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2.5% TAX WILL KILL REHAB. SCHEME : BRIZAN

CIDA FUNDING DEPENDANT ON TAX FREE COCOA INDUSTRY

Mr George Brizan, Member of the House of Representatives, Political Leader of the proposed new political party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), and former Minister for Agriculture in the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Blaize, warned on August 23rd that the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme funded by the Canadian Government is in danger.

Mr Brizan, speaking at a NDC party meeting, said Government has plans which will violate a vital condition of funding laid down by the Canadians.

Condition

"One condition is there must be no export duty on cocoa shipments", he said. "Government has abolished export duty, but Government now has a bill before Parliament which will

impose a 2.5% levy on the gross sales of the Cocoa Association, Nutmeg Association and Banana Society".

The technical work behind the funding was done on the assumption there would be no export duty or any levy on the Cocoa Association, he said, and it does not matter what name is used, the proposed levy becomes a tax just like the export duty.

Predicted

This condition, laid down by the Canadians, was a very important one in working out the cash flow projections of the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme, Mr Brizan said, and he predicted that, if the Bill imposing a levy on the Cocoa Industry is passed into law, it will destroy the Programme.

The Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the sum of EC\$20 million and designed to replant 10,000 acres of cocoa fields, came into operation in 1981, but has not worked satisfactorily.

Overdesigned

According to Mr Brizan, the Programme was originally "overdesigned" and, in 1985, when he

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was Minister of Agriculture, a CIDA team examined the operations of the Programme and redesigned it, fixing the funding at EC\$13 million over five years.

Notice

CIDA has not been satisfied with implementation of the redesigned Programme and, on August 12th the present Minister of Agriculture, Mr Ben Jones, disclosed at a press conference that the Grenada Government had been given notice that Canadian funding for the Programme will come to an end on December 31st next.

Mr Jones said CIDA's dissatisfaction is based in the fact that there are two centres of control in the

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OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS CPA 'HIJACKED'

"There has been no meeting of the Grenada branch of CPA to select anyone to go to the Conference": St Louis

Leader of the Opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives, Mr Phinsley St Louis, has accused the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize of "hijacking" the local branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

In an interview with NEWSLETTER on August 26th, Mr St Louis reacted to a news report on the state-owned Radio Grenada that Member of the House, Miss Grace Duncan, Minister of State, and Senator Ben Andrews, Parliamentary Secretary, will represent Grenada at the 33rd CPA Conference to be held in Malaysia from 28th August to 6th September.

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Cocoa Industry, the Cocoa Association and Rehabilitation Board.

In the interest of efficiency, CIDA wants the Industry under a single Authority and, on August 13th, Mr Jones addressed a General Meeting of the Cocoa Association urging compliance with CIDA's request.

That General Meeting had before it expert advice of Mr Arnold Cruickshank, an authority on the Cocoa Industry on the staff of the Caribbean Development Bank but acting, in this instance, on his own behalf.

Four Phases

Mr Cruickshank recommended four phases of development which would ensure improved cost effectiveness and managerial efficiency in both the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) and the Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA).

"Once phases one to four have been carried out and there is a consensus that the different systems are operating effectively and efficiently", his recommendations say, "the final phase of merging the CRP and the GCA should be implemented".

These recommendations were accepted in a Resolution passed by the GCA General Meeting of 13th August but, according to Mr Brizan, Government's plan to impose a levy on the gross sales of the Association will create another hurdle to continuance of CIDA's financing of the Rehabilitation Programme.

The levy, which is to be imposed through an amendment of the Business Levy Act, will be applicable to the Cocoa Association, Banana

"There has been no meeting of the Grenada branch of CPA to select anyone to go to the Conference", Mr St Louis said, "neither has the Executive Committee been consulted in choosing the delegation".

Flagrant

The Leader of the Opposition condemned the choosing of the delegates as "dictatorial" and "high-handed" and said the NNP Government is using the CPA "to practice dictatorship in a most flagrant and vile way".

"The CPA is a body of all Parliamentarians, and not an arm of Government", Mr St Louis said, "and this action is a naked usurpation by Government of the role and function of the CPA".

All past and present members of Parliament are members of the local CPA Branch which has two Presidents, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Branch also has two Vice-Presidents, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

END

Society and Nutmeg Association, and is causing concern throughout the Agricultural Industry.

Burdensome

The amending Bill was given first reading in the House on July 31st and, in a press release issued on August 19th, Chairman of the Nutmeg Association, Mr Norris James, condemned "the move by Government to include the Commodity Associations among the enterprises that are made to pay such tax, thereby imposing further burdensome taxes on our poor farmers".

Mr James said his Association had requested a meeting of the three Commodity Boards and this meeting would take place on August 26th.

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GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT COCOA COMMITTEE

".....there is a need for positive steps to demonstrate our commitment to the merger": Jones

The Grenada Government is to set up a Committee to implement a merger of the Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA) and the Cocoa Rehabilitation Board (CRB).

This was disclosed to NEWSLETTER by Mr Ben Jones, Minister for Agriculture, in an interview on August 26th, and he said the merger will take place by October 1988.

"Bearing in mind the situation with which we are faced", he said, "I consider it necessary for Government to take some initiative".

Dissatisfaction

The "situation" arises from dissatisfaction of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with implementation of the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme which CIDA has been funding since 1981.

In 1985, the Programme was reviewed and revised, but the dissatisfaction continued and, last July, CIDA gave notice that, with effect from January 1st next, it would disassociate itself from the Programme.

At a press conference on August 12th, Mr Jones said CIDA is dissatisfied with the cost-effectiveness of the management of the Cocoa Industry in Grenada, but would continue with the funding if there is a merger of GCA and CRB into a single Authority.

Government holds the same view, and, on August 13th, following an address by Mr Jones to that effect, a GCA General Meeting passed a Resolution which did not lay down a timetable but said the merger should take place in five phases.

Slow Up

"That Resolution tended to slow up the process", the Minister told NEWSLETTER, "and there is a need for positive steps to demonstrate our commitment to the merger"

Those positive steps now take the form of appointment of a Committee which will look into the question of the merger and make

recommendations for its structure, Mr Jones said, and Mr Arnold Cruickshank, an expert on the Cocoa Industry, attached to the Caribbean Development Bank, has been asked to head the Committee.

Effectuated

The Minister said the Committee should have its first meeting by September 14th, it is hoped a report can be submitted by October 2nd and the merger will be effected within 12 months.

Serving with Mr Cruickshank on the Committee will be the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of GCA, the Chairman and a representative of the CRB, the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Pest & Disease Control Reorganisation Committee, the Chief Technical Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Manager of the Cocoa Rehabilitation Project.

"Depending on the substance of the Report of the Committee, its recommended plan of action and timetable", Mr Jones said, "I expect that, by the end of October, we will have in place the structure which will lead to a unified management in the Cocoa Industry by October of next year."

END

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CDC TO SUE MINISTER

Last year's (1986) Carnival Development Committee (CDC) has taken legal action against Mr George McGuire, Minister for Culture.

Statements

This was disclosed on August 17th at a press conference called by the Committee in response to statements made on August 8th by Mr McGuire in an interview on the State owned Radio Grenada.

Speaking for the 9-member Committee, seven of whom were present, Committee Chairman Mr Hugh Dolland said the Minister's "damaging statements" have caused great concern. Mr Dolland alleged that, in his interview, Mr McGuire had said, in part:-

"..... this year, having recognised what has happened in the past, (we) have invited into our committee some people of proven managerial skills and people who know how to handle money, in an honest way, I should say, and I am very pleased to welcome into our committee....."

It is evident, the Chairman said, that Mr McGuire is implying that the 1986 CDC is dishonest.

Honest

"All members of the 1986 Executive Body of the 1986 Carnival Development Committee are hard-working, honest individuals who enjoy good

reputations", Mr Dolland said, "so when statements of this nature are made, we have no alternative but to come out and clear the air".

Mr Dolland said the Minister had charged, in his interview, that the 1986 CDC had left considerable debts unpaid. Mr Dolland did not dispute that some debt had been left but he pointed out that these debts are about equal to debts incurred by previous Carnival Development Committees as far back as 1981, which debts his Committee had liquidated.

Mr Dolland also accused the Minister of giving false information when he said that, in 1986, the Carnival celebrations, which are held every year in August, had cost Government EC\$120,000.

Deficit

According to the financial statement submitted to the Minister, Mr Dolland said, the 1986 Carnival operations showed a deficit of EC\$23,248 which the Committee committed itself to discharging.

In the CDC Chairman's Overview for 1986 submitted to the Minister with the financial statement, Mr Dolland said, the Committee accepted the

responsibility to wipe off these debts and, to that end, shows have been held.

"At the final figure now", he said, "Carnival 1986 would have cost Government EC\$2,835 and not EC\$120,000 as stated by the Minister"

Dissolved

Following the 1986 Carnival, the Committee Chairman said, Mr McGuire wrote the Committee a "beautiful" letter of appreciation but said the Committee would be dissolved.

An Interim Committee would be appointed to arrange shows at Christmas, the Minister said, and a new Committee for 1987 would be appointed in February.

"If Carnival is to be developed, this is not workable", Mr Dolland said. "We need ongoing planning and a full time secretariat".

The 1986 CDC felt that the direction Carnival is taking now is not the right one, Mr Dolland said, and most members of the 1986 CDC "did not come forward to serve in 1987".

Reaction

He hoped, he said, it was not reaction to this which had prompted Mr McGuire's statements on Radio Grenada.

But, in an interview with NEWSLETTER

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Details of that meeting have not been released, but informed sources told NEWSLETTER that a resolution mandating strong action by the three organisations did not have unanimous support and there is to be further consideration.

At his party meeting on August 23rd, Mr Brizan said that, in addition to the condition that there should be no export duty paid by the Cocoa Association, CIDA had laid down three other conditions.

One is that the Grenada Government should provide EC\$3 million in counterpart financing over five years, the second is there must be a reduction in costs to the GCA relating to pest control and the third is there must be annual production increases of 6%.

END

ALEXIS CHARGES CORRUPTION IN MINISTRY

Dr Francis Alexis, Member of the House of Representatives and former Attorney General and Minister for Labour in the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, charges that there is corruption in the Ministry of Works.

Libel

The charge was made in an interview on August 23rd and refers to the question of the importation of a concrete-block making plant which is the subject of a libel action.

"A block making plant, imported into the country consigned to the Central Water Commission (CWC), ends up in the hands of a private Company owned by cousins and close relatives of the Minister responsible for the CWC", he said, "in our view that is gross infelicity and corruption"

Because of differences with Prime Minister Blaize, Dr Alexis, together with Mr George Brizan and Mr Tillman Thomas resigned from NNP last April and Dr Alexis said that, while they were still in Government, these three Parliamentarians supported a call by the Opposition for an inquiry into the CWC relative to the block making plant.

Corruption

"It is corruption for a Minister of Government to have imported into the country, for a Department in his Ministry, a piece of equipment which finds its way into the hands of a Company owned by relatives of that Minister".

Dr Alexis said. "In any country where there is morality in public affairs, that Minister would resign".

If this equipment had reached the hands of the private Company by legitimate means, he said, it would have been a simple matter for Dr Mitchell to have answered Mr Thomas when, at a NNP General Council meeting in November last, Mr Thomas asked Dr Mitchell to give an explanation of the circumstances surrounding importation of the block making plant.

Mash Up

Dr Alexis said if Dr Mitchell had had a legitimate answer he would have given it then but the only response Dr Mitchell made was that Mr Thomas "was trying to mash up the Party".

In the publication of the "Grenadian Voice" Newspaper of 18th October last, prominent Grenadian barrister Mr Lloyd Noel, in his weekly column, made certain charges relative to a block making machine and Dr Mitchell's cousin, Mr Dennis Campbell, Manager of the Central Water Commission.

On 21st November 1986, Mr Campbell filed a libel action against Mr Noel, against Spice Island Printers, publishers of the "Grenadian Voice" and against the Westindian Publishing Company Ltd, printers of the newspaper.

The Statement of Claim relative to this action was filed on 9th December 1986 and in it Mr

Campbell charged that libellous statements concerning him had been falsely and maliciously printed and published.

Queries

Mr Noel responded on 22nd December with three queries to Mr Campbell.

First, Mr Noel wished to know, precisely, which statements Mr Campbell considered to be false and malicious.

The second query sought an answer as to what business Mr Campbell is in and whether he, or members of his immediate family and relatives, are concerned in the operation of a block making business.

The third query is whether or not, during 1986, machinery for use in that block making business was consigned to the CWC of which Mr Campbell is Manager.

On 29th January last, Mr Noel filed a summons calling on Mr Campbell to appear in Court on 15th April to answer these queries, but, in an interview with NEWSLETTER on August 25th, Mr Noel said the hearing did not come off as that date was inconvenient to the Court.

New Date

"I have not yet been given a new date and the Court is now in recess", he said, "but as soon as it resumes, I shall be taking active steps to have a date assigned for the hearing".

END

JUDGE RESERVES JUDGEMENT IN RAMSAY APPLICATION

Mr Justice J O F Haynes, President of the Appeal Court, sitting as a single Judge of that Court, reserved his judgement on August 18th with reference to an Application by Jamaican barrister, Mr Ian Ramsay, for a Stay Of Execution of the sentence imposed on him for a conviction of Contempt of Court.

That sentence was imposed by Mr Justice Lyle St Paul on July 7th last, and, under it, Mr Ramsay is to serve three months in jail and pay a fine of EC\$5,000. An Appeal against this was lodged on July 13th, by Mr Ramsay's legal representative and the Application for the Stay Of Sentence was filed on August 14th.

Grounds

The grounds supporting the Application are that an Appeal against Mr St Paul's sentence is now pending and, if the Stay is not granted and Mr Ramsay is called upon to serve the sentence now, then the hearing of the Appeal by the Court of Appeal will become no more than an academic exercise.

Guyanese barrister, Mr Clarence Hughes, Senior Counsel, elaborated this point before Mr Haynes on Monday 17th August, and appearing with him for Mr Ramsay was Jamaican barrister, Mrs Jacqueline Samuels-Brown.

Appearing for the Director of Public Prosecutions, with Mr Keith Friday, Crown Counsel, was Trinidadian barrister, Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips Q C, but he was not able to appear before the Court until the next day, Tuesday 18th August.

Mr Hudson-Phillips told the Judge that, under Grenadian law, there is a specific procedure to be followed when there is an Appeal against a sentence for Contempt of Court.

Bail

Under that procedure, he said, Mr Ramsay should have lodged his Notice of Appeal within two days of the sentence having been passed on him, and, within a further two days of the Notice of Appeal, Mr Ramsay should have posted bail in the sum of EC\$100.

Under the law, Mr Hudson-Phillips said, this would automatically have ensured a Stay of Execution of the sentence and there would have been no need to make a special Application for a Stay. Mr Ramsay had not complied with the provisions of the law, Mr Hudson-Phillips said, and he opposed the Application.

Mr Justice Haynes said he wished to give himself time to study the principles of the matter and fixed September 11th for delivery of his judgement.

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On August 19th, Mr George McGuire denied that he had made any charges of dishonesty against the 1986 Carnival Development Committee.

Bad Blood

"There has been some 'bad blood' generated by certain people in the CDC", he said, "They have manipulated the situation and are in the mood for a controversy"

Mr McGuire said it is a total misreading of what he had said when the CDC reads into his words a charge that the Committee does not know "how to handle money in an honest way", and he pointed out that, in common Grenadian slang, "to handle money" means to be dishonest with money.

In the interview on Radio Grenada, when he had spoken of the invited people as knowing "how to handle money", he said, he had immediately realised that this could be misinterpreted and so had added, "in an honest way, I should say".

"I have made no charge of dishonesty against the 1986 CDC", the Minister said, "and, in fact, I have publicly stated how impressed I am with the way they did their job."

In The Red

With reference to the Committee's charge that he had made false statements relative to the financial outcome of the Carnival operations for that year, Mr McGuire said he had not accused the CDC of losing EC\$120,000 but had said Government had been "in the red" for this amount.

"If the 1986 Committee felt I had made statements which needed clarification", he said, "then it would have been common decency and

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COCOA ASSOCIATION CONDEMNNS 2.5% TAX

The Board of the Grenada Cocoa Association has strongly condemned a "harsh and unreasonably oppressive Bill" which is to be passed into law by the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

Amendment

The Bill is an amendment to the Business Levy Act, which Act imposes a

2.5% tax on gross sales, and the amendment makes the Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA), The Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) and the Grenada Banana Cooperative Society (GBCS) all subject to this tax.

A press release issued on August 28th says that, at a meeting on

August 27th, the Cocoa Board examined the implications of the amendment, number 5 of 1987.

Deplores

"The Board on behalf of the Cocoa Farmers", the release says, "strongly deplores and condemns this harsh and unreasonably oppressive Bill which will definitely have a negative impact on the Agricultural Industry

generally, and will definitely add more taxation to the already burdened farmers".

The release says that GCA, GCNA and GBCS all operate as non-profit marketing associations on behalf of their members" and it calls for the support of all Cocoa Farmers on this issue.

END

P.M. CHARLES WAS CONVENT BOARDER IN GRENADA

Past pupils of Grenada's St Joseph's Convent have made their mark in the religious life, politics, education, administration and in the professions.

This was stated by Lady Esmay Scoon, wife of Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, as, on August 15th, she declared open a week of past student reunion celebrations.

Firsts

"The St Joseph's Convent has had many 'firsts' to its credit", Lady Scoon said. "For example, the first woman Governor, the first woman Prime Minister, the first woman Mayor, the first woman Permanent Secretary, the first woman Attorney General, the first woman Chief Personnel Officer, all in the Caribbean".

Lady Scoon, herself a past pupil of the Convent and now Patron of the Past Pupils Association, said that, in Grenada, the Convent produced the first woman Minister of Government and the first barrister at law.

The Prime Minister referred to by Lady Scoon is Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles.

Miss Charles was in Grenada for the reunion celebrations and, in an interview with NEWS-LETTER, gave details of her student days at the Convent.

Civil Servant

"When I came to the Convent", she said, "I had already celebrated my 21st birthday and had been working in Dominica as a Civil Servant for four years".

Miss Charles said that, in those days of the 1940s, latin was not

taught in any school in Dominica and, as she was determined to be a barrister, and because qualification in latin is essential for that profession, arrangements were made for her to study at the Convent in Grenada.

14-Year-Old

She arrived in Grenada in 1941, the Prime Minister said, and stayed for one year. During that stay, she said, because of her determination to achieve her goals, she was "quite happy to give up being a grown-up and become a 14-year-old again".

She was fully subject to all the Convent rules, Miss Charles said, and she had no special privileges above the other boarders.

Panama Hat

"I had to wear my uniform exactly like them", she said "the Panama hat, the blue skirt, the

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McGUIRE

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courtesy that they should contact me and ask about it. But, there was not one word to me and, instead, they jumped into the press and made all sorts of accusations".

Mr McGuire said he understands legal action is being contemplated against him by the Committee, but he is not aware of any steps taken in that connection.

END

WESTINDIES JAYCEES HOLD CONVENTION

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon has urged the West Indies Jaycees never to lose sight of the goal of regional unity.

Hope

Sir Paul, officially opening the Jaycees' 27th National Convention at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel on August 26th said "this hope of our future" has been elusive, but there

must be no relaxation of efforts to strengthen the bonds of unity which now exist.

"It is only as a united people that we in the Caribbean can surpass our present levels of achievement and improve our global status", he said.

Where, as a matter of urgency, so many

people need to put aside the mantle of divisiveness or relinquish their adversarial role in order to work together for the common good, the Governor General said, the Jaycees are a beacon of hope for Caribbean lands.

Crossroads

"Today we stand at the crossroads of West-indian integration", he said, "and, in some of our countries there is a growing awareness of the advantages to be derived from closer regional cooperation and meaningful West-indian unification"

The Governor General saluted the Jaycees as an action oriented body which identifies problems and seeks solutions in practical ways. The organisation helps, cares and builds, he said.

Torch

For over a quarter of a century, the Jaycees have kept the torch of Westindian unity alight, Sir Paul said, and he knows that a tremendous impact has been made on the social and economic life of the Caribbean.

Ten of the eleven countries represented by the West Indies Jaycees had delegates at the Convention and, in his address at the opening ceremony, President of the organ-

isation, Mr Jerome Lee, pointed out a unique characteristic of the Westindies Jaycees.

Unique

The organisation is unique, he said, because there is no country called "The West Indies". At Jaycees International, the President said, unlike sovereign countries like the United States and Canada, the sovereign countries of the Caribbean are not represented individually.

"Within our territory of 'The West Indies Jaycees'", Mr Lee said, "we have eleven different, sovereign, independent territories meeting together as one at the international level."

This fact, he said, gives the West Indies Jaycees an important part to play and an important example to set to fellow citizens of the region.

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was guest speaker at the opening ceremony, and, in a short address, he advised the Jaycees to be true to themselves.

False

"You must always be you", he said, "don't let anybody try to make you into something else because then you will be false to your own self. Whatever regard

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white blouse and the tie".

Only one rule had she been exempt from in order to give her more time for study, she said, and that was the boarders "two-by-two crocodile walk round St Georges on Sunday afternoons with the nuns".

Miss Charles expressed great gratitude to the Sisters, especially Sister Columban who taught her latin, and, having passed her examinations in 1942, she said, she flew out of Grenada for home on the historic first plane which left the island's then newly commissioned Pearls Airport.

Those being the days of World War II, the Prime Minister said, students were discouraged from going to London, so she took advantage of arrangements made to do her degree at the University of Toronto Law School in Canada.

Her studies there lasted four years and, in 1946, she successfully took her final examinations in Britain.

The St Joseph's Convent, then a "School For Young Ladies", was first opened on 17th January 1876. Run by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny who had established themselves in Trinidad, the School has expanded into both primary and secondary education and now has a branch in St Andrews Parish.

END

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OECS UNITY MAY HAVE BEEN BORN IN JAPAN

Japanese efficiency may have been a motivating factor behind the recent proposal that there should be a move towards unity in the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS).

This was disclosed to NEWSLETTER, in an interview on August 16th, by Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles of Dominica who was then on a private visit to Grenada.

The Prime Minister said the idea of unity may have

been born in 1985 during a visit to Tokyo, Japan by Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia, Prime Minister James "Son" Mitchell of St Vincent and Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird of Antigua.

"In their discussions there", Miss Charles said, "they pointed out to the Japanese how many cars we buy from Japan, but they got the feeling of how small these East Caribbean islands are when the Japanese told them they could make those cars in two hours any afternoon".

Born

The feeling was born then, she said, that if there was a getting together, the East Caribbean would be in a much better position to bargain and to afford to hire the best personnel in the several fields in which each of the islands is interested.

Since that visit to Japan, Miss Charles said, there have been informal talks by the OECS Heads of Government on the subject of unity and, arising out of such talks at the OECS meeting in Antigua last November, there was a decision to seek technical assistance and advice so there would be direction to the discussions.

When the new Trinidad & Tobago Parliament was inaugurated some months ago, she said, the Prime Ministers of St Kitts/Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and Dominica had been present and the opportunity was taken, over breakfast, for further discussion.

"By this time we realised how much we had been working together", Miss Charles said.

Opportunity

One of the ways of working together, she said was in the matter of education books. The lack of school books is a "stumbling block" in the educational systems of the islands, the Prime Minister said, many children in primary schools still not having the opportunity to take a book home to read.

The OECS States got together on this problem, she said, and had books printed in bulk in Trinidad for all the islands. There is cooperation also in fisheries, she said, and in the bulk purchasing of drugs.

"More and more we are getting together to do

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you get in the world comes from you and not from what you think other people think"

Mr Blaize said that, currently, the delegates may have been reading and hearing that things are bad in Grenada, but they would have an opportunity to speak to Grenadians and make an assessment themselves.

Bible

When the delegates return to their homes, he said, there may find people who still doubt that Grenada is a desirable place, and he hoped the delegates would give the doubters the answer which is recorded in the Bible as that given by Philip to Nathaniel when Philip had found Jesus, the Christ.

The Prime Minister said that, going into his village, Philip had met his friend Nathaniel and said, "Boy, we have found him who Moses spoke about, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth". Nathaniel's response was, "What you talking about, anything good can come out of Nazareth?" To which Phillip replied, "Come and see"

Doubters

The Prime Minister asked the delegates, on their return home, if they found doubters who still feel Grenada is not the beautiful "right little island in the Caribbean sea", on behalf of Grenadians, they should do like Philip and invite the doubters to "come and see".

Delegates at the Convention came from Antigua, Barbados, St Kitts/Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Guyana, Dominica, Jamaica Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada, the only member country not represented being Montserrat.

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things", she said, "having a single spokesman on the theme, and we accomplish a great deal by telephone".

Insular

The closer union proposal was put forward formally at the OECS Heads meeting in Tortola last May, and Prime Minister Charles does not believe the present Heads of Government have insular outlooks and will hesitate to go into a Unitary State because their chances of being Prime Minister will be reduced.

"This thing will have to go to elections", she said, "a new person may emerge and none of us present Heads may be the Prime Minister of the Unitary State when it comes about".

Miss Charles said she has had discussions with Prime Ministers Mitchell and Compton and, like her, they have no hesitation in this matter. She has not spoken in this connection with the other Heads, she said, but, from the way the discussions have been going, although there has been no decision that closer unity should be in the form of a Unitary State, she believes "most people are thinking that way".

Loose

"I do not think that having a loose federation will be of any use", she said, "nor do I think we

should have a confederation. I cannot see the virtue of having eight Parliaments. In a Unitary State there will be a great saving of money and you can afford to employ the best qualified people you need".

Dragging

With reference to the statement made by Dr Francis Alexis, member of the Opposition in the Grenada House, that Prime Minister Blaize seems to be "dragging his feet" with respect to the proposed unity,

Miss Charles did not agree.

Mr Blaize, she said, may be going about it "in a different way".

For her part, she said, she insists that the full implications of the matter must be discussed with the people.

Explain

It is a similar situation to when Dominica was going independent, Miss Charles said. She was in the Opposition then, and the Dominica Government of that day had turned down the Opposition suggestion that Government and Opposition should go together to the people and explain what "independence" means.

"They did not accept the invitation but I went and did my 22 seminars around the island", she said, "and I think it paid

off because we got people in a better frame of mind. I also did myself a lot of good because it meant people got to know me better and were ready to put me in the Government when the time came!"

Dr Alexis has named Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds of St Kitts/Nevis as one of the

OECS Heads who is showing some reluctance to move towards unity.

Reluctance

Miss Charles said this seeming reluctance probably relates to Prime Minister Mitchell's suggestion that the proposed referendum be held before the end of this year.

"Prime Minister Simmonds thinks we are hastening too quickly", Miss Charles said. "But the suggestion from Prime Minister Mitchell is only a suggestion. I do not think that he is married to the suggestion of a referendum before the end of the year".

Another consideration for St Kitts/Nevis is whether Nevis would come into the proposed union as a separate state, she said.

Contrary to the relationship between Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis has

almost complete autonomy and Prime Minister Charles thinks it may be awkward to have a grouping such as St Kitts and Nevis in a Unitary State.

Prime Minister Charles said the

decision has been made that there are to be two referendums.

The first, which she thinks could take place before the middle of next year, will put the basic question to the people of the OECS, "Do you want closer unity?"

The second referendum, which could take place about nine months after the first, she said, will deal with the type of unity favoured by the people and whether they want a Unitary State or not.

Machinery

"I think it will take about two and a half years before we have our first elections under the new closer union structure", she said, "because we will have to put the machinery in place for the elections and there are many constituency details to be worked out".

Miss Charles said there are also matters to be straightened out on the political party level.

Separate parties in each

NEWS SHORTS

Canadian Official Calls On P.M. Blaize

Mr Arthur Saper, who has replaced Mr John Wood as Head of the Development Section of the Canadian High Commission in Barbados, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Herbert Blaize on August 25th.

Mr Saper was accompanied by Mr Wood and, according to the Government Information Service, the opportunity was taken to review Canadian aid projects in Grenada.

Mr Saper told the Prime Minister the Canadian Government is awaiting concrete evidence of the amalgamation of the Cocoa Association with the Cocoa Rehabilitation Board.

JAYCEES From Page 9

Guest delegations were present from Bermuda and Guadeloupe.

Among greetings brought to the Convention were letters from Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford of Barbados, President H D Hoyt of Guyana, Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica, Prime Minister Kennedy A Simmonds of St Kitts/Nevis, Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia, Prime Minister James "Son" Mitchell of St Vincent and President Noor Hassanali of Trinidad & Tobago.

The Convention, which had as its theme, "The Human Resource - Key to Caribbean Development", ran until August 29th.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce was founded by a young businessman, Mr Henry Giessenbier, in St Louis, Missouri, U S A. The year was 1917 and the organisation retained that name until 11th December 1944.

In that year, at a Convention in Mexico City, Mexico, 36 representatives from six Junior Chamber of Commerce "nations" in the free world took the decision to change the name of the organisation to what it is now, Jaycees International.

The Grenada Jaycees, as an arm of Jaycees International, was formally established in Grenada on 20th October 1960 at a Convention at the Santa Maria Hotel. Mr David Otway was elected the first President.

END

Netherlands Honourary Consul Presents Cheques

Mr Richard Menezes, Netherlands Honourary Consul, has presented Mr George McGuire, Minister for Social Services, with cheques totaling US\$9,000.

The presentation was made on August 25th, and these funds were drawn from the Trinidad based Netherlands Ambassador's "Special Projects Account".

According to the Government Information Service, US\$3,000 will be used to develop an agricultural cooperative and US\$2,500 will go towards improving drainage in a section of St Georges.

The remaining US\$3,500 will help to refurbish the bandhouse of one of the island's steel bands.

Two Year Skills Training Course For Women

Fourteen women will take part in a two-year skills training programme at the Grenada Technical & Vocational Institute.

The programme will commence in September and will cover plumbing, refrigeration and electrical wiring.

The Government Information Service said that, during the programme, the Division of Women's Affairs will conduct courses on business management, family life education, cooperatives and child care.

Participants in this programme successfully completed an orientation course funded by the Barbados based Women And Development (WAND) and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

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OECS From Page 10

island is not a workable prospect, she said, and there will have to be parties whose interests cover all the islands.

"Our elections in Dominica come up in three years time", she said, "and I hope that those elections will be the OECS elections".

END

NEWS SHORTS From Page 11.**Review Of PAHO/WHO
Technical Cooperation**

Technical personnel from the Ministry of Health met on August 31st with their counterparts from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) for a joint review of Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation technical cooperation.

The seven-man PAHO delegation included Caribbean Programme Co-ordinators Dr Haimond Dyer and Dr Juan Manuel Setelo, together with Engineer Mr Ron Williams.

From the Ministry of Health, there was the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Pamela Steele, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Herbert Jasudason and the Hospital Administrator, Mr Douglas Andrew.

**West German Projects
Completed**

Three micro projects funded by the West German Government have been completed.

According to the Government Information Service, these are all drainage projects in the St Georges area, and work has begun on a similar project in another section of St Georges.

It was previously announced by the Government Information Service that projects in the St Georges area, funded by the West German Government, include construction of public toilets and erection of a sub-Post Office.

**United States Ship
"Pharris" Visits**

The USS "Pharris", U.S. frigate under the command of Commander William Busching, paid a courtesy call to Grenada from August 27th to 31st.

While in Grenada, the ship's crew painted the interior of the Queen Elizabeth's Childrens Home as part of their community action programme.

**Williams Opens Nature
Centre**

Mr Daniel "Danny" Williams, Minister for Health and Parliamentary Representative for St Davids, opened the La Sagesse Nature Centre in his constituency on August 26th.

The Nature Centre, a joint venture of Grenadian, British and American businessmen, is comprised of a four bedroom guest house with bar and restaurant, and offers nature trails and surfing facilities.

Mr Williams said this development, on the island's east coast some 10 miles from St Georges, is evidence of decentralisation in the Tourist Industry.

A spokesman for the Nature Centre said the opening of the Centre marks completion of the first phase of a three phase project. The aim of the management, he said, is to make La Sagesse, after the Grand Anse area near St Georges, the second most important tourist attraction in Grenada.

Emulsion Plant Expands.

The Government owned plant for producing emulsion used for road surfacing has increased in efficiency since it became a statutory body.

This was announced by the Government Information Service (GIS) on August 28th, and GIS says production in 1986 increased to 8,893 drums of CMS1 (the standard formula) from the 1985 figure of 4,238.

In addition, the plant produced two new types of emulsion, Catonic Rapid Setting (CRS) and Catonic Medium Setting (CMS2h).

According to GIS, with the increase in production, the Emulsion Plant has increased its sales to the private sector by almost EC\$63,000 and its staff by 50%.

END

Alister Hughes
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