

The Grenada

NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED 17TH AUGUST 1973

End of Year Issue - 31st December 1983

11th Year of Publication - - - - - 296th Issue

Volume 11

Number 17

FOUR PARDONED

Four persons, convicted under the Terrorism (Prevention) Law 1980 of the "bomb blast" murders of 19th June 1980, have been granted a "free and unconditional pardon" by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon.

The pardoned persons are Miss Grace Augustine, Messrs Russel Budhlall, Kenneth Budhlall and Layne Phillip.

The death sentence was pronounced on these persons in November 1982 when, after a trial which lasted nearly two weeks, Mr. Justice Satrohan Singh found them guilty of having placed a bomb under the speakers' platform at Green's Park during a rally sponsored by the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

When the bomb exploded, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several members of the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) were on the platform but were unhurt. However, many persons under the platform were injured and two girls, Miss Laurine Charles (13), and Laurice Humphrey, 23, were killed on the spot. Another girl Miss Bernadette Bailey, 19, died later of injuries received then.

The Terrorism (Prevention) Law 1980, under which the trial was conducted, was enacted by the PRG in 1980, nearly four months after the "bomb blast" murders and that law was given unlimited retro-active effect.

A special feature of that law is its provision that "... the trial shall be heard by and before a judge sitting alone and there shall be no right of trial by jury" This law also provided

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

special rules of evidence which prohibit cross examination of witnesses at the preliminary trial before the examining magistrate.

At the preliminary trial, witnesses are permitted to testify by submitting sworn statements and, under certain circumstances, the trial judge in the High Court may accept these statements.

Principal witnesses for the Crown were Miss Fitzlyn Joseph and Mr. Eddie Richardson, who alleged they had been part of a plot with the accused to place a bomb under the speakers' platform at the rally in an attempt to wipe out the leadership of the PRG. No charges were laid against these two persons but they were kept in custody.

Tried together with the now pardoned persons was Mr. Roland Budhall who was acquitted. This man, however, was not released after the trial but was detained at Richmond Hill prison from which he broke out with other political prisoners on October 26th last after the United States intervention.

The Governor General's notice of pardon, dated December 20th and appearing in the Government Gazette of December 23rd, gives no reason for the grant of pardon.

CHARGES BEING FORMULATED

A spokesman for the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Grenada said in St. Georges on December 31st that work has already begun on the formulation of charges to be laid against persons now detained at Richmond Hill prisons following the events of October last when United States forces performed a "rescue mission" here.

"The preliminary work has already been started", he said, "and a team of top flight Caribbean barristers will be coming to Grenada to assist in this operation".

The spokesman was unable to say when these barristers will arrive but said the matter is receiving full attention and he gave assurances that charges will be laid with no undue delay.

Attempts to ascertain the exact number of detainees now being held were unsuccessful but the figure is probably between 35 and 40. Government originally published a list of 48 names but, since then, some have been released.

-continued-

Among those known still to be held are Hudson Austin, General of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, Bernard Coard, deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the Peoples Revolutionary Government and Mr Coard's wife, Phyllis, who was head of the National Women's Organisation of the New Jewel Movement.

PETITION ASKS U.S. TO STAY

A spokesman for the Governor General's office confirmed on December 20th that a petition was sent on that day to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon requesting that the United States be asked to maintain its presence in Grenada for some time.

The petition, said to have been signed by over 6,000 eligible voters, expresses a wish that the United States "accept this country into some form of association that can amicably be worked out for a reasonable period that will be satisfactory to all concerned, and that a test by a referendum can better express the wishes of the people".

The petition asks the U.S. "to prolong their presence here for at least 5 years in the first instance until the people are satisfied that Grenadian leadership is sufficiently capable to run the affairs of the Grenadian people and by which time Grenadians can be politically stabilised to make a further decision".

The petition, which is sponsored by the Pearls Village Council, expresses thanks to the U.S. for undertaking the rescue mission and says Grenada has been suffering oppression for the last 10 years.

At this time, the petition says, Grenadians are confused and cannot identify "true democracy" because they have lived "for the past 20 years under terrible leaderships (1) dictatorship and (2) communism . . ."

The British Commonwealth showed no "sympathy by way of rescue or dialogue" to take Grenada, a member of the Commonwealth, "out of the communist grip", the petition says, and Grenadians consider it unfair not to consider the U.S. who "rescued them in their time of trouble".

The Governor General Sir Paul Scoon has been asked to pass the petition on to Washington and copies have been sent direct to the United States Embassy in Grenada, the United Nations, the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of East Caribbean States.

TEACH YOUTH DEMOCRACY

Mr. Guy Archibald, Treasurer of the Pearls Village Council, the organisation which sponsored the petition to the United States to prolong its stay in Grenada, said in an interview on December 22nd that, soon after the American intervention here his organisation met to consider what it thinks is a very serious problem.

"The members and the people around requested that we try to do something about keeping out these politicians", he said, "because they are just fooling us and we had several years of trouble with both the Gairy Government and then the Bishop Government".

The petition, delivered to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on December 20th for transmission to Washington, is said to have been signed by over 6,000 eligible voters.

The document charges that Grenadians are not satisfied that the political leadership here is sufficiently capable to run the Government and the United States Government has been asked to prolong its stay in Grenada for at least 5 years.

In his interview, Mr. Archibald also put forward the argument that the youth of this island need to be taught "democracy" before elections are held.

"We are asking that the Americans lengthen their stay here for another five years", he said, "and form some sort of association with us until our young people can know what democracy is and what to do with elections".

The Council's Treasurer said the children who were 10 years old at the last elections are now eligible to vote and he does not think they know what elections are.

Mr. Archibald said he did not know what Washington would think of offering Grenada an association similar to that held by the U.S. Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico. But, he said, a referendum should be held in Grenada to find out what the people think because "everybody is thinking they would like to be with America somehow or the other".

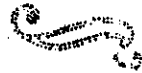
Under the association agreement, Mr. Archibald said, Grenada's Government should be run from Washington and he does not think the important consideration is that this might be sacrificing some part of the island's sovereignty.

"It may be so", he said, "but I think that if we go into elections very soon we will fall into the same problem like before because we are going to have the Gairy element coming around (you can't

-continued-

stop them from running for elections), we will have, maybe, some element from the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and, maybe, the Grenada National Party, and some other fellows who evacuated here after the takeover, they are coming back, probably to get us into Socialism again, a stepping stone to Communism".

Mr. Archibald said the association with America should not last for ever but should be for a period of time until "our people can realise what true democracy is".



BRITAIN GIVES AID

The Barbados based British High Commissioner to Grenada, Mr. Giles Bullard, ^{on December 22nd} signed in Grenada a grant agreement under which the British Government will provide £650,000 sterling in capital aid grants plus some £100,000 sterling in technical cooperation.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Grenada Government by Mr. Nicholas Brathwaite, Chairman of the island's Advisory Council, and Mr. Bullard said the British Government is in consultation with the Advisory Council as to how best Britain can fill Grenada's needs.

"The aid package is divided roughly in the ratio of one to two between aid to police and aid in the fields of power generation and spare parts for the Public Works Department vehicles", Mr. Bullard said, "but within this general framework, there is a good deal of precise negotiation to be done".

The High Commissioner said a team from the British Development Division had visited Grenada earlier and that team had had discussions with the Planning Department on the details of the aid agreement.

Mr. Bullard said the present grant had to be expended over the next three months and the longer term prospects will be looked at early in the new year. There was to be a meeting of aid donors to be held in Washington shortly, he said, and this was one matter which had to be discussed then.

Mr. Bullard denied that Britain had ever opposed the United States rescue mission to Grenada and he set out his country's official position in this connection.

"I don't think it is fair to say we opposed the invasion" he said. "We did not participate and the reason for that is a good one."

-continued-

We were not given a great deal of warning about what was going to happen but, once the rescue mission was under way, we did what we could to minimise opposition to it in international bodies of which we are a member".

Mr. Bullard said Britain regretted the short notice and the lack of consultation relative to the rescue mission but, that having been said, Britain wishes to put the past behind and look to ways in which Grenada can be helped.

FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS IN GRENADA

Mr. Nicholas Brathwaite, Chairman of Grenada's Advisory Council, said in an interview on December 28th he had had an hour-long discussion with Franz-Josef Strauss, Minister President of the West German state of Bavaria when Mr. Strauss visited the island on December 27th.

The West German politician, Mr. Brathwaite said, expressed complete support for the United States "rescue mission" to Grenada last October.

"Mr. Strauss gave me the assurance that he will do everything he can to let the European Community know the truth about Grenada" Mr. Brathwaite said, "and he will emphasise the fact that we need aid now in order to create employment and ensure the stability of the country".

The Advisory Council Chairman said his discussions with Mr. Strauss had covered a wide range of subjects including the still uncompleted international airport at Point Saline. Mr. Brathwaite said Mr. Strauss had expressed the opinion that, in the interest of Grenada's economic future, this project must be completed.

Mr. Strauss, who is Political Leader of the West German Christian Social Union Party and President of the West German Senate, was in Miami when he broke into his plans for a Caribbean cruise and, accompanied by his wife, chartered a plane to make his quick visit to Grenada.

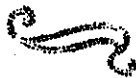
According to Mr. Larry Rossin, Political Officer of the United States mission in Grenada, the mission was advised of Mr. Strauss' visit by the U.S. Consulate in Munich, Germany, and had taken steps to facilitate some aspects of the visit.

"We arranged for a helicopter to meet him on his arrival at Pearls Airport" Mr. Rossin said, "and he was flown over the airport site at
-continued-

Point Saline and saw the warehouses where the Cuban arms had been stored".

The Political Officer said Mr. Strauss had been accompanied by some 6 or 7 representatives of the West German media, including journalists from "Die Welt" and a team from ZDF Television.

In the absence of Mr. Tony Gillespie, United States Ambassador at the U.S. Mission in Grenada (who was then in the U.S. but returned shortly after) Mr. Strauss held discussion with Charge d'Affairs Michael Yohn before returning by car to Pearls Airport for departure.



ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon has appointed a Supervisor of Elections who will have the job of putting the machinery into action to hold a general election before Christmas 1984.

Entrusted with this task is Mr. Roy Carlton Chasteau, 48, Grenada's Deputy Registrar, and his appointment dates from January 3rd next.

Mr. Chasteau said on December 28th he will start his assignment after the New Year holidays but he is facing the problem of finding suitable office space and there are certain other necessary chores which must be performed before he can get into stride.

"Before we can start enumeration of the electors", he said, "we have to print the required forms and employ enumerators, but you can take March 1st as the target date for commencement".

Mr. Chasteau was born in Grenada but received his early education in Trinidad. He qualified as a barrister in 1980, taking his degree at the University College of Cardiff, Wales, in the United Kingdom.



KIDS GET TOYS

The children of Grenada received gifts of toys donated by Hasbro Industries, a firm located at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the United States of America.

-continued-

This gesture was made public by Archdeacon of Grenada Hoskins Huggins, Chairman of the Council of Churches, Grenada (CCG), as he conducted the Sunday morning service at the Anglican Church in St. Georges on December 18th.

"The CCG is being asked to distribute 30,600 toys", he said, "and throughout the island, we are having parties for the children next Thursday afternoon".

Archdeacon Huggins said 100,000 cookies were being flown in from the States for the parties together with powdered soft drinks.

A spokesman for the American Mission in Grenada said the armed forces were cooperating in this gesture by flying in the toys, cookies and powdered soft drinks, but he could not say who was donating the cookies and soft drinks.

"Republican Congresswoman Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island is arriving here on Tuesday 20th with the toys", he said, "and she will be accompanied by representatives of Hasbro Industries, an army escort and members of the Press".

The spokesman said there probably would be a distribution of some of the toys by Ms Schneider on Tuesday and this may be at the Kennedy Home for handicapped children.

According to the last published census figures, Grenada had 28.5 thousand children up to the age of 10 in 1970. Estimates of the increase to date vary from 8 percent to 18 percent making that age group now between 30.8 thousand and 33.8 thousand.



HASBRO PLAYS SANTA

Mrs. Claudine Schneider, Republican Representative for Rhode Island in the United States Senate, on December 20th played Santa Claus to the children of the Queen Elizabeth Home for Children located at Tempe on the northern outskirts of St George's.

Deprived of the use of Santa's traditional sledge, because of Grenada's lack of snow, Mrs. Schneider arrived on the island in a C130 Hercules aircraft of the United States Tactical Airlift group.

That aircraft, accompanied by three other C130 Hercules, landed at Grenada's still uncompleted Point Saline international airport on December 20th. and unloaded 34,266 toys with a retail value of US\$200,000.

-continued-

A symbolic presentation of some of these toys was made by Mrs. Schneider to the 14 children of the Queen Elizabeth Home and, through the Christian Council of Churches, Grenada, the rest of the toys were distributed to children throughout the country at functions organised later that week.

These toys are a gift to the children of Grenada by Hasbro Industries of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A., and Mr. Bill Lichtenstein, Chairman of the Board of a toy subsidiary of Hasbro, who accompanied Mrs. Schneider to Grenada, said the idea of playing Santa to Grenadian kids was born with Alan Hassenfeld, Hasbro's executive Vice-President.

"Every year, Hasbro makes a major donation" Mr. Lichtenstein said, "and this year we have fulfilled 800 requests for toys throughout the United States from both individuals and charitable organisations and Alan felt the children of Grenada might be forgotten".

Mr. Lichtenstein said the toys selected are suitable for children from 13 years down. They include "crib toys" for babies and are among the most popular lines including "Snoopy", "Donald Duck" and "Mr. Potato Head" dolls.

The Chairman of the Board said Hasbro is a "people oriented" company which employs some 1,700 people. Over 1,000 of the employees have been with the company for more than 10 years, he said, and there are 136 who have been with the company for over 25 years.

"I, and I am sure the entire Hasbro organisation, feel that children are God's gift to the world", Mr. Lichtenstein said, "adults have a lot to do with the bigotry that creeps into a child, but we are just reaching out and saying, "Hey, we're here and we're playing Santa Claus".



CONGRESSWOMAN FINDS GRENADIANS APPRECIATIVE

Republican Representative for Rhode Island in the United States Congress, Claudine Schneider, said in Grenada on December 20th she is delighted to be associated with the gift of toys made to the children of Grenada by Hasbro Industries of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

- continued-

Mrs. Schneider was, at the time, presenting some of the toys to the children of the Queen Elizabeth home for children, a privately run organisation near St. Georges, and she said she had been approached by Hasbro for assistance in getting the toys to Grenada.

"I immediately contacted the Defence Department", she said, "and they were most agreeable in assisting in the 'toy lift' to bring all of the toys to children of Grenada. We're hopeful that this American goodwill will bring some happiness to the children and also to the families here in Grenada".

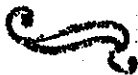
The Congresswoman said she had had the opportunity to meet a number of Grenadians and they have been "most effervescent" in their appreciation for the American rescue mission. She said also that the visiting Americans are grateful that Grenadians have been so cooperative.

"We are anxious to help Grenada now in whatever way we can so that Grenadians can better help themselves", she said.

Accompanying the Congresswoman on this trip was Mr. Bill Lichtenstein, Chairman of the Board of a toy subsidiary of Hasbro. Also in her party is a group of North American journalists and Major Jim Ragan, Chief of Public Information to the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

The toys donated by Hasbro total 34,266 with a retail value of over US\$200,000. They were flown in by a C130 Hercules aircraft of the 143rd Tactical Airlift group which is part of the Rhode Island International Guard. Through the assistance of the Council of Churches, Grenada, these toys were distributed islandwide.

Congresswoman Schneider and her group flew back to the United States on December 20th.



PURCELL SHARES INTEREST WITH SCHNEIDER

"I am very pleased that, for this Christmas, the children of Grenada will each have a toy".

This sentiment was expressed on December 20th by Mrs. Joan Purcell, member of Grenada's Advisory Council, as she watched the symbolic handing over of a gift of 34,266 toys to the children of Grenada.

-continued-

The gift, from Hasbro Industries of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A. was to be distributed by the Council of Churches, Grenada, and the symbolic handover was done by Republican Representative for Rhode Island in the United States Congress, Mrs. Claudine Schneider.

December

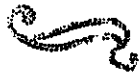
Arriving in Grenada on 20th /in a flight of four C130 Hercules aircraft of the 143rd Tactical Airlife Group, Mrs. Schneider visited the Queen Elizabeth Home for children on the outskirts of St. Georges and presented toys to the 14 children living there.

Mrs. Purcell, who is the local representative of the Canadian Save the Children Fund, said that, in her own experience in working with children, she knows the importance of having toys, and a number of Grenadian children have not had the opportunity of having "something pretty to play with".

"On behalf of Grenadian children", she said, " I am very pleased over this gesture from the United States of America".

Mrs. Purcell said she had chatted with Mrs. Schneider and had discovered that she shared with her an interest in the development of women. She hopes she can develop links with Mrs. Schneider which will be useful in her responsibilities on the Advisory Council for the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

"This whole area of women in development is a new one", Mrs. Purcell said. "There is need for both financial and technical support in developing our programmes, and, I know there will be need for international funding and other forms of support, and I am sure that, with her (Mrs. Schneider) interest in this area, we can develop some mutually supportive links".



COUNCIL DEFINING PRIORITIES

Mrs. Joan Purcell, member of Grenada's Advisory Council, said in an interview on December 21st that the work of the Council is beginning to move forward and priority areas have been defined.

"I know the public feels that we are moving very slowly", she said, "but it is a very complex situation, a complex problem, and, besides, it's part of the whole bureaucratic structure of Government".

Mrs. Purcell said the Council has to examine carefully certain fundamental issues and make careful decisions, but she feels the Council's focus now is building administrative structures through which

-continued-

the country can begin to function efficiently.

"For instance", she said, "I have the task of developing a Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Affairs, pulling them out from the overall Ministry of Education and other areas and bringing together a staff of people".

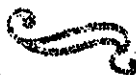
Following that, she said, a programme must be developed which must be geared to the time limit imposed by the fact that elections must be held before the end of 1984. A lot of the Council's energies, she said, are now concentrated on getting the administrative structures working.

"There needs to be a lot of evaluation of ongoing programmes and projects to discover their viability and feasibility", she said, "and this is taking time".

Mrs. Purcell said she is aware that the Government's Information Service is "not in place" and the public is not being fully informed of what the Advisory Council is doing, but efforts are being made to correct this.

The subject of information is now the responsibility of Mr. Nicholas Brathwaite, the Council's Chairman, she said, and Mr. Leslie Seon, Grenadian born broadcaster, seconded to the Council from the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation of Barbados, has been appointed to act as "special advisor" to Mr. Brathwaite.

Mr. Seon is already on the job, she said, and she expected to see a great improvement in the handling of information shortly.



ROTARY HELPS SCHOOL

The Rotary Club of Grenada on December 17th handed over to the Grenada Association for the Mentally Retarded a new section of the School For Special Education at Grand Anse, a project which Rotary has sponsored since 1976.

Addressing the Board of the Association and guests invited for the ceremony, Rotary President Lennox Phillip said the land surrounding the school had been donated by the Government of Grenada and Rotary had undertaken the first building phase in 1976.

"Phase one was completed at a cost of 114 thousand EC dollars in the period 1976 to 1977" he said, "and it was our then District Governor
-continued-

Fitz Humphrey, who handed over the keys to the school authorities on 27th September 1978."

Mr. Phillip said phase two was begun in the period 1978/79 and has now been completed at a cost of 94.5/^{thousand}EC dollars, of which some 50.0 thousand EC dollars was a donation from the Canadian High Commission in Barbados.

Phase two, Mr. Phillip said, involved the building of an additional classroom and the fencing of the grounds.

The President said Rotary has already set aside EC\$16,000 for Phase three of the development.

The handing-over ceremony was performed by Guyana based Rotary District Governor Neil Isaacs. Mr. Isaacs cut a ribbon and escorted the Association's President Mrs. Thelma Simpson (who has headed the Association since its founding) into the new section of the school.

The Grenada Association for the Mentally Retarded was founded in 1976 and the School for Special Education now caters for 22 children with 4 fulltime teachers.

A spokesman for the School said all the children will eventually be trained to hold down a job.

"Their chances are very good", he said, "we have a few slow learners and the others, even if they can't do the academic work, we are teaching them skills like cooking and sewing".



THE ST NICHOLAS REPORT PUBLISHED

The controversial United Nations St. Nicholas report was released early in December and, already, there are indications it might have been better if it had been kept secret until January.

Mr. Jack Frost, spokesman for the U.N. Secretary General, in an ABC Television interview on December 18th expressed misgivings and said he hoped the report will create no disharmony in the Christmas season of peace and goodwill.

"Copies have been sent to all member nations", Mr. Frost said, "and through the U.N. Public Information Department, the world media has been given this information. The widest possible comment is invited, but it is hoped that public expression of opinion will be restrained and objective".

-continued-

Last April, financed by a grant from the European Development Bank, the U.N. General Assembly commissioned the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to prepare this report. Guidelines were set out and UNICEF was instructed "to investigate and report on the operations of Santa Claus in his annual distribution of gifts to children and other matters related thereto".

Putting together a team of expert investigators, UNICEF launched an intensive fact-finding mission world wide, and indepth evidence was taken from parents, children and the general public.

The 10,000 word report has now been released. It is a comprehensive document but it does not make pleasant reading. Unpalatable facts have been brought to light. But, they are documented facts which must be faced.

In plain words, Santa Claus has been accused of discrimination, Not class discrimination. Not colour discrimination. Nor, is it ideological discrimination. The charge against him is economic discrimination.

On page 743 of the report, the investigating team sums up this alleged discrimination as follows:-

"From the overwhelming evidence before us, we can come to no other conclusion but that the number and quality of gifts distributed by Santa Claus to children are in direct proportion to the financial ability of the parents of those children to purchase such gifts. Further, it is clear to us that, in cases where poor parents are unable to purchase gifts, Santa Claus makes no distribution whatsoever to the children of that family"

That statement has serious implications. They cannot be ignored but they should not be considered in isolation. There's another side of the story. Santa's side.

Making a special trip to the U.N. last August, the old man made a personal appearance before the investigating team, and his testimony is embodied in Annex "A" of the report.

Santa emphatically denies the charge of discrimination. His policy of gift distribution has never changed, he says. Every boy and girl should receive a present at Christmas. According to him, it is a basic part of the commemoration of the birth of the Christ child.

But, he testified, there are difficulties. It is not easy to keep his records up to date and there are thousand of new names which should be added to his list every year. Santa's difficulty, he says, has been to get those names.

-continued-

He checks telephone directories, social registers and other published documents. These are the sources available to him but they are inadequate. They tend to cover only the well-to-do. As he testified, old Santa was close to tears. He has been quite unable to get the names and addresses of many poor children, he said, and this distresses him.

The St. Nicholas Report makes recommendations which, in due course, will be considered by the United Nations General Assembly. However, at Santa's insistence, it has been decided that a worldwide appeal be made that recommendation 15A is to be implemented immediately.

That recommendation reads:-

"Parents and guardians whose children are already on Santa's list should accept the responsibility to see that the name of at least one needy child is included on that list" .

That would clear Santa of the discrimination charge. It would also spread a little more of the Christmas joy.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alister Hughes'.

Alister Hughes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cynthia Hughes'.

Cynthia Hughes

31st December 1983

Printed & Published by the Proprietors
Alister & Cynthia Hughes, Journalists
of Scott Street, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies