

The Grenada NEWSLETTER

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Leary :-

AMERICANS NOT PULLING OUT

Heavier Reliance on Grenadian Expertise In Future

Mr John C Leary, Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Grenada, has denied reports that the United States commitment to Grenada is waning.

Mr Leary was speaking on April 15th at the opening of the Mount Gay Psychiatric Facility on the northern outskirts of St Georges, and he said reports that the Americans are "pulling out" of Grenada are untrue.

Commitment

"I assure you that nothing could be further from the truth", he said. "While it is true that we have suffered some reduction in our staff and expect a further decline in the next few months, especially on the USAID side, this reduction does not in any way reflect a diminution of our commitment to Grenada"

This reduction, the Charge said, is a result, in part, of the Embassy's budgetary constraints which are forcing maintenance of programmes with fewer resources.

The reduction in the number of U S technical advisors in the island has come about, also, he said, because, in the future, there will be heavier reliance on Grenadian expertise in execution of the programmes.

The Mount Gay Psychiatric Facility was built by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at a cost of some EC\$13 million and it replaces the Richmond Hill mental asylum which was bombed by United States forces in October 1983 when they attacked an anti aircraft gun in the compound of that asylum.

The new Facility can cater to 80 patients and Mr Leary highlighted the special significance of the institution.

"The new Facility represents not only the best in institutional health care in the entire Caribbean", he said, "it represents the special relationship which we have with the Government and people of Grenada and our commitment to them"

Mr Daniel ("Danny") Williams, Minister for Health, speaking on this occasion, said he is uncomfortable over "whisperings" that U.S aid to Grenada is to be reduced. With Mr Leary and other important American officials present, he said, he wished to emphasise that Grenada still needs as much assistance as she can get.

"We are developing and putting a lot of structures into place", he said, "and it may be that things look very well because of the enterprise of our people, but it does not necessarily mean that all that is glittering is gold".

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Leary: Americans Not Pulling Out.....	1
New Portfolios Published.....	2
P.M. Charges "Politics Of Confrontation".....	3
Cabinet Dubbed "Clique Of Five".....	4
EEC Library Project Nearing Completion.....	5
Government On "Dangerous Ground".....	6
Ramsay Challenges Judgement..	7
Havana Medical Graduates Must Do Internship.....	8
Eastern Caribbean Suffers Severe Drought.....	8
News Shorts.....	9

The reality is that Grenada's economy is based on agriculture, he said, and the island looks to industry for employment rather than from an economic point of view.

Main Stay

There are some areas of industry where the island can compete, the Minister said, but agriculture is the main stay and Grenada's principal crops take time before giving an economic return.

"So, we need the assistance while we build", he said, "and we would not like those who are giving assistance to treat this lightly because, sometimes, we do things and, later on, it costs more to repair".

Ceremonial cutting of the ribbon to open the Facility was done by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon in the presence of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, Members of the Grenada Cabinet, Professor Michael Beaubrun of the University of the West Indies, representatives of the Health Authorities and a cross section of the general public.

NEW PORTFOLIOS PUBLISHED

Five Ministers Now Instead Of Seven

Following recent resignations from the Government, the Government Gazette, under date of April 24th, has published details of the portfolios of Cabinet Ministers which take effect from 21st April 1987.

Those resignations were made on April 13th when of Dr Francis Alexis, former Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs and Labour, and Mr George Brizan, former Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries left the Government.

Before the resignations, the Cabinet consisted of seven Ministers headed by Prime Minister Blaize. With the resignations, the Prime Minister has not replaced Dr Alexis and Mr Brizan but has distributed their portfolios between two of the remaining Ministers.

The following table shows responsibilities of the current Cabinet with indications of the new departments allocated as a result of the resignations.

Mr. Ben Jones	
Before	Additional
(1) External Affairs	* (1) Attorney General
(2) Agriculture	
(3) Forestry	
(4) Lands	
(5) Tourism	
* From Dr Francis Alexis	
Mr. George McGuire	
(1) Civil Aviation	** (1) Education
(2) Local Government	** (2) Culture
(3) Social Security	* (3) Labour
(4) Youth Affairs	* (4) Cooperatives
(5) Sport	** (5) Fisheries
** From Mr George Brizan	
* From Dr Francis Alexis	
Mr. Danny Williams	
(1) Health	None
(2) Housing	
(3) Women's Affairs	
(4) Physical Planning	
Dr. Keith Mitchell	
(1) Works & Utilities	None
(2) Community Development	
Mr. Herbert Blaize	
(1) National Security	None
(2) Home Affairs	
(3) Carriacou & Petit Martinique Affairs	
(4) Information	
(5) Finance	
(6) Trade	
(7) Industry	
(8) Economic Planning	
(9) Energy	

The other four members of the New National Party (NNP) in the House of Representatives have been made Ministers of State and members of Cabinet. Details of these appointments are:-

Minister	Special Responsibility
Miss Grace Duncan Minister of State in the Ministry of Health & Housing.	Women's Affairs
Mrs Pauline Andrew Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, External Affairs Agriculture and Tourism	Agriculture & Tourism
Mr Alleyne Walker Minister of State in The Ministry of Works	Works
Mr Felix Alexander Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Social Services	Labour Cooperatives Fisheries Culture

P. M. CHARGES "POLITICS OF CONFRONTATION"

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has accused three members of the Opposition of having embarked on the "politics of confrontation" and has warned Grenadians that this could lead to "pain and suffering".

Mr Blaize made the charge in a national broadcast on May 8th. Two days before, he said, the Ministry of Health had received a letter from Dr Francis Alexis, Mr George Brizan and Mr Tillman Thomas, stating they would visit the General Hospital, the Princess Alice Hospital and the St Patrick's Clinic at certain stated hours.

"There is nothing wrong with visiting the Hospital to see what goes on there" the Prime Minister said. "It is, however, well known to all..... that there are certain times of the day when visitors are not allowed at the hospitals. Why then should some of the Opposition Members chose an hour when visitors are not allowed?"

Significant

Mr Blaize said it is significant that during almost two and a half years (since the elections of 1984) these Parliamentarians had made no attempt to visit the institutions, and he expressed the opinion that, to find the answer to the present move by these Opposition members, it is necessary to look back to 1973.

"You will recall that the politics of confrontation started at Grenville on November 18th 1973", he said. "It was on that Sunday that a few persons travelled to Grenville with the expressed intention of seizing the Grenville Police Station as their first move to bring down the then Government. How did this all end? It ended with pain and suffering, and, after having placed Grenadians under 'heavy manners' for four and a half years, it finally came to an end with massacre and execution."

Mr Blaize's reference is to an incident which was investigated by the Duffus Commission of Inquiry into the Breakdown of Law & Order and Police Brutality in Grenada.

Evidence was given to the Commissioners that, on 18th November 1973, six members of the New Jewel Movement, including the Joint Co-Ordinating Secretaries of the Movement, Maurice Bishop and Unison Whiteman, were severely beaten in Grenada's second town, Grenville, by the Police Aids, a gang of criminals recruited by the then Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy.

Conflicting

The details of the attack, which led to near fatal results, were established, but there was conflicting evidence as to the motives behind the NJM's visit to Grenville.

Police Inspector Innocent Belmar, who commanded the Police Aids, testified he had received information that the NJM intended to attack the Grenville Police Station. On the other hand, a Grenville businessman, Mr H M Bhola, told the

Commissioners he had been one of a group of businessmen who had organised a meeting in Grenville to which the NJM had been invited.

Protest

The purpose of the meeting, Mr Bhola said, was to discuss a "shut down" of the island in protest against the activities of the Police Aids.

In their Report, the Duffus Commissioners said they are satisfied that Maurice Bishop had been invited to attend a meeting of businessmen which had been arranged in Grenville.

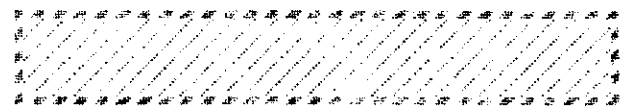
They said also, "There is no credible evidence to support the alleged rumour upon which police action was based to the effect that the six men, or any one else, had

"..... the politics of confrontation started in Grenville on 18th November 1973"

conspired to take over the State of Grenada on Sunday November 18th 1973, and that the seizure of the Grenville Police Station was part of such a conspiracy".

In his broadcast on April 8th, Mr Blaize said the strategy and objectives of Dr Alexis, Mr Brizan and Mr Thomas seem "distressingly identical with those of November 1973".

"The three members of the Opposition, who claim to be part of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition", he said, "are the same ones who have now embarked, by this approach, on the politics of confrontation".



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Cabinet Dubbed

"CLIQUE OF FIVE"

Dr Francis Alexis, former Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs and Labour in the New National (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, disclosed on April 28th that he had been invited to New York to address the Caribbean/American Chamber of Industry & Commerce.

Dr Alexis, who resigned from Government and the NNP recently over differences with the Prime Minister, made the disclosure at a press conference called by him with Messrs George Brizan and Tillman Thomas, both of whom had resigned at the same time.

"I was asked before I resigned", Dr Alexis said, "and I have since been assured that the invitation was to me personally and the fact of my resignation does not alter the decision to have me speak".

The theme of his address was to be "Economic Trends in the Caribbean", Dr Alexis said. His flight tickets had not yet been received, he said, but, if they did come, arrangements had been made for him to also address Grenadians in New York.

"The Prime Minister is in New York and, I understand, will be talking to Grenadians on Friday (May 1st)" the ex-Attorney General said, "and, just in case he needs to be assisted with the truth, I will be there to address them on Sunday night (May 3rd).

(Dr Alexis subsequently advised NEWSLETTER that the expected tickets from the Caribbean/American Chamber of Industry & Commerce did not arrive in time. Nevertheless, he did fly to New York where, at the "Flamingo Inn" in Brooklyn, he addressed a gathering of some 300 Grenadians).

At the press conference on April 28th, Dr Alexis referred to developments in Government since the resignations.

Before the resignations, NNP had, in the House of Representatives, 12 members of which 7 were Ministers and constituted the Cabinet.

Dr Alexis and Mr Brizan were Ministers but, after their resignations, Mr Blaize has not replaced them. In his new Cabinet, the Prime Minister has only 5 Ministers, Mr Ben Jones, Mr George McGuire, Mr Danny Williams, Dr Keith Mitchell and himself.

The other four Members in the House - Mrs Pauline Andrews, Miss Grace Duncan, Mr Felix Alexander and Mr Alleyne Walker - the Prime Minister has taken into the Cabinet as Ministers of State who will each be responsible to a Minister.

"With those nine of us in Cabinet", Prime Minister Blaize said when he announced the new Cabinet, "we have nine united much stronger than twelve divided".

Dr Alexis told the press conference it is obvious that it is not "nine united" but a clique of five Ministers headed by the Prime Minister plus another four Members in which the Prime Minister has no confidence.

"If he had any confidence in them", he said, "how it is that he has loaded up the Ministers he has with so many departments and he has not given responsibility for any department to any of the four others?"

Mr Brizan said that, in assessing the Cabinet, it has to be remembered that this is the Body entrusted with management of the country's affairs and he recalled that, in Mr Blaize's first Cabinet after the 1984 elections, Mr Ben Jones was given the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Legal Affairs.

With Mr Jones in charge of Legal Affairs, Mr Brizan said, the legal profession had many difficulties and complaints which were not attended to and "it had reached such a low level" that the Prime Minister had to take the initiative and instruct that six persons be hired immediately in the Registry of the High Court.

Mr Brizan said also that, when one heads a Ministry, one must be in total control. However, he said, Grenada's Representative to the United Nations had made a statement in the U.N. and, when Mr Jones was asked about it, he had been ignorant of what had been said.

"That was the position then", Mr Brizan said, "but now, in addition to External Affairs and Legal Affairs, Mr Jones holds the post of Attorney General and, on top of that, he has the formidable Ministry of Agriculture and the sensitive industry of Tourism".

Based on past experiences when Mr Jones had only two Ministries, Mr Brizan said he does not anticipate a high level of productivity and performance now that Mr Jones has some five or six Departments in his portfolio.

Mr Brizan said that, at a public meeting held recently by him with Dr Alexis and Mr Thomas in the west coast town of Gouyave, the electricity had been turned off in the area and there had been stone throwing. He said also there had been distribution of a pamphlet with propaganda against him, that pamphlet having no identification as to who had published it.

"I am not saying the Prime Minister had anything to do with this or encouraged it", he said, "but, from what I have been told, the turning off of the electricity, the stone throwing and publication of the pamphlet all originated with NNP".

EEC LIBRARY PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

Eastern Main Road To Be Completed By 1989

Renovations to the Public Library in St Georges have been completed and the building was officially opened to the public on May 8th.

This project is financed by the European Economic Community (EEC) and, in an interview with NEWSLETTER on May 9th, Mr Keith Shaw, 62, Delegate of the EEC Commission (stationed in Trinidad) said the total cost will be about EC\$900 000.

Refurbishing

"We have already spent some EC\$750,000 on the building", he said, "and the balance is to be spent on refurbishing of furniture and fittings and on equipment".

The Public Library is located on the Carenage, near to the Treasury, in one of the oldest buildings in St Georges. That building was, originally, two stories for only half its length, the Library then being housed on the top floor while the ground floor was used as a Customs warehouse.

In the early 1930s, the Library was given more space when the upper floor was extended for the full length of the building, cut stone from the parapets of Fort Frederick being used for the project. The lower floor continued to be used as a Customs warehouse until after the deep water pier and warehouses were constructed in 1939.

The entire building, under the EEC project, has now been reconstructed and both floors have been turned over for use of the Library.

Mr Shaw said completion of this project coincides with celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome (25th March 1957) which created the EEC.

"After World War II", he said, "Europe was again in chaos, but there were attempts by far-sighted European statesmen to try and so integrate the economies of European nations, particularly the heavy industry, so it would be difficult to unmesh them and there was hope that this would be a sound foundation for ensuring peace".

The first person to articulate this idea, the EEC Delegate said, was Britain's Winston Churchill who, in 1946, in a public speech in Zurich, Switzerland, advocated establishment of a "United States of Europe".

There were no moves in this direction until 1951, Mr Shaw said, when the Coal & Steel Community (CSC) was set up. The six member states of CSC were then France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland, each state relinquishing a part of its sovereignty to a higher Authority in CSC matters.

Disputes

That Authority, he said, was composed of three sections. There was an Assembly which was similar to a Parliament, a Commission which was the Executing Agent of the Authority and a Judiciary which settled disputes relative to operation of CSC.

"There were procedural problems in setting up this arrangement", the EEC Delegate said, "but, by and large, it worked so well that it was taken as the framework for the Treaties of Rome when they were signed".

Largest

Mr Shaw said the largest project financed by the EEC in Grenada is the Eastern Main Road. This project was started in the late 1970s and involves upgrading and resurfacing of some 30 miles of road, 20 between St Georges in the south and Grenville in the east, and 10 between Grenville and Sauteurs in the north.

one and the installation of new water pipes in that phase".

Because of shortage of Government revenue, the EEC Delegate said, the Government has been unable to fulfil its agreement to finance purchase of the new pipes. It has now been agreed, he said, that some of the Eastern Main Road project money will be used to buy these pipes, lay them and resurface phases one and two.

Mr Shaw expressed the hope that, with the down-turn of the United States dollar, the conversion of European Currency Units (ECU)

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Over the next month, NEWSLETTER's Publishers and Printers will be engaged in covering an epithal-amial occasion and the next issue of NEWSLETTER will be for the week ending June 13th.

The project is divided into three 10-mile phases. Mr Shaw said the first two have been completed at a cost of about EC\$4.5 million, and the third phase will cost an equal amount.

"Initially, we are going to do only about 8 miles of phase three", he said, "because we have had to rehash the original programme to take account of maintenance of phase

will realise a higher return and, even though some of the project money is now allocated to unexpected expenditure on phase one, it will be possible to complete the remaining two miles of phase three.

Link

"By the end of May", Mr Shaw said, "we hope to have a programme which will link in the laying of the pipes, the resurfacing

See "LIBRARY" Page 7

Government On

"DANGEROUS GROUND"

The New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has been accused of treading on dangerous ground as it indulges in "fiscal experimentation"

The charge was made in the House of Representatives on April 22nd by Mr George Brizan, former Minister of Education.

Needed

"The main person in the Ministry of Finance who is giving advice is a tax collector", he said, "when what is needed is a fiscal manager".

Mr Brizan, together with Dr Francis Alexis, former Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs and Labour, and Mr Tillman Thomas, former Parliamentary Secretary for Legal Affairs, resigned on April 13th over disagreements with the Prime Minister.

April 22nd was the first time after their resignations they appeared in the House and they sat with the Opposition and criticized an amendment to the Business Levy Act tabled by Mr Blaize who is Minister for Finance.

In 1985, introducing a policy of fiscal reform, the Prime Minister announced the abolition of Company income tax (50% of net profits) and the introduction in its stead of a Company Tax of 10% on gross profits. There was immediate unfavourable reaction from the Business Community and, repealing the Company Tax Act, a Business Levy was introduced.

This, too, was at the rate of 10% of gross profits, but certain specified expenses were allowed to be deducted before the tax was calculated.

The Business Levy Act did not produce the anticipated revenue and it was repealed. In its place was enacted an amendment which fixed the tax at 2.5% of on gross sales with an exemption for the first EC\$50 000.

Discussing that amendment with the Prime Minister, the Chamber

of Industry & Commerce pointed out several anomalies which, they said, would work hardships on sections of the Business Community.

When, at the meeting of the House on April 22nd, Mr Blaize tabled the most recent amendment to the Business Levy Act, he said it was to take care of the anomalies pointed out by the Chamber.

Details of the amendment are that there will be no tax on the first EC\$100,000 of gross sales, on the next EC\$900,000 the tax will be 1%, on the next EC\$1 million it will be 1.5% and all sales over EC\$2 million will attract a tax of 2.5%.

"The Business Community is not happy with this tax", he said, "but we have made it clear that we have no intention of going back to a tax on profits because we have had enough of tax fidlers".

In his contribution to the debate, Dr Alexis said he and Mr Brizan, while they were Cabinet Ministers, had warned the Prime Minister that his fiscal policy would force Government to borrow money and bring hardships to Grenadians. And he was critical of the Prime Minister's methods of dealing with the Chamber of Industry & Commerce.

"I asked for dialogue with the private sector", he said, "not autocratic arrogance".

The House had before it also a Bill with reference to the planned retrenchment of some 1800 persons from the Public Service, this retrenchment being the major cause of the resignations of Messrs Brizan and Thomas and Dr Alexis.

Assurance

They object to this action without the provision by Government of retraining for the retrenched and assurance that the Private Sector can provide jobs for most of them.

Mr Brizan told the House that

putting 1800 Civil Servants "on the street" is breaking the NNP pledge that it would do all it could to reduce and abolish unemployment which was pinpointed by the Party as the most serious problem facing the nation.

Violation

"Any deviation from this pledge", he said, "is a violation of the sacred trust between the people and Government".

Dr Alexis referred to the fact that, at the meeting of the House on April 10th, he and Mr Brizan had spoken out against the proposed retrenchment, and he said Prime Minister Blaize had called on him to retract his statements and apologise publicly.

"When and if I am wrong", he said, "I don't have to be asked to apologise. He who apologises when he is wrong is a big man, but he who apologises when he is not wrong is nothing more than a mouse".

One clause of the Retrenchment Bill denies the retrenched the right of appeal which is given by the Public Service Commission Regulations, and there was strong condemnation of this denial from the Opposition side of the Table.

It was pointed out that, should a vindictive Government use this Bill to vent its spite on selected Civil Servants, effecting their retrenchment in the name of "reorganisation", the persons affected could not appeal against Government's action.

This argument was not accepted by the Government side of the Table and the Bill was passed.

In reply to a question, the Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr George McGuire, told the House that the State-owned Grenada Airways which went out of business late last year, now has no assets.

He further disclosed that an aircraft purchased from the Brazilian Government by the Peoples Revolutionary Govern-

RAMSAY CHALLENGES JUDGEMENT

President Haynes Accused of "Abuse Of Judicial Privilege"

Mr Ian Ramsay, Jamaican barrister who faces a charge of Contempt of Court, lodged, on April 27th, a Motion in the High Court protesting a judgement of the President of the Appeal Court, Mr Justice J. O. F. Haynes.

The Contempt charges are based on the fact that Mr Ramsay is alleged to have referred to the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial as a "travesty of justice" and to have dubbed the Grenada High Court a "kangaroo court".

This case has been before the High Court since 22nd May last year and, when it came up for hearing last September, Mr Ramsay charged that the hearing date had been fixed unilaterally by the trial judge, Mr Justice James Patterson.

September 16th, a date convenient to Mr Ramsay and his Counsel, had been fixed originally, but Judge Patterson was out of the State on that date and Mr Ramsay said the new date fixed by the Judge was not convenient for the legal Counsel he had retained.

Deprived

The Jamaican barrister charged that Judge Patterson's action, in fixing the new date unilaterally, and refusing to grant an adjournment, had deprived him (Ramsay) of the constitutional right to be defended "by a legal representative of his own choice".

Last January, the three Justices of the Appeal Court heard this matter and gave judgements against Mr Ramsay.

"LIBRARY" From Page 5

on phases one and two and the operations on phase three, and it should all be completed within two years from now".

The EEC Delegate said EEC has aided Grenada also in the field of overseas agricultural training, in participation in trade fairs, in technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance and to the Veterinary Services, in reconstruction of the Hillsborough jetty in Grenada's sister island of Carriacou, in building the Mirabeau Agricultural Training School, expansion of the Institute For Further Education, tourism promotion, and in a tariff study for Grenada Electricity Services.

"DANGEROUS" From Page 6

ment, and on which a balance of EC\$1,148,870 is still owing, has been sold to a United States buyer for EC\$300,000.

Prime Minister Blaize was due to leave for the United States on April 23rd for medical treatment, and the House was adjourned until May 8th, by which time it was expected that he would be back.

The Appeal Justices said, that, arguing the matter in the High Court, Mr Ramsay's Counsel had said that their readiness to start on September 16th (when Judge Patterson was out of the State), had been conditional on the Maurice Bishop Murder Trial being completed by then.

Decision

That being so, the Appeal Court said, it was not Mr Patterson's refusal to grant an adjournment which had deprived Mr Ramsay of the services of his Counsel, but his Counsel's decision not to proceed until the Bishop Trial had been completed.

The Motion filed by Mr Ramsay on April 27th asks the High Court for a Declaration that the Judgement written by the President of the Appeal Court, Mr Justice J O F Haynes, in this matter "constitutes a continuing contravention" of his right to a fair hearing in the Contempt case against him.

Particular objection is taken to the part of Mr Haynes' judgement which, referring to the contempts Mr Ramsay is alleged to have made, reads in part:-

"But this is not the end of the matter. There is the additional factor that there was in the publications not only a general attack on the constitutionality of the Court but also what a judge at the hearing of the Motion might well hold to be a vicious attack on the integrity of the trial judge, on the integrity of the jury and on the conduct of the trial as a whole".

In an affidavit attached to his Motion, Mr Ramsay charges that Justice Haynes is guilty of "an abuse of judicial privilege".

"Speaking as he did", Mr Ramsay's affidavit says, "the Learned President created the invincible impression that if a trial judge took the view set forth, it would have the Court of Appeal's approval in advance".

The Motion, which was filed by Mrs Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, Jamaican barrister attached to Mr Ramsay's Chambers, asks the High Court to dismiss the contempt charges against Mr Ramsay on the grounds that Mr Haynes' judgement has created an "incurable prejudice" against him.

Critical

Mrs Samuels-Brown has herself filed an affidavit which is attached to the Motion and she, too is critical of Mr Haynes' statement.

"Nothing more prejudicial or destructive of the constitutional right to a fair trial can be imagined", she says, "as such judicial holdings would have considerable weight with a judge"

In an interview with NEWSLETTER on April 27th, Mrs Samuels-Brown said an application has been made to the Court for a date to be fixed for hearing but that date has not yet, at that time, been arranged. Sources close to the Supreme Court confirmed subsequently to NEWSLETTER that this hearing has been fixed for 29th June.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUFFERS SEVERE DROUGHT BANANA INDUSTRY ADVERSELY AFFECTED

The Eastern Caribbean is experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record and this will have adverse effects on the Banana Industry of the Windward Islands.

"This weather pattern is similar to that experienced during the severe drought years of the 1970s", says a press release from the Windward Islands Banana Association (WINBAN), "except that this year's drought is more intense".

Vigorous

The banana plant requires at least four inches of water per month for vigorous growth, WINBAN says, but in certain banana producing areas of St Lucia, total rainfall during the months of January to April has been less than five inches.

Rainfall figures at the WINBAN Research Station at Roseau, Dominica show that, for January, February, March and April, the recorded inches of rainfall have been 2.7, 0.4, 1.0 and 0.4 respectively.

"Grenada, St Vincent and Dominica are similarly affected", the WINBAN release says. "Government statistics from these islands for the first three months of the year show that these islands received a total of 2.5, 2.0 and 3.7 inches of rainfall respectively"

The banana plant is dependant on movement of water through the soil to bring dissolved nutrients to its roots but, according to WINBAN, the reduction of this action is not the most serious consequences of drought conditions.

The process most

severely affected during periods of "water stress" is photosynthesis, an activity which uses carbon dioxide in the air, water and sunlight for the production of carbon-hydrates in the plant, WINBAN says.

"When the plant is under severe moisture stress", the WINBAN release says, "the passages (stomata) on the leaves which allow air to enter are closed most of the day, thus bringing photosynthesis practically to a standstill".

The adverse results of the severe "water stress" now being experienced include low bunch weights, shorter "fingers" (individual fruit), lower number of "fingers" per bunch and reduced number of "hands" (clusters of fruit) per bunch.

Deformed

"Fingers" will also become deformed and extremely curved, these curved fruit damaging the backs of the "fingers" in the "hands" immediately above them on the bunch.

WINBAN has advised banana farmers to be careful how they mulch their fields during this dry spell. Most mulching materials, leaves and other banana plant residues, will have dried out because of the intensity of the drought and will have lost their effectiveness WINBAN says. Mulch should, therefore, not be spread all over the soil surface but be gathered in piles three or four feet from the plants.

"Most soil surface will thus become exposed to accept moisture directly from any showers which the mulch would otherwise intercept", the release says.

According to WINBAN, severe drought was one of the major factors responsible for the decline of the Banana Industry in the early years of the 1970s. In 1975,

WINBAN says, export production in the Windward Islands hit a record low of 91,800 tonnes as compared with 201,900 tonnes in 1969.

HAVANA MEDICAL GRADUATES MUST DO INTERNSHIP

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has given a "qualified bill of health" to Grenadians who have graduated in medicine from Havana University.

This was disclosed to NEWSLETTER in an interview on April 27th by Mr Daniel ("Danny") Williams, Minister for Health in the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

"UWI said that Havana University is as good as any", the Minister said, "but they left areas open. They said it is up to us whether we wish to accept diplomas from that University".

Late last year, General Medical Practitioners qualified at Havana University returned to Grenada but were denied registration without which they were unable to practice here.

These doctors, who began their studies under the auspices of the Peoples Revolutionary Government, were advised originally by the Grenada Government that, before they could be registered as medical practitioners, they would have to sit and pass examinations set by UWI.

Mr Williams said that, in Barbados, these graduates would have been made to sit the examinations but another plan was put into operation.

"About four months ago", he said, "Prime Minister Blaize met with the other Prime Ministers of the Organisation Of East Caribbean States (OECS), and the decision taken was that Havana graduates in Medicine would do two years of internship and then would be eligible for registration"

The graduates resisted this approach, Mr Williams said. They wished to have immediate registration, he said, but there has been no change from the requirement of internship as the decision of the OECS Prime Ministers was backed up by both the Medical Association and the Registration Board.

His problem, the Minister of Health said, was to accept these graduates into the Health Service and provide them with salaries when there had been no budget provision for them.

There had been 13 such graduates, he said, and after "searching for money within the system", 10 had been employed and, he understood, others had been taken on by other OECS Governments.

NEWS SHORTS

EDF Willing To Aid Democratization in Grenada

Dr Jocher Krebs, Economic Advisor for the European Development Fund (EDF) has advised the Minister for Works, Dr Keith Mitchell, that the EDF is willing to aid the process of democratization in Grenada.

Dr Krebs, who is resident in Trinidad, made the announcement during a recent visit to Grenada and said this aid will be forthcoming particularly in providing funds for useful projects in the country.

The Economic Advisor's visit to Grenada was to hold discussions with Dr Mitchell in connection with the Eastern Main Road Project for which the EDF is providing EC\$11.3 million.

Phase three of this project, road construction from Grenville to Sauteurs, is about to begin and, according to the Government Information Service, Dr Mitchell says employment will be provided for over 300 persons.

Ten Airlines Apply To Operate Into Point Salines

Ten airlines have applied to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for licences to operate into Point Salines International Airport.

This was announced in the House of Representatives on May 8th by Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr George McGuire, and he said there are plans to improve the departure area.

There is now a need for additional airline desks, he said, and funding is being sought to undertake their installation.

The Minister said there are now six fully trained meteorological officers at Point Salines, and the airport will soon be able to give a 24 hour meteorological service.

Federal Republic Of Germany To Give Aid.

The Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to provide funds for several projects in Grenada over the next twelve months.

According to the Government Information Service, a spokesman for the Ministry of Social Services says this aid will include funding for purchase of five specially designed school busses.

It will also cover establishment of library facilities in St Patricks Parish, drainage in the St Georges area and construction of a tourist shopping complex on the Carenage in St Georges.

FRG Offers Scholarships To Grenadians

Through its Embassy in Trinidad, the Federal Republic of Germany has offered several scholarships, in a variety of technical and vocational disciplines, to Grenadian students.

The courses, which will be conducted in German in West Germany, commencing next October, will be preceded by a three month language orientation course which will serve also as a supplementary skill for the trainees.

The courses are expected to last from three to ten months.

New Generator For GES By October

Dr Keith Mitchell, Minister for Public Utilities, announced in the House of Representatives on May 8th that a new five megawatt generator is expected to be installed at Grenada Electricity Services (GES) by October next.

Dr Mitchell said a two megawatt generator was installed recently and, when the five megawatt equipment is put down, it will increase the GES plant capacity to a total of 13.4 megawatts.

The Minister said the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation is providing GES with assistance and the Company has sent some of its staff abroad for training.

P.M. Says Compromise Reached On Business Levy

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize announced in the House of Representatives on April 22nd that he had reached a compromise with the Business Community on details of the Business Levy Act.

This Act, which, under Government's fiscal reform programme replaces Company Income Tax at the rate of **50% of net profits**, has not been well accepted by the Chamber of Industry & Commerce.

Appearing first as a Company Levy of **10% of gross profits**, under pressure from the Business Community it was amended to **10% of gross profits after deduction of certain specified expenses**.

This was found not to produce the anticipated revenue and it was amended again to be a Business Levy of **2.5% of gross sales over EC\$50,000**.

See "News Shorts" Page 10

'NEWS SHORTS' From Page 9

This, too, did not find favour with the Chamber and, in discussions with Prime Minister Blaize, several anomalies and hardships on particular sections of the Business Community were pointed out.

The "compromise" amendment announced by the Prime Minister is that there will be no tax on the first EC\$100,000 value of sales.

On the next EC\$900,000 the tax is 1%, on the next EC\$1 million 1.5% is payable and on all sales over EC\$2 million, 2.5% will be payable.

A spokesman for the Chamber told NEWSLETTER that no "compromise" has been agreed and the Prime Minister has been advised that the Chamber does not accept his tax amendment as equitable.

Fruit Fly Survey Has First Anniversary

The Pest Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture has announced that, by September next, the United States Department of Agriculture could declare Grenada a fruit-fly free zone.

The announcement was made to mark the anniversary of a survey which began on April 2nd 1986 to determine whether or not dangerous species of the fruit-fly are present on the island.

The survey, financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is also being conducted in Barbados and St Vincent. Technical assistance is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

According to the Government Information Service (GIS), an average of 260 traps per month have been placed on approximately 9,800 fruit trees.

GIS says dangerous species of the fruit-fly are known to exist on most Caribbean islands but, to date, none have been found on Grenada.

The survey in Grenada is to last a total of 18 months and if, by September next, the island's record remains the same, it may be possible to have the

United States Department of Agriculture give Grenada preliminary fruit-fly free status.

Danish Ambassador Presents Credentials

Non-resident Ambassador-Designate of the Kingdom of Denmark to Grenada, Mr Henrik Ree Iversen, 47, presented his credentials to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on April 29th.

During his stay in Grenada, Mr Iversen, who joined the Danish Foreign Service in 1967, held discussions with Mr Ben Jones, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Iversen paid courtesy calls on Mr John Leary, Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Grenada and on Mr Graeme Roberts, Resident Representative of the British High Commission in Barbados.

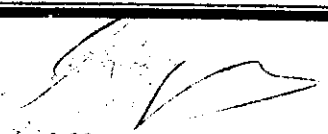
Grenadian Boy Has His Sight Restored

A six year old Grenadian boy, Aul Renaud, who lost the sight of his left eye when he fell and cut the cornea, was successfully operated on by a graduate of St Georges University School of Medicine, ophthalmologist Dr Orazio Giliberti.

Aul was rushed to the United States to take advantage of fresh corneal tissue which had become available and the operation was done at United Hospitals Medical Centre in Newark, New Jersey on April 10th.

According to a press release from the St Georges University School of Medicine, the operation and hospitalisation were provided free of cost to Aul's family. Aul's father, Alistir Renaud said his employers, an insurance company, will pay for the air fares.

Dr Giliberti, who is Chief Resident in the Affiliated Eye Residency Programme of the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, has set up an eye clinic on the Grand Anse campus of St Georges University as an independent project of the University.



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