

Alister Hughes
P O Box 65
St. Georges
GRENADA

21st November 1975

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER

Vol 3 No 3839

For Week Ending November 22nd 1975

RECORD NUTMEG PAYOUT

A source close to the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association disclosed today (20th) that the surplus to be paid to nutmeg producers this year is likely to be in excess of a record EC\$2.75 million. This surplus is the result of the Association's trading during the Nutmeg Year of July 1974 to June 1975.

The same source said that, while it is usual for the annual surplus to be paid by the end of November, because of the current "go-slow" at the Association's head office, the money is not likely to be put into circulation before mid-December.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce expressed concern over this delay as the success of Grenada's end-of-year trade is dependent largely on the boost given by the nutmeg pay-out to the amount of cash in circulation. "With this boost coming so late," he said, "the Christmas trade expected by merchants will be affected adversely."

In the mean time, other concern has been expressed that the scheduled payout of the nutmeg surplus may be done in an illegal manner by the Interim Board appointed by Government after the dissolution by the Governor General of the elected Nutmeg Board of the Association.

Each year, before the surplus has been paid, a General Meeting of the Association has been called to approve the audited accounts and the amount proposed to be paid as surplus. To date, however, no notice has been sent out for a General Meeting and the fear has been expressed that payment of the surplus may be further delayed if legal action is taken to restrain the Interim Board from making any payment of the surplus before a General Meeting has approved the audited accounts of the Association.

(303 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

NUTMEG THE MAIN EXPORT

The Nutmeg Industry continues to be the island's main money earner, some 3½ million dollars (EC) having been earned in the three month period of July to September. This figure was realised from shipments totalling 1,700,754 lbs, and in September alone, earnings were over one million dollars from shipments totalling 673,850 lbs.

For the same period, 152,940 lbs of mace were shipped with resulting revenue of EC\$586,737.00. Of this total, 69,100 lbs valued at EC\$212,706.00 were shipped in September.

(78 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

NEW WAGE AGREEMENT.

Employers in Grenada will commence back-pay payments to daily paid workers sometime between December 1st and 15th as a result of an Agreement reached between the Grenada Employers Federation and representatives of the Grenada Maritime Manual Mental & Agricultural Workers Union (GMMMAWU).

The Union's team to the negotiations was led by the Union's President-General-For-Life, Prime Minister Eric Gairy, and the Federation was represented by Messrs W A Branch, Paul Kent and R M Bhola.

According to the new Agreement, the minimum daily wage for men is EC\$5.00 and for women, EC\$4.00, with effect from July 1st 1975, and the Agreement is to run for three years. Other conditions are that the employer should deduct 25¢ per day towards a personal savings fund and a further 15¢ to be put in a Provident Fund.

One demand of the Union was that employers should guarantee a minimum of four days work per week to each worker, but, because of current financial difficulties, the Federation did not feel able to agree to this. The representatives of GMMMAWU have promised to bring this to the attention of Government.

(183 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS.

His Excellency Monsieur Henri Chollet, French Ambassador accredited to Grenada, presented his credentials to the Governor General, Sir Leo de Gale, late last month and was the guest of honour at a cocktail party hosted by Sir Leo.

Monsieur Chollet, who is also the French Ambassador to Trinidad & Tobago where he resides, paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Gairy before returning home by private aircraft.

(66 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

ILO DIRECTOR VISITS.

Dr Zin Henry, Director of the Caribbean Area Office of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), visited Grenada last week and met with Mr Franklin Dolland, Acting Minister of Finance and Senator Basil Matthews, Acting Minister of Labour.

Dr Henry also held discussions with Trade Union representatives relative to a programme for workers's education, and with the Grenada Employers Federation relative to services available to the Federation through ILO.

The scheduled ILO Round Table Conference due to be held in Jamaica from 2nd to 9th December was also the subject of discussion between Dr Henry and the Federation, and it was disclosed that the theme of that Conference will be "The Role of Employers' Organisations in the English-speaking Caribbean."

Grenada will be represented at the Round Table Conference by Mrs Angela Smith, President of the Grenada Employers Federation.

(137 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

COLOMBIAN REPRESENTS GRENADA.

A spokesman for the Department of External Affairs has confirmed that Mr Jose M Chaves is Grenada's representative on the Political Committee of the United Nations. Mr Chaves is a native of Colombia.

(32 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

GERMAN TV FEATURE OF GRENADA

The well-known German TV and film actor, Mr Raimund Harmstorf, completed a TV feature here during the week ending November 15th. This feature, which is part of a regular series, 'the "Sea Wolf"', highlights Grenada and has sequences on the island's Grand Anse Beach together with shots filmed on scenic Calivigny Island off the south coast.

According to Senator Paul Slinger, Minister of Tourism, this feature will be seen in Germany early in December, and it is expected to have a favourable effect on Grenada's tourist trade.

Mr Harmstorf and the TV filming crew left Grenada on Tuesday last (18th)
(98 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

CRUISE LINER CALLS

Three cruise liners carrying a total of 1726 passengers called at Grenada during the week ending November 15th. These boats were the "Cunard Adventurer" on the 11th with 556 passengers, the "Amerikanis" on the 12th with 428 passengers, and the "Sun Viking" on the 14th with 742 passengers.

(48 words)

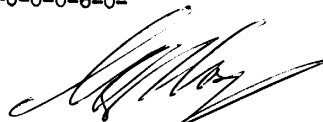
-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

BANANA SHIPMENTS.

On November 18th, the S S "Geestland" loaded 17,932 boxes of bananas valued at EC\$46,384.00. This shipment weighed 530,114 lbs and 214 boxes of fruit were rejected. A spokesman for the Banana Cooperative Society said that the high number of rejects was probably because the heavy rainfall recently experienced in Grenada resulted in many banana trees falling, and the fruit from these trees would have been bruised.

(65 words)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-6-0-



Alister Hughes
21st November 1975