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GRENADA

Vol 5 No 7

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER

For the week ending 26th February 1977

UNIVERSITY IMPORTS X-RAY UNIT FOR HOSPITAL

Within three weeks, an X-Ray Unit will be shipped from the United States to Grenada for installation at the General Hospital, paid for by the St. Georges University School of Medicine which commenced operations here on January 17th.

This was disclosed yesterday (24th) by Dr Charles Modica, Chancellor of the School of Medicine, and, in an exclusive interview with NEWSLETTER, Dr Modica said the Unit had been purchased from the Southhampton Hospital in New York State.

This Unit, described by Dr Modica as a CTR Futuristic X-Ray Unit, may also be used for some types of therapy, and the Chancellor said he was proud of it.

The current value of this Unit is over EC\$300,000.00", said Dr Modica, "but we were able to obtain it at a considerable saving because it is a used item. However, it has had only four years service, it's still in operation, there's nothing wrong with it and it's a fine piece of equipment."

Dr Modica explained that many hospitals in the United States with large budgets are in a position to abandon equipment to suit their changing requirements and, in the case of the Southhampton Hospital, from which the CTR Futuristic X-Ray Unit was purchased, a new Hospital Administrator had replaced this equipment because he wished all Units in the hospital to be of the same brand.

Grain of Sand

The Chancellor explained that, while the value of this Unit may seem high, he did not want to give the impression that any great contribution had been made to Grenada's General Hospital in terms of the institution's overall needs. "\$300,000.00EC may sound like a lot of money", he said, "but it's only one piece and it's like putting one grain of sand into a very big box we have to fill. That hospital needs so much equipment !"

Advising Dr Modica on the up-grading of Grenada's hospital facilities is Mr John Digilio, a Hospital Administrative Consultant for the State of New York. Dr Modica said Mr Digilio has studied a 1970 Report

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on Grenada's health facilities together with a study done by Dr Modica's associates in 1974, and Mr Digilio is confident that, within two years, the island's two hospitals, the General Hospital in St. Georges and the Princess Alice Hospital on the east coast, will be ready for the School's clinical programme.

"This is not to say we will have a modern major medical hospital here", said the Chancellor, "but, it will be more than adequate for a clinical programme." "I understand that in Grenada there are many people who are sceptics of our School of Medicine", he continued, "I think they have the right to be sceptical and I feel I know why they have this opinion and I have been careful not to promise things we can't deliver. The X-ray Unit to arrive soon is not a major item in terms of the whole project, but it is a concrete thing and shows we are doing what we said we would do generally."

Referring to the reason why this School of Medicine has been set up outside of the United States, Dr Modica endorsed the opinion (expressed to NEWSLETTER on January 21st) of his Special Assistant, Mr Stephen Vejvoda, that some requirements of the American Medical Association are not absolutely essential for turning out good doctors.

#### Dying

"There's no question about it", said Dr Modica. "I've been involved with the legislative branch of the United States Government against the amount of research that is being done in the United States Medical Schools". "There's nothing wrong with research," he continued, "but when we turn down qualified candidates for Medical Schools because the Schools' budgets are run dry by research and we can't find any more seats for students because of this, and we have people in certain parts of the world who are dying, not because of lack of modern research, but because of lack of a skilled doctor, then we must draw a distinction between education and research. A Medical School should be allowed to just educate students rather than being required to have 90% of their budget devoted to research."

Filling in some details on the faculty of the St. Georges University

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School of Medicine, Dr Modica said Dr David Brown (whose subject is Developmental Psychology) is a US citizen and has held various teaching posts in the USA. "What attracted us to him", said the Chancellor, "is that he had teaching activity at Albert Einstein Medical School in New York City, one of the best Medical Schools in the world."

Concerning Dr Pramod Shah, who teaches Biological Chemistry, the Chancellor said his nationality is Indian and he was recruited for the St. Georges School of Medicine from a teaching job in England. Some 7 or 8 years ago, Dr Modica said, Dr Shah taught at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

Asked about the statement of his Special Assistant, Mr Stephen Vejvoda, to NEWSLETTER that some States in the USA no longer recognise standards of the American Medical Association (AMA) because of "unreasonable" AMA standards, Dr Modica said this was inaccurate.

"There is a growing trend in the US where States allow foreign medical graduates or American born foreign Medical School graduates to enter the system on a different standard from the American graduates", he said, "but all States still recognise AMA standards."

#### Frowned Upon

Explaining this, the Chancellor said that what some States have done is to issue licences to practice medicine to students from foreign Medical Schools who come back to their States without a medical degree, but who have met all the requirements for graduation other than social service and compulsory internship. "This was done to pressure the AMA to follow suit", he said, "and the AMA did follow suit". This practice, which Dr Modica said is called the "5th pathway", is not widely used and "is frowned upon in some parts of the country by certain circles."

The Chancellor said students of the St. Georges University School of Medicine would not need to make use of this practice because neither social service nor internship is required. "We feel the student will be doing something for the country by going to school here and helping the economy," he said, "and also, by allowing the School to promote the health facilities on the island. In addition, after the first semester, we will have students going out doing work in

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the field for four years to aid the people. As far as internship is concerned, this will be done in Grenada if the student wishes to practice medicine in Grenada, but he will have his degree before the internship is undertaken."

The Chancellor disclosed that of the 197 students enrolled when the School commenced operations on January 17th, sixteen have now left. This is in keeping with what was expected, said Dr Modica, as it was expected that, within the first few weeks, there would be between 5% and 10% drop-outs.

Dr Modica said a further drop in enrollment was expected. "We have calculated on only 150 students going on to the second semester", he said, "because everyone in the School is now on probation. We don't want to have dead-weight in the School. Although we have modest facilities and major problems getting facilities ready, we do want to have a fine student body. Those people who aren't able to maintain good standards, academically, socially or culturally, will be asked to leave at the end of this semester."

(1238 words)

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OPPOSITION M P SEARCHED BY POLICE

Member for the Constituency of St. George, Mr Bernard Coard, had his car searched by the Police on the evening of February 17th.

In an exclusive interview with NEWSLETTER on the next day (18th), Mr Coard said the incident had occurred about 11.15 pm when he and his wife were on their way home after taking friends to their home. "Three suspicious men driving a blue Volkswaggen forced us to pull up on the side of the road", he said, "and they demanded to search our car, claiming to have received information that we were carrying arms and ammunition."

Mr Coard said the men claimed to be from the Criminal Investigation Department but refused to show any identification before they made a thorough search of the car and his wife's handbag. "Fortunately for us," continued the M P, "two citizens in a passing car observed what was going on and stopped nearby, telling us later that they had done so to prevent any violence being practiced on us as well as, of course, the possibility of arms and ammunition being planted on us."

Mr Coard said this was the third time he had been searched for "mythical arms and ammunition" since he was elected to Parliament last December 7th, and other members of the Opposition, Messrs Maurice Bishop and Unison Whiteman, have had similar experiences

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including searches of the home, car and person.

"I feel that acts such as these expose the recent calls by Gairy for 'national unity' as blatant hypocrisy", said Mr Coard, "and it seems to me that these calls are designed for regional and international consumption while, in fact, the harassment and intimidation of people continue in Grenada.

NEWSLETTER phoned the Commissioner of Police, Mr Osbert James, on the morning of February 18th and asked whether he had any comment on Mr Coard's charges of Police harassment. "I never have any", said Mr James. Asked whether he knew of the search of Mr Coard's car, Mr James said, "Thank you for calling". Pressed for some comment, Mr James said, "Thank you for calling". Asked directly whether or not he would comment, Mr James repeated, "Thank you for calling."

It appeared that Commissioner James was unwilling to comment and wished to terminate the conversation. This was done.

(383 words)

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#### OPPOSITION M P ILL

Mr Norris Bain, Opposition Member of the House of Representatives for the Constituency of St. Andrews South West collapsed at his store in Grenville, St. Andrews on Thursday February 17th and was rushed to the Princess Alice Hospital where he is still a patient.

A source close to Mr Bain said today (25th) that he is recovering satisfactorily but it may be necessary for him to go abroad to undergo surgery.

(71 words)

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#### CARNIVAL QUEEN CROWNED

Nineteen-year-old Miss Marguerite Preudhomme, contesting as Miss Black & White Scotch Whisky, was winner in a field of 5 in Grenada's 1977 Carnival Queen Contest which was staged on Saturday February 19th.

Miss Preudhomme, who was crowned by Carnival Development Committee Chairman, Mr Everette Woodroffe, will receive as her prize a return trip to Miami for herself and her chaperone, a 10 day cruise on a tourist liner out of Miami, and US\$1,000.00.

First runner up to Miss Preudhomme was Miss Louise Blackburn (Miss Y De Lima & Co Ltd) while in third place was Miss Cheryl Booker (Miss The Grenadian Company)

Arising out of a discussion on Radio Grenada during the live broadcast of this event, a controversy has arisen. Taking part in the discussion were Mr Jerry Romain, Manager of Radio Grenada and two announcers, Messrs Paul Roberts and Geoffrey Aird, and it centered on whether the judging of the contest had been satisfactory, whether it was proper that foreigners had been selected to be judges and whether or not Miss Preudhomme should have received any points for her costume, it being contended that it was supported on wheels and

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should be considered to be a "float" and not a "costume".

This discussion on the air has created considerable public comment and NEWSLETTER understands it has caused concern among some sponsors of the Carnival Queen contestants, the contestants themselves, the judges and the Carnival Development Committee.

NEWSLETTER contacted Mr Everette Woodroffe, Chairman of the Carnival Development Committee (CDC) today (25th) and inquired whether the CDC had any rules forbidding the use of wheels to support the costume worn by contestants. Mr Woodroffe said there was no such rule.

(274 words)

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SHIRT JACS IN PARLIAMENT

In sharp contrast to the traditional suits, collars and ties on the Government benches when Parliament met on February 16th, five Members of the Opposition wore shirt jac suits.

These Members were Messrs Norris Bain, Bernard Coard, Unison Whiteman, Winston Whyte and the Leader of the Opposition, Maurice Bishop.

Mr Herbert Blaize, former Leader of the Opposition, was dressed in collar and tie.

This is the first occasion on which shirt jacs have been worn in Parliament.

(76 words)

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CRUISE LINER CALLS

During the week ending February 19th, the following cruise liners called at Grenada :-

February 13th	Stella Maria		162	Passengers	
14th	Monarch Star		572	do.	
16th	Amerikanis	Ⓟ	859	do.	
17th	Brittanis		942	do.	3,776
	Alexander Pushkin		469	do.	
18th	Leonardo da Vinci		772	do.	

Information concerning numbers of passengers is now available for the following cruise liners reported in NEWSLETTER issues of February 12th and 19th :-

January 30th	Stella Maria		165	Passengers	
February 4th	Jupiter		275	do.	
6th	Atlas		291	do.	
8th	Stella Oceanis	Ⓟ	350	do.	1190
14th	Angelino Lauro		274	do.	

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BANANA SHIPMENTS

On February 23rd, the S S "Geestcrest" sailed with 15,254 boxes of bananas weighing 455,978 lbs and valued at EC\$31,918.00. There were 246 boxes of rejected fruit.

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25th February 1977