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GRENADA'S RCA DELEGATION REPORTS

*Some outlines are emerging of what the proposed plan for
Windward Islands political unity is likely to be*

DR FRANCIS ALEXIS, Grenada's Attorney General, Minister of Legal Affairs and Leader of Grenada's delegation to the Regional Constitutional Assembly (RCA), said at a press conference on September 10th that some outlines are emerging of what the proposed plan for Windward Islands political unity is likely to be.

"It cannot be said that any plan coming out of the RCA will be either unanimous or binding upon anybody", he said, "except morally upon those delegates who subscribe to the plan as it emerges."



DR FRANCIS ALEXIS

The RCA, comprising of delegates from Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia and Dominica, was established by the Governments of the four islands to canvass public opinion and prepare a plan for political unification of the Windward Islands.

Met Most Recently

The Assembly has already met in St Vincent and St Lucia, and met most recently in Dominica in the week ending September 7th. The next meeting is scheduled for Grenada in January next.

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Dr Alexis said that, at the Dominica meeting, it appeared that most delegates will recommend there be a federal type of union though not necessarily excluding all

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CARICOM MAKES FIRST AWARDS OF OCC

Awardees will receive an insignia in the form of an appropriate medal struck in gold

ACCORDING TO THE July issue of "Press Feature", the official publication of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), three distinguished CARICOM nationals are to be the first recipients of the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC), the official symbolic stamp for outstanding service to the Community.

Those to be honoured are **Mr William Demas** (62), former CARICOM Secretary-General, former President of the Caribbean Development Bank and current Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago, **Sir Shridath Ramphal** (63), former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and current Chairman of the West Indian

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semblances of a unitary state form.

It seems clear, he said, that the recommended Head of Government will be an Executive Head, elected directly by all the people of the participating States, and carrying the title of "President".

Dr Alexis said it would be "difficult to venture" beyond these details. Still in the balance is the question as to whether there will be two Houses of Parliament or one, he said. Also in the balance is the question as to whether seats will be reserved in Parliament for sectorial interest groups such as women, and trade unions.

But could Dr Alexis say when it is likely that the question of Windward Islands political unity will be put to a referendum in the four islands as is planned.

Are Very Complex

Mr Danny Williams, the New National Party representative on the RCA delegation, present at the press conference, said the discussions of the RCA are very complex and involved.

"When the RCA met in St Lucia, we took the decision that we were going to have

some sort of federation," he said. "That was clear to me and we were hoping to discuss the structure when we got to Dominica. But when we got to Dominica we discovered that they were still speaking about the possibilities of a unitary state."

The Federalists Won Out

In Dominica, Mr Williams said, the federalists won out over those in favour of



MR DANNY WILLIAMS

a unitary state, but there was much argument relative to the presidency in the federation. Some favoured a single

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Commission, and **Mr Derek Walcott** (61), noted Westindian poet and playwright.

Agreement to introduce a CARICOM Award Scheme was reached at the 8th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government held in St Lucia in 1987, and the first awardees were agreed upon at the recent Heads of Government Conference held in St Kitts.

Special Privileges

Appointment to membership of the Order will be reserved for nationals of Member States who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the Caribbean region, and will carry special privileges.

These include the granting of a travel document with the status of a diplomatic passport, the right to reside and work in any Member State of the Community and the right to acquire property in any Member State of the Community.

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president, he said, but others advocated a rotating collegiate of four presidents each holding the office for one year.

Mr Williams said he was not sure that the Dominica meeting had accomplished very much. Things had been gone into in great detail, he said, but much of it was matter which, he thought, had already been decided upon.

Difference Of Opinion

There is a difference of opinion between Dr Alexis and Mr Williams with reference to the holding of the referendum at which the people of the Windward Islands will decide whether they want political unification or not.

Mr Williams is in favour of a cautious approach, making sure that, before the referendum is held, the man-in-the-street is fully aware of, and interested in, the pros and cons of Windward Island political unification. Dr Alexis, on the other hand, believes that, if holding of the referendum is delayed for too long, there will be a loss of interest in the question of political unification.

End

In addition, awardees will receive an insignia in the form of an appropriate medal struck in gold.

Criteria For Selection

An Advisory Committee nominated by Member Governments has been established to prepare, for approval of Member States, criteria for selection of awardees, and to make recommendations to the Conference of Heads of Government on nominations received every year for the award.

Selection of persons on whom the honour will be conferred will be done by Heads of Government.

End**MILESTONES**

Sugar cane is said to have been introduced into Barbados from Brazil about 1640 by a Dutchman named Pieter Brower.

Barbados was then a tobacco producing island and, at first, Brower's agricultural introduction found no more use than as the base for a refreshing drink.

However, an enterprising Englishman, James Drax, revolutionised Barbados' agricultural future. He applied himself to study the technology of sugar manufacturing and, within a few years, was successful. That achievement set the stage for sugar to replace tobacco as Barbados main export.

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OECS LAWYERS CALL FOR MORE JUDGES

LAWYERS PRACTISING IN the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), and meeting at a Conference of the OECS Bar Association in Grenada on September 7th, have expressed dissatisfaction with the number of Judges employed to do the work of the OECS Supreme Court.

This was disclosed by Mr Joseph Archibald, Q.C., President of the OECS Bar Association, in an interview with NEWS-LETTER in Grenada on September 8th, and he said the need for more judges was not because of an increase in crime.

The image of lawyers in the

"We are concerned with the increase in commercial litigation," he said. "As the Caribbean grows and commercial activities expand, there is a natural increase in matters of conflict and the issues before the Courts are becoming more complex."

Mr Archibald said the present Judges are competent to handle the matters coming before them but are handicapped because of the shortage of staffing facilities, word processors and fax machines which would give them easy access to their brother Judges in the region and the law libraries they possess.

Take This Matter Up

His organisation, and the individual Bar Associations of the OECS, are to take this matter up with the Authorities, Mr Archibald said.

Mr Archibald said also that another matter dealt with by the Grenada Conference was the Code of Ethics by which lawyers practising in the OECS will be bound.

"We are concerned with the increase in commercial litigation"

That Code has been agreed upon, he said, and should have been published on August 1st. However, because of some difficulties in the mechanics of publication, this has not yet been done but will be in the near future.

They Should Expect

"This Code will prevent lawyers from running foul of basic professional misbehaviour", Mr Archibald said, "and is an effort to ensure that the public is given the service which they should expect."

OECS needs to be changed

The Code will be the standard by which the OECS Bar Association will be self-regulatory, he said, and the first step in its implementation will be to bring his breach of the Code to the attention of the offender with a view to having the matter corrected.

In more serious breaches, he said, there will be disciplinary action running from the issuance of a warning to suspension or expulsion from the Association.

Force Of Law

"We hope that our Code of Ethics will become Rules with the force of law authorised by a Statutory Body", Mr Archibald said.

President Archibald did not accept the suggestion that the image of lawyers in the OECS is "smudged".

"We would not like to use so strong a word", he said, "but we are aware, and it is our firm view, that the image needs to be changed."

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HONESTY & INTEGRITY BEFORE FINANCIAL GAIN : JUDGE

GRENADA-BORN JUDGE OF the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) Supreme Court, Miss Monica Joseph, said in Grenada on September 7th that, in the legal profession, the "fork" of financial reward should not and must not be allowed to outstrip the "fork" of honesty and integrity.

"If this were to happen," she said, "the whole fabric of society will be affected. We may have made mistakes in the past. To err is human and we are human beings. Let us put those mistakes behind us and move forward with renewed resolution."

Delivered The Feature Address

The Judge's remarks were made as she delivered the feature address at a dinner which followed a meeting of the OECS Bar Association Council.

The legal profession is good if it is practised in the spirit of it, she said, but it becomes a fraud if its true spirit is obliterated by mischief making and money getting.

Judge Joseph said the course of real justice

lies in the hands of the legal profession, Judges, Magistrates and every member of the Bar. Also in the hands of the legal profession is the course of true peace, she continued, because the absence of justice may be followed by the absence of peace.

"Let us therefore resolve today, and every day, - despite differing views, despite

misunderstandings - to walk on the same path, the path that leads to justice," she continued. "That is our debt to society, that is our debt to the communities of which we are a part."

It Is Imperative

Judge Joseph said it is imperative for members of the Bar

to demonstrate their respect for the law by their conduct both inside and outside the Courthouse. By their conduct also, and particularly when discussing matters with their clients, she said, they must demonstrate their respect for the offices of the Judge and Magistrate.

"On the shoulders of each and every member of the Bar, senior or junior, young and not-so-young, whether trained within or outside the West-indies," she continued, "lies a responsibility (perhaps an onerous and demanding responsibility) of ensuring that they conduct themselves in such a manner that members of the public could follow their example, their respect for the law."

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS
HAVE A DUTY TO
ASSUAGE THE
SUSPICIONS OF THE
PUBLIC BECAUSE IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT THE
PUBLIC HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN THE
SYSTEM OF JUSTICE**

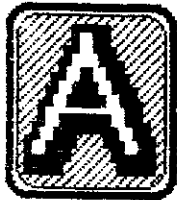
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The confidence of the Caribbean public needs to be won, he continued, and that confidence can be won only by performance.

End

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ANGLICANS HOLD SYNOD IN GRENADA



ANGLICAN BISHOP OF the Windward Islands, Phillip Elder, on September 9th, delivering his Charge to the delegates to the 27th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of the Windward Islands, said the Synod was not meant to be a forum for petty criticism and voicing of individual grievances.

"Our task is a much more noble one," he said, "that of carrying forward the mission of the Church, of this Diocese, by our lives and witness to the faith we profess."

Delegates had the sacred responsibility of making decisions for the Diocese which will be tested by time, the Bishop said, if they prove to be wise.

Headquartered In St Vincent

The Anglican Diocese of the Windward Islands is comprised of the islands of Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent, with the Bishop being headquartered in St Vincent.

Attending the Synod, which ran until September 12th, were six clergy and two lay representatives from St Lucia, eleven clergy (including the Bishop) and 9 lay representatives from St Vincent and six clergy and 11 lay representatives from Grenada.

In his Charge, Bishop Elder stressed the need for a "good evaluation system" which would correct "habits or practices" which will destroy the work of the clergy in the various Parishes of the Diocese.

The Anglican clergy are called upon to be

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Judge Joseph said members of the legal profession must be mindful of comments of the public and must remember that they do not bestow favours on the public but serve the public.

Comments of dissatisfaction made by the public about the handling of civil cases may or may not be founded in fact, she said, and may be made by persons who do not understand that, even if they consider they have a good claim, that claim has to be proved in Court and there are certain rules to be followed.

They Are Suspicious

"Many claimants look surprised when, standing in the witness box, they are asked certain questions," she said. "They think the answers are so obvious, they complain, they are suspicious, they comment."

What those comments seem to say, Judge Joseph said, is summed up in the quotation which reads, "In civil jurisdiction it too often happens that there is so much law that there is no room for justice, and that the claimant expires of wrong in the midst of right as mariners die of thirst in the midst of water."

Judge Joseph suggested that legal practitioners have a duty to assuage the suspicions of the public because it is essential that the public have confidence in the system of justice.

"We must always attempt to be like Caesar's wife", she said, "to be beyond or above suspicion."

End

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leaders in the Parishes under their care, he said, there is need for careful ongoing support of them in their work, and he would like to think that every Parish would welcome an annual check on how everything is going in the Parish.

A shortage of priests in the Windward Islands Diocese is a continuing problem and Bishop Elder was pleased to report that not only are two men now in training at Codrington College in Barbados, but two

Even in their pastoral care where the clergy do their utmost, there appears to be no real commitment of the parishioners

more are shortly to begin their studies. The Bishop said that, as a Church, there is need to give full support to Theological Education. At present, he said, very little of the funds of the Diocese is used for this purpose, and he asked that every congregation have a "Theological Education Sunday" when the collections will be set aside for training of the clergy.

A New Scale Of Stipends

In an attempt to improve the welfare of the clergy, Bishop Elder said, a new scale of stipends was implemented from January 1989. This resulted in a consequent increased contribution to the Pension Scheme and, in September 1989, a Health Scheme was introduced with the clergy and Diocese contributing respectively on the basis of a 40/60% ratio.

These schemes, Pension and Health, require a monthly payment from the Diocese to the underwriters of EC\$24,896 and EC\$15,957 respectively, he said.

These payments must be made on time by the Diocese even when individual contributions have not been made, he said, and, during the year, this has resulted in a serious cash flow deficiency.

"Parish Councils need to know and to see that the monthly contributions are made regularly," the Bishop said. "We just cannot allow such default to continue if Parishes wish to maintain their integrity."

Bishop Elder's Charge was wide ranging over, among others, the subjects of the education of candidates for confirmation, education in schools, evangelism, youth work in the Diocese and the duties and responsibilities of the Parish.

No More Than Nominal Allegiance

With reference to the last mentioned, the Bishop said that while in all congregations in the Diocese there are the "Faithful", truly dedicated in their love for our Lord, many more seem to give no more than nominal allegiance and certainly are not wholly committed."

"Even in their pastoral care where the clergy do their utmost," the Bishop said, "there appears to be no real commitment of the parishioners as a body, so little concern, or even friendliness."

What is called for, most urgently, he said, is lay leadership training and real commitment in every Parish. A programme is needed, he continued, where there will be an ever increasing number of committed persons in regular training and, individually, taking a greater responsibility as lay members of the Church.

Election Of Officers

The agenda of the Synod included the election of officers, presentation of Reports and discussions relative to "Companion Dioceses" relationships.

One such Companion Diocese is that of St. Edmundsbury, Ipswich, in the United Kingdom. The Bishop of that Diocese, the Right Reverend John Dennis, attended the Synod.

End

FOOTPRINTS

When there's a dog to be chased away, Grenadians don't say "Git!", "Move!" or "Get going!" They say "Mash!". That word comes from the French verb "Marcher", to move on, to get going. And the dogs in Grenada understand. They get going.

NEW PUERTO RICO PLANT FOR GRENADA

PUERTO RICO HAS NO BETTER FRIEND THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN THAN THE LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE OF GRENADA

I IN A CEREMONY ON September 10th, at Grenada's Frequente Industrial Park, Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite declared open the twin plant of Messrs Steri Tech Incorporated of Salinas, Puerto Rico.

Present at the ceremony was Mr Amando Francis, Deputy Secretary of State for Puerto Rico, and he said that, while his Government is not satisfied with what it has accomplished, Puerto Rico has made commitments and pledges to the leaders and people of the Caribbean and has endeavoured to meet them.

"It is a Caribbean of which we are, indeed, very much a part", he said, "a Caribbean in which, because we are the largest economy, we have a very special obligation to our neighbours which, belatedly, we have accepted and are working at."

The Government of Puerto Rico has been working very steadily with its friends, Mr Francis said, and Puerto Rico has no better friend throughout the Caribbean than the leadership and people of Grenada.

A New And Vigorous Phase

The opening of the Steri Tech plant in Grenada, he said, represents the coming into being of a new and vigorous phase in Puerto Rico's involvement with the Caribbean.

Puerto Rico's involvement with Grenada and most of the other countries of the Caribbean started off with subsidiaries or affiliates of large multi-national corporations which have facilities in Puerto Rico he

said, but Steri Tech and its President Jorge Vivoni, represent a change which has taken place over the last decade.

Qualified Puerto Ricans who have worked with multi-national corporations, and have risen through the ranks of those corporations, have, for a variety of reasons, left those corporations, he said. They have started their own businesses, he continued, and are now the leading providers of new ventures and jobs being created in Puerto Rico.

A Young Man

"Here we now have a young man who is an example of that type of Puerto Rican manager who has become entrepreneur," he said, "who having established his own operation and seen it grow and prosper in Puerto Rico, now has the courage and guts to look beyond the shores of Puerto Rico and has made a commitment to the Government and people of Grenada."

Steri Tech President Vivoni, speaking at the opening ceremony, said his Company is a small one which will, in September, celebrate its fifth anniversary of operation in Puerto Rico.



**PRIME MINISTER
NICHOLAS BRATHWAITE**

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NEWS SHORTS

Nutmeg Distillation Equipment Arrives

The last major pieces of equipment for the distillation plant of the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) arrived in Grenada on September 14th.

A release from the Government Information Service (GIS) gives the total cost of the equipment as EC\$2.3 million. Originally, the plant was to be located in the east coast town of Grenville, but, according to GIS, a decision has been taken to locate it at Marli in the island's northernmost parish of St. Patrick's.

Refurbishing of the factory shell to house the plant will bring the total cost to about

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The move to set up a twin plant in Grenada was prompted by increases in material and labour costs plus the worldwide recession, he said, all of which demanded that labour costs be reduced, sales increased and export markets actively explored.

"We believe that Grenada will be instrumental in these aspects of the development of the Company during the coming years," he said.

Listing the benefits of establishing the plant in Grenada, Mr. Vivoni said Grenada offers an advantage over Puerto Rico in labour costs, there are excellent transportation and communication channels to and from Grenada, the incentive programme offered by the Grenada Government is attractive and there are reliable utility services.

In an interview with NEWSLETTER, the President said his initial investment in Grenada is some US\$500,000. The plant employs more than 50 persons who stitch disposable uniforms from material pre-cut at the parent plant in Puerto Rico. The employment figure is expected to increase to about 75 by the end of this year.

End

EC\$3 million and production should begin before the end of this year.

The plant will employ 10 to 15 people and, annually, will process into nutmeg oil some 5,000 tons of defective nutmegs.

Chinese Mission Experiments With Intercropping

In co-operation with the Grenada Sugar Factory, the Chinese Agricultural Technical Mission to Grenada is experimenting with intercropping legumes with sugar cane.

A release from the Chinese Embassy says the legume used is the mungbean. The experiment is successful, the release says, and the first crop was expected to be reaped towards the end of September.

Now 43 Positive HIV Tests

To the 16th September, 43 persons in Grenada have been tested positive with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

According to the Government Information Service (GIS), 27 of the 43 persons developed full blown AIDS and, of the 27, 21 have died.

Quoting a report from the Ministry of Health, GIS says that of the 43 persons testing HIV positive, one is a teenager and another is a child of pre-school age.

St. Louis Sure Of World Bank Aid

Agricultural Minister, Mr. Phinsley St. Louis, has expressed confidence that the World Bank will continue to assist Grenada.

The Minister's remarks were made on September 17th at the formal handing over of the re-furbished Meat Market in Grenville,

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