authority.

The first related to the month of February and was published in the issue of 19th April and the second related to May and was published in the issue of August 30th.

The third Statement relates to July and is as follows:-

LiabilitiesDemand Liabilities

Notes in Circulation	EC\$ 99,261,742
Coin in Circulation	8,055,703
Bankers Balances	18,217,554
Unpresented Cheques	1,618,518
International Organisations	<u>965,109</u>
	128,118,626
<u>Bankers Reserve</u>	65,555,909
<u>General Reserve</u>	12,302,371
<u>Special Reserve</u>	1,546,560
<u>Other Liabilities</u>	<u>51,290,209</u>
	<u>\$258,813,675</u>

AssetsExternal Assets

Fixed Deposits & Money at Call	\$137,165,781
Securities	67,243,247
Regional Currencies	8,476,551
Bankers Balances	<u>2,779,148</u>
	215,664,727

Internal Assets

Participating Government Securities including Treasury Bills	36,407,163
Other Assets	<u>6,741,785</u>
	<u>\$258,813,675</u>



GCNA TO DISTRIBUTE EC\$4 MILLION

The Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) is to distribute 4 million East Caribbean (EC) dollars to members by the end of this month.

This amount represents the "surplus" due to growers resulting from trading in the year ended 30th June last and is about equal to the amount distributed last year, but it does not reflect an accurate picture of the state of the industry.

The gross profit from sales in 1979 was EC\$8.3 million, a fall from the EC\$11.5 million of 1978, and EC\$1.4 million was transferred from reserves to pay a "surplus" of EC\$4.3 million.

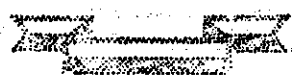
In 1980, there has been a further fall in gross profit to EC\$7.7 million and EC\$1.8 million is being taken from reserves to pay a "surplus" of EC\$ 4 million.

According to GCNA, the decline in profits is as a result of sharp fall-off in demand and competitors from Singapore and Indonesia have been exerting pressure by selling at lower prices. Efforts are now being made through both private and Government channels to establish joint marketing arrangements with Indonesia.

In connection with the amount of "surplus" to be paid, the GCNA management board says that, in deciding to withdraw EC\$1.8 million from reserves, consideration was given to both the "financial hardships being experienced by growers" and the "possible consequences of a cash liquidity problem being caused".

"This substantial transfer from reserves, however", the Board says, "following the transfer of EC\$1.4 million last year, leaves the cash liquidity position of the Reserve Fund at an uncomfortably low level".

(261 words)



EXPORT OF MINOR SPICES CONTROLLED

The Minor Spices Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd (MSCMS) has been given control over the export from Grenada of cloves, cinnamon, pimento and all other spices with the exception of nutmegs and mace.

Peoples Law 48/1980 of 22nd October 1980 makes the Society the sole exporter of "minor spices" and authorises the Society to grant a permit to traffickers to trade in these spices with Caribbean Community countries.

MSCMS was registered on June 15th 1971 when 7 members took over from the operations of the Grenada Inter-Church Council. Those operations began in 1969 with the purchase and shipment of spices (other than nutmegs and mace) and, in 1971, the venture was sufficiently developed to be handed over to the spice producers through MSCMS.

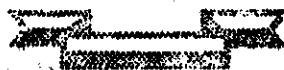
Early last year, a spokesman for the Society told NEWSLETTER that one of the principal problems it faced was competition from two or three big exporters. Formal consideration was given to the possibility of approaching the Gairy Government to establish a Statutory Body similar to that which controls the export of nutmegs and mace, but this idea was discarded.

"Members considered it would be unwise to take this step", the spokesman said. "When it was considered that Government now has taken control of all the producer cooperatives operating under Statutory Bodies - the Nutmeg Association, Cocoa Association and Banana Society - it was felt that, if Government established a Statutory Body for minor spices, producers might lose control here too".

It has not yet been possible to get a statement as to what revived the idea of a Statutory Body to control the export of minor spices, but Law 48/1980 is evidence that it was revived and acted upon, the authority for the control of exports now being MSCMS.

Law 48/1980 authorises the Minister of Agriculture to nominate two persons to the MSCMS Board of Management.

(306 words)



NEWS SHORTSCIM Funds Seminar For Women

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) is to fund a Trade Union seminar for Grenadian women with the aim of developing their leadership skills.

CIM, which was established by the Organisation of American States, held a conference in the Dominican Republic from October 26th to November 4th at which Grenada was represented by Mrs. Phyllis Coard, Secretary for Women's Affairs in the Peoples Revolutionary Government and wife of Minister of Finance Bernard Coard. The decision to fund the seminar was taken at the Conference.

At the Conference, Grenada was elected to serve for 2 years on the CIM Executive Committee as a representative of the Caribbean region. Also serving on the Committee will be the United States, Venezuela, Colombia, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

(126 words)

Cold Storage Facilities For "Albatross III"

Three refrigeration experts from Trinidad arrived in Grenada on November 14th to examine the possibility of installing cold storage facilities on the State owned 148 nett tons freighter "Albatross III".

This boat, formerly owned by the Jim Jones Peoples Temple Cult of Guyana was purchased by the Peoples Revolutionary Government in May last for EC\$201 thousand. Minister of Agriculture Unison Whiteman has said the "Albatross III" will be used to transport agricultural produce for export.

The gear box of the freighter was found to be defective and it is now in Trinidad for repairs. The Government Information Service says that, when these repairs have been effected the ship will be sent abroad to be refurbished.

(115 words)



Grenadians On Management Training in Britain

Two Grenadians left the island on November 18th to attend a seminar on Management and National Development at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in the United Kingdom. They are Mr. Michael Jerome, Senior Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and Mr. Otto George, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Housing.

The seminar which runs until December 12th, is sponsored by the British Overseas Development Administration

(71 words)

Grenada Against 200 Mile Economic Zone

Grenada has said that establishment of an exclusive 200 mile economic zone in the Caribbean will operate against productivity of the fishing industry and provoke conflicts between countries.

This view was expressed at a recent seminar which took place in Havana, Cuba recently. The theme of the seminar was "Evaluation of the Law of the Sea & Fishing in the West-Central Atlantic", and it was sponsored by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation.

Grenada's view is that the small island states in the region should concentrate their energies on exploitation and conservation of their fishing resources in a collective way in a collective fishing zone.

(106 words)

Belfon Predicts Tourism Increase

Tourism Director Miss Jane Belfon has said that, despite indications that there has been a recession in Grenada's Tourist Industry, a 5% to 8% increase is expected in the 1980-1981 Winter Season.

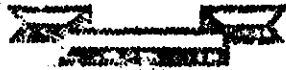
According to the Government Information Service, Miss Belfon said there was a sharp decrease in visitors from the North American

- continued -

Market during the 1979-1980 Season, but this was offset by an increase of 62% in European visitors during the same period.

Miss Belfon said there were 3,595 European visitors in 1973 and this figure dropped to 1,858 in 1974 (the year of disturbances in Grenada). By 1978, there were 6,998 European visitors, she said, the figure jumped to 11,371 in the 1979-80 Season and is expected to double in the 1980-81 Season.

(130 words)



Alister Hughes
29th November 1980