

PRIME MINISTER BLAIZE DIES

Thirty-two countries and international organisations represented at the funeral

PRIME MINISTER Herbert Augustus Blaize died at his official residence, Mt Royal in St Georges, shortly after 9.00 am on Tuesday 19th December.

Cause of his death has not been disclosed but Mr Blaize has suffered for many years from cancer of the prostate and from effects of a back injury which, in recent times, has immobilised him progressively and confined him to a wheelchair.

Joint Meeting

At a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate, held on Thursday 21st December, the new Prime Minister, Mr Ben Jones, led parliamentarians in paying tribute to Mr Blaize.

In addition to Mr Jones, speakers included the Leader of the Opposition, Mr George Brizan, Mr Danny Williams, formerly Minister of Health in Mr Blaize's Cabinet, MR George McGuire, Minister of Education, Senators Eric Pierre and Pope McLean, President of the Senate, Dr John Watts, and Mr Tillman Thomas, formerly a Parliamentary Secretary in Mr Blaize's Cabinet.

The body lay in state in York House,



THE LATE PRIME MINISTER
HERBERT A. BLAIZE

Parliament Building, from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm on Friday December 22nd while hundreds filed past and signed the condolence book.

In Procession

It was then taken in procession through the streets of St Georges and to the St Georges Anglican Church. An ecumenical funeral service was held there in which Heads of the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and the Salvation Army took part.

Thirty-two countries and international

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
● Prime Minister Blaize Dies.....	1
● Jones Made PM.....	2
● Court Pays Tribute To Cynthia Hughes.....	3
● Brizan Writes Blaize.....	4
● Government Sells GRENTEL Shares.....	5
● Herbert Augustus Blaize - A Profile.....	6
● The Bishop Murder Appeal.....	8
● News Shorts.....	11

organisations were represented at the funeral including Prime Minister Erskine
Please See BLAIZE Page 2

JONES MADE PM

"We did not give our support to this neither did we make any objection" NDC

BY PROCLAMATION DATED 19th December and published in the Government Gazette of 22nd December, Governor

General Sir Paul Scoon announced his appointment of Mr Ben Jones to replace Prime Minister Herbert Blaize who died on December 19th.

Sir Paul said he made the appointment by virtue of the authority vested in him under section 58 (1) of the Constitution which reads :-

"There shall be a Prime Minister of Grenada who shall be appointed by the Governor General"

The following subsection, 58 (2), reads :-

"When the Governor-General has occasion to appoint a Prime Minister, he shall appoint a member of the

House of Representatives who appears to him likely to command the support of the majority of the members of the House"



MR BEN JONES

At the present time, no political party commands "the support of the majority of the members of the House". With the death of Mr Blaize, one seat is vacant in the 15 member House. The National Party (TNP) has 5 seats, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) has 6 and The New National Party (NNP) has 3.

An informed source close to NDC told NEWSLETTER that the Governor General had advised Mr George Brizan, Leader of the NDC in the House and Leader of the Opposition, of his intention to appoint Mr Ben Jones of TNP to be Prime Minister.

Please See JONES Page 3

BLAIZE From Page 1

Sandiford of Barbados and Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia.

Guyana was represented by Prime Minister Hamilton Green, St Kitts by Deputy Prime Minister Michael Powell and Puerto Rico by Acting Governor Dona Sila Calderon.

Three-Member Delegation

National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson headed a three-member delegation from Trinidad & Tobago and St Vincent's Education Minister John Horne led a two-member team.

Dominica was represented by Works Minister Alleyne Carbon and Antigua by Home Affairs Minister Christopher O'Marde.

There were official delegations also from Jamaica, Montserrat and the Bahamas, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was represented by CARICOM Secretary General Roderick Rainford and the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) by OECS

Director Dr Vaughn Lewis.

Also represented were The United States of America, Britain, France, West Germany, Canada, Venezuela and the Republic of China.

Lessons at the service were read by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and President of the Senate Dr John Watts. The eulogy was delivered by Dr Lamuel Stanislaus, Grenada's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Seventeen Gun Salute

On Saturday 23rd December, to the sound of a 17 gun salute, the body left Grenada for Carriacou on board the Coast Guard "Tyrell Bay". Following final rites on Sunday 24th December, at the Brunswick Anglican Church in Carriacou, the body was interred in the Brunswick cemetery.

End

COURT PAYS TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA HUGHES

**A Distinguished Lady Called To Higher
Service : President Smith**

GRENADA'S COURT OF AP-
peal paid tribute on December
11th to the late Cynthia Hughes,
Co-Editor and Co-Publisher of
THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER.

President of the Court, Sir Frederick Smith, described Mrs Hughes, who died on December 6th, as a "distinguished lady" who had been "called to higher service."

Source Of Encouragement

On the few occasions he had had the privilege of meeting Mrs Hughes, the President said, he had been impressed with her "sincerity, compassion and dignity." She must have been, Sir Frederick said, "a source of encouragement and pride" to her husband, Alister.

"She has gone to higher service", he said,

JONES From Page 2

"We did not give our support to this", the source said, "neither did we make any objection. We merely noted what Sir Paul said he would do, acting in his own deliberate judgement".

The source said, however, that NDC had made it clear to the Governor General that their principal concern is that General Elections should be held as early as possible.

Come To An End

By proclamation issued on December 27th, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, Sir Paul dissolved Parliament, the life of which would, according to the Constitution, have come to an end automatically on December 28th.

According to the Constitution, the Governor General must now fix a date for General Elections to be held within three months of the dissolution of Parliament.

"and because of her Christian virtues and Christian behaviour, no doubt she has got her reward. It is us who are left behind who have got to bear the burden of this sad loss".

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs Velma Hylton, expressed her condolences to the Hughes family and said that, like Sir Frederick, she felt Mrs Hughes had been called to "higher service".

Had Been A Friend

Mrs Hylton said Mrs Hughes had been a friend to her and she had come to know her very well since she (Hylton) had come to Grenada to be involved in the Maurice Bishop Murder trial after the 1983 military intervention.

"I know that the expressions of sympathy which Mr Alister Hughes receives from the Court and from the rest of us here today", she said, "will do something to help to lighten the loss which I know he will feel for some considerable time to come".

Please See HUGHES Page 4

The Grenada NEWSLETTER

Founded 17th August 1973

408th Issue

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

MARIA MOORE CABOT AWARD 1984

Subscription Rates

Payable In Advance

Postage Paid By Second Class Air Mail
(Inland Post In Grenada)

	EC\$	US\$
10 Issues	\$115.00	\$ 43.00
20 Issues	\$207.00	\$ 77.00
40 Issues	\$390.00	\$146.00

About 20 Issues Published Annually

BRIZAN WRITES BLAIZE

MR GEORGE BRIZAN, Leader of the Opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives, in a letter dated December 2nd, suggested to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize how the crisis created by the then current strike of Government employees could be solved.

"We recommend", he said, "that Government seek Parliamentary approval to borrow the required sum for meeting the back pay commitment to the Public Workers....."

The strike began on December 1st following a TV and radio broadcast in which Mr Blaize said EC\$25 million in back pay, due to be paid out on December 1st, would not be paid because money expected to be received from "external sources" had not arrived.

Money Could Be Borrowed

In Mr Brizan's letter, he suggested that the money could be borrowed "from a consortium of banks operating in the country or from alternative sources" and he pledged the Opposition's support for a Bill to borrow this money.

Obtaining approval for this loan would necessitate reconvening Parliament which was prorogued by the Governor General last August on the advice of Prime Minister Blaize.

That action saved Mr Blaize's minority Government from the danger of falling through a Vote of No Confidence and, if Parliament was reconvened, that danger would loom again.

However, in an interview with Mr Brizan on December 3rd, he told NEWSLETTER Mr Blaize need have no fear that, if Parliament was reconvened, he would have to face a Vote of No Confidence.



MR GEORGE BRIZAN

"Our main concern is that Public Workers get their back pay", he said, "and we have no intention of pressing for the Vote of No Confidence".

Must Pay Fees

In his letter to Mr Blaize, Mr Brizan suggested also that consideration be given to those public officers who, by December 8th, must pay fees into Government for their children who are taking examinations.

The Leader of the Opposition said those public officers should be provided with "coupons" which would be acceptable as payment at the Treasury.

End

HUGHES From Page 3

Leader of the Defence team in the Maurice Bishop Appeal, Mr Ian Ramsay, also expressed "the most profound condolences" to the Hughes family. He offered this, he said, on behalf of the Defence Team and their clients in the dock.

Present in Court to hear these tributes were Mr Alister Hughes and his son Robert. To mark the passing of Mrs Hughes, the Court observed a minute of silence before continuing the hearing of the Maurice Bishop Murder Appeal.

End

GOVERNMENT SELLS GRENTTEL SHARES

CABLE & WIRELESS NOW MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER

THE GOVERNMENT OF Grenada has sold out its majority shareholding in Grenada Telecommunications Ltd (GRENTTEL) to Cable & Wireless (WI) Ltd.

This was announced by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize on Friday December 15th and he said the sale had been made in order to find money to pay Civil Servants back pay.

after prolonged negotiations, Government signed, on 19th September, an Industrial Agreement with the three trade unions representing Government employees.

These are the Public Workers Union (PWU), the Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) and the Technical & Allied Workers Union (TAWU).

The Agreement covers the years 1987, 1988 and 1989. The Prime Minister promised



The sale to Cable & Wireless, Mr Blaize said, plus loans from local banks had provided the EC\$25 million required to meet the back pay bill.

The Grenada Government and Cable & Wireless owned GRENTTEL in a ratio of 51% to 49 % in favour of Government. Government has now sold a further 21% to Cable & Wireless making the ownership 70% to 30% in favour of Cable & Wireless.

Unconfirmed Reports

The Prime Minister did not say how much Government received for the shares but unconfirmed reports say the figure is EC\$16 million.

The need to find this money arose when Government employees took strike action on December 1st protesting against Government's failure to meet a promise to pay out back pay with effect from December 1st.

The background to this development is that,

that the December paysheet would reflect the agreed wage increases and back pay would be paid out from December 1st.

In a TV and radio broadcast on November 30th, however, Mr Blaize said he could not keep his promise

Profound Regret

"It is with profound regret that I have to announce to the nation", he said, "that the back pay which was promised to public workers on December 1st will not be paid out tomorrow owing to the non-receipt of the funds from expected external sources".

Arising from that announcement, an angry meeting on December 1st of some 800-1000 Government employees took a decision to go on strike immediately. By Monday December 4th, it appeared that the strike was some 90% effective and this brought

Please See GRENTTEL Page 6

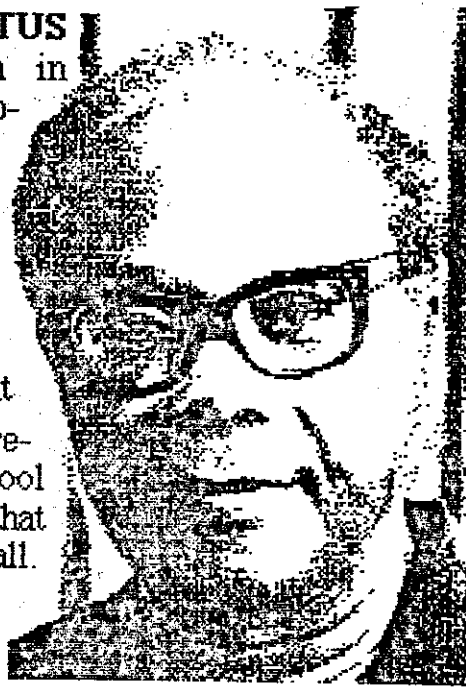
PROFILE OF**HERBERT AUGUSTUS BLAIZE**

HERBERT AUGUSTUS Blaize was born in Carriacou on February 26th 1918, son of the late James Edward Blaize and Mary nee Ackie.

He was educated at the Hillsborough Government School, Carriacou and the Grenada Boys Secondary School (GBSS), representing that school in athletics and football.

On May 16th 1946, he married Venetia Ursula

Davidson of Carriacou and they have 3 sons and 3 daughters.



In 1937, his final year at the GBSS, he was the runner up in the examination for the Island Scholarship offered by the Government. After 1937, he was a Civil Servant in the Treasury and Administration Departments until he migrated to Aruba in 1944 where he worked with the Lago Oil Transport Co Ltd as a stenographer/secretary and Section Head in the Office Service of that Company. He was also an instructor at the Lago Vocational School.

Blaize returned to Grenada in 1952 when an

Please See PROFILE Page 7

GRENTEL From Page 5

the machinery of Government to a halt.

On December 6th, a 19-member delegation from the unions, led by Mrs Lauret Clarkson, PWU President and leader of the unions' negotiating team, had talks with Prime Minister Blaize and submitted proposals of conditions under which the strike would be called off.

Firm Commitment

Heading the proposals was a demand that, by mid-day the following day (7th) Government express a firm commitment to pay out back pay not later than December 18th.

Government failed to give this commitment, and, in an interview on December 7th, Mrs Clarkson disclosed that a letter had been sent to the Prime Minister that day, demanding that Parliament be convened on Monday 11th December in order that Government be given authority to borrow the money.

Following a meeting of the unions with the Prime Minister on December 8th, Mrs Clarkson announced that the Prime Minister had bowed to the unions' demand, Government employees would return to work on Monday December 11th and a meeting of

Parliament would be called for Thursday December 14th.

That meeting was called, the necessary parliamentary authority to borrow was obtained and, on the following night, Friday December 15th, in a radio and TV broadcast, the Prime Minister announced the sale of GRENTEL shares to Cable & Wireless.

Public reaction to the sale has been unfavourable. Opinions have been expressed that a vital utility is now beyond Government's control and the long term economic benefits of GRENTEL have been sacrificed to expediency.

Expresses The Welcome

A release issued by GRENTEL's Manager, Mr Terry Stone, expresses the welcome of Cable & Wireless of "this demonstration of the Government of Grenada's confidence in the Company".

"The Agreement provides for a future offering of shares in GRENTEL to the Grenadian people by Cable & Wireless", the release says, "underlining the Government's commitment to private enterprise".

End

PROFILE From Page 6

injury to his back, sustained in the 1930s, re-asserted itself and he was invalided in Carriacou for two years.

In 1954, as an independent in the General Elections, he unsuccessfully challenged the incumbent in the Carriacou constituency, J. B. Patterson, but unseated Patterson in the elections of 1957.

In those elections, he stood as a member of the Grenada National Party (GNP) which had been launched in 1955, which was then led by Dr John Watts from whom Blaize took over as Political Leader some two years later.

Constitution Was Suspended

Blaize was Minister of Trade & Production 1957 to 1959 and Chief Minister from 1960 to 1961 when GNP was in a coalition with another political party. GNP lost the 1961 elections and Blaize became Leader of the Opposition, but, after the Constitution was suspended by Britain in 1962 (following a Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of the Gairy Government), GNP had an outright win in the elections of that year and Blaize was Chief Minister until 1967.

The 1962 elections were won by GNP on the promise of a "Unitary State" with Trinidad & Tobago, a promise Blaize was unable to fulfil when the Trinidad & Tobago Government demanded that Grenada's infrastructure be upgraded before the Unitary State came into being.

In March of 1967, Blaize led the island into the constitutional condition of a "State in Association with Britain" where complete internal control was vested in the Grenada Government while Defence and Foreign Affairs remained in the hands of the "Mother Country".

His new title was then "Premier" but he reverted to being Leader of the Opposition when GNP lost the elections of August 1967 and Sir Eric Gairy again led the country.

GNP lost again in 1972 and in 1976 when, in the latter year, that party teamed up with Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) and The United Peoples' Party to fight the elections under the banner of "The Peoples Alliance". Following that election, he relinquished the position of Leader of the Opposition to Maurice Bishop of the NJM.

It was during this period that, self-taught, he qualified as a solicitor.

The revolution of 1979 - 1983 saw GNP in abeyance and, following the military intervention of 1983, Blaize was the moving force which forged the New National Party (NNP) out of the GNP and two other newly formed parties led by George Brizan and Dr Francis Alexis, both of whom subsequently defected from NNP.

NNP was successful in the 1984 elections, winning 14 of the 15 seats in the House of Representatives and marking the seventh consecutive time Blaize has won the seat for Carriacou.

Marked By Controversy

Blaize' last term in the House, which was terminated by his death on December 19th 1989, was marked by controversy within the Government resulting in defections reducing the NNP majority to 9 and creating an opposition of 6.

Blaize lost the political leadership of NNP at a convention in January 1989 and, on August 31st 1989, as a result of friction between him and new NNP Political Leader, Dr Keith Mitchell, Blaize withdrew from NNP and, with five other members of the House loyal to him, launched The National Party (TNP).

At TNP's first party convention, Sunday 17th December 1989, two days before he died, Blaize was officially elected TNP Political Leader.

Blaize was a staunch, church-going Anglican and was a Member of the Parish Church Council when he resided in Aruba.

End

THE BISHOP MURDER APPEAL

**Maurice Bishop was guilty of
usurpation of power and performed
acts subversive to the State : Ramsay**

MR CLARENCE HUGHES, Senior Counsel, Defence barrister in the Maurice Bishop Murder Appeal, told the Court on Monday December 4th that the Trial Judge, Mr Justice Denis Byron, did not give the jury proper directions with reference to a statement alleged to have been made by one of the accused, Calistus Bernard.

"The Judge should have told them that the alleged oral statement made by Bernard is not evidence against the Central Committee", he said, "and he should have told them not to come to the conclusion that the paper Bernard was said to be carrying was issued by the Central Committee".

Condemned To Hang

Bernard is one of 14 persons condemned to hang for the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others. All have appealed against the sentence as also have three other persons sentenced to long prison terms for manslaughter arising from the same incident.

Mr Hughes' argument refers to eyewitness evidence given by a Prosecution witness, Vernon Gabriel, that Bernard, alias "Abdullah", then a Lieutenant in the Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA), had been in charge of the execution squad which machine gunned Bishop and 7 others at Fort George (then Fort Rupert), Headquarters of the PRA.

Gabriel reports Bernard as taking a piece of paper from his pocket and saying to Bishop and those with him, "Comrades, turn round and face the wall. This is an order from the Central Committee that you shall be executed by fire. It is not my order, it is from the Central Committee".

According to Gabriel, Bernard then gave

the order to fire and this resulted in sustained machine gun fire for some 10 minutes. At the end of this, he said, some of the bodies had their "bellies burst open".

Mr Hughes argued that the Prosecution had not produced the piece of paper Bernard is alleged to have had, and had not satisfied any on the rules of evidence with reference to a document which was not before the Court.



MR CLARENCE HUGHES

"If the Prosecution knew it was not in a position to produce the paper or that it was not going to produce it", he said, "no evidence that Bernard had read from that paper should have been led because the prejudicial effect of that evidence is enormous".

No Evidence

The Defence Counsel argued also that there is no evidence that Bernard was authorised to make any statement on behalf of the Central Committee, or that Bernard at any time was a part of the alleged conspiracy to murder Bishop and others.

There was a faint echo in the Court on this day of the then current strike of Government employees. The Court bailiff did not

Please See APPEAL Page 9

APPEAL From Page 8

report for work and the job of formally announcing the sitting and rising of the Court, usually performed by the bailiff, was done by a uniformed policeman.

Credibility Of Witnesses

Mr Hughes argued on Tuesday December 5th that the Trial Judge misdirected the jury when, in his summing up, he referred to "military action" at Fort Rupert on October 19th 1983. He said also that the jury should have been advised that they could not test the credibility of witnesses for the Prosecution by using statements given to the police by the accused.



MR IAN RAMSAY

Leader of the Defence Team, Mr Ian Ramsay, said that, with reference to reported remarks by accused Calistus Bernard that he had written orders from the Central Committee to execute Maurice Bishop and others, the Judge had allowed this hearsay evidence to stand against all the accused.

"It is a fundamental and inviolable rule of law", he said, "that a man must not be affected by what is said by another person in his absence".

One Exception

There is one exception to this rule, Mr Ramsay said. That exception, he explained, is in conspiracy cases when the acts and declarations of one conspirator are in furtherance of the conspiracy.

In that case, he continued, the acts and declarations of one conspirator are evidence against the others, but the Trial Judge had not told the jury that Bernard was a part of a conspiracy by the Central Committee to murder Maurice Bishop and others.

On Wednesday December 6th, Defence Counsel Mr Earle Witter referred to the piece of paper Bernard is said to have read from as being an order from the Central Committee to perform the executions.

Mr Witter said that the fact that the Prosecution had not presented this paper to the Court created "grave prejudice" and, when the Judge had referred to it as a "document", he had "invested it with a character it did not possess."

Made Several Points

Following Mr Witter, Defence Counsel Mr Howard Hamilton Q.C. made several points with reference to Grounds of Appeal numbers 24 and 29.

These grounds claim that the Trial Judge misdirected the jury with reference to the burden of proof in relation to self-defence, and also claim that evidence shows it was the crowd at Fort Rupert, and not the Army, which started to shoot first.

Mr Hamilton said that, in his summing up, the Judge had put forward a "false defence" of self-defence by the accused and then had knocked down that defence.

"The direction of the Judge in regard to self defence amounted to a Trojan Horse", he said, "and created the false impression in the minds of the jury that, if they rejected the plea of self defence, then a verdict of guilty of murder was the only real alternative".

The Defence Counsel said the Judge's summing up relative to self defence had created "monumental prejudice" in the minds of the jury.

Men Were Undefended

On Friday December 8th, Defence Counsel Mr Delano Harrison reminded the Court that the accused men were undefended by Legal Counsel and said the Judge had failed in his duty to look for, and leave for consideration of the jury, possible defence to the charges laid against them.

The Judge had misdirected the jury gravely in his summing up of the principles of self-defence, he said, and this may have confused the jury.

Please See APPEAL Page 10

APPEAL From Page 9

When the Court sat again on Monday December 11th, Defence Counsel Mr Carlton Williams, who represents the accused Christopher Stroude, addressed the Court.

Machine-Gunned

There is evidence that Stroude, who was a Major in the Peoples Revolutionary Army, was present at Fort Rupert when Maurice Bishop and seven other people were machine-gunned.

Mr Williams said that, while there is evidence to show otherwise, the Judge had given the jury the impression that Stroude was part of a conspiracy to murder Bishop and others.

from the dock by the accused.

He said, too, that the Judge had failed to tell the jury that the defence of the "necessity" to take appropriate action is open to two types of persons. The first type, he said, is individuals acting in self-defence and the other is State officials acting to preserve the State.

Guilty Of Usurpation

Mr Harrison was followed by Mr Ramsay who told the Court that Maurice Bishop had been guilty of usurpation of power and had performed acts subversive to the State.

Bishop, he said, had had authority to go to Fort Rupert, Headquarters of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, but

**The family of the late
Cynthia Hughes
expresses, through this medium,
deep appreciation to all those
who, in so many ways, showed
love and sympathy at the time of their loss**

"Although Stroude was present at the shooting", he said, "that is not enough to make him an aider and abetter"

Mr Williams said the Judge compounded his errors when he erroneously advised the jury that Stroude's failure to take action to stop the killings is powerful evidence of guilt.

Created Great Prejudice

Defence Counsel Mr A J Nicholson addressed the Court on Tuesday December 12th and said the Judge had created great prejudice against the accused. This prejudice had been created, he said, when the Judge told the jury that, if they were not convinced that evidence of what happened on the day of the murders pointed to conspiracy, then they were at liberty to fall back on the evidence of what had happened on the days before that date.

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December, Defence Counsel Mr Delano Harrison argued before the Court that the Judge had, in many respects, misdirected the jury on the unsworn statements made

he had had no authority to take the crowd with him.

"An inferior component can act when a superior component has put itself outside of legitimacy", Mr Ramsay said.

Mr Hughes was the last to address the Court on this day, Thursday 14th September, and he supported Mr Ramsay. The Government had been in disarray, he said, there was crisis in the country, seven of the ten Cabinet Ministers had resigned and the Prime Minister was under house arrest and non-functional.

It Was Clear

It was clear, he said, that there was necessity to take action.

Before the Court adjourned on this day (14th), President Sir Frederick Smith announced that the next sitting would commence on Monday 22nd January and continue until Friday 9th February.

End

NEWS SHORTS

More EEC Aid For Education

The European Economic Community (EEC) is to fund construction of a Resource Centre at Grenada's National College.

The Centre will cost approximately EC\$3 million and is part of an EEC regional project valued at EC\$22 million.

According to a release from the Government Information Service (GIS), aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of regional tertiary education through provision of new facilities in colleges of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS).

Teacher training and establishment of a regional education planning capacity at the OECS Secretariat is included in the project.

The Resource centre will be the second project at the National College funded by the EEC. The first was the Institute For Further Education completed in January 1989 at a cost of EC\$1.35 million.

Republic Of China Ambassador Presents Credentials.

Mr Liu Po-lun, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Grenada, presented his credentials to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on Tuesday 24th October.

Ambassador Liu Po-lun is resident in Grenada.

NIS Mortgage Finance Programme

The National Insurance Scheme (NIS) is to embark on a EC\$5.5 million mortgage finance programme.

This was announced on 20th November by Minister of Social Services, Mr George McGuire, and he said the Programme would be ready for implementation by December.

The Minister said that EC\$5 million will be allocated to loans for construction of new homes and EC\$0.5 million will be available in loans for refurbishing existing homes.

Preliminary studies indicate that interest rates on these loans should be 7% on sums between EC\$25,000 and EC\$40,000, Mr McGuire said, and he pointed out that this figure is about 5% below the commercial rate.

"We are prepared to give loans from EC\$40,000 to EC\$95,000 at 8% per annum" the Minister said.

Beneficiaries of the programme will have up to 20 years to repay the loans, Mr McGuire said, and he pointed out that this is more favourable than loans in the commercial market which must be repaid in 14 years.

Airport Extension Expected To Be Completed By Year End

Mr Leroy Neckles, General Manager of Point Salines International Airport, told the Government Information Service on 15th November that the American Airlines extension to the airport terminal building should be completed by the end of December.

Mr Neckles said the architecture of the extension will match the existing building and will house five counter spaces, an electrical conveyor belt system, an X-ray system to scan baggage as well as administrative and management offices.

The General Manager disclosed also that the Airport Authority is now involved in promoting training in needed skills.

These include supervisory skills, preventative maintenance and details of Grenada's labour laws. A survey is now being conducted to ascertain further training needs.

Please See NEWS SHORTS Page 12

NEWS SHORTS From Page 11**More AIDS Cases**

The Ministry of Health has reported three more cases of AIDS and two AIDS related deaths during the period July to September 1989.

This brings to 17 the total of AIDS cases reported to the World Health Organisation. Of the 17, 12 have died.

According to the Government Information Service (GIS), another 12 persons are known to be carrying the virus but have not yet developed the disease.

GIS says it is believed that a substantial number of persons now carrying the AIDS virus may remain well for 10 years or longer.

Of the 17 cases of AIDS in Grenada, 10 have been male and 7 female.

"This is a clear indication that the disease in Grenada is by no means confined to homosexuals", a release from the Ministry of Health says.

Tourist Arrivals Up

The Department of Tourism's Monthly Statistical Report shows that 4,405 tourists arrived in Grenada during October, an increase of 414 or 19.3% up from the figure for October 1988.

Of the total arrivals, 252 came by sea, 44,153 by air and the average length of stay was 8.5 days.

The Report says there were increases in all but one of the 14 categories of arrivals by country of residence. The decrease was experienced in arrivals from Canada which showed a drop of 17.1% to 131 from the figure of 158 in October 1988.

The greatest number of arrivals under any single category was 1,118 from Caribbean Community countries. This represents an increase of 15.8% over the figure of 965 for the corresponding period in 1988.

During October, 18 cruise liners called at Grenada bringing 6,623 passengers.



Alister Hughes

30th December 1989

Printed & Published By The Proprietor
 Alister Hughes, Journalist
 Of Scott Street, St Georges, Grenada, West Indies
 (P.O. Box 65: Phone [809] 440 2538: Cables HUSON, Grenada)