



# The Grenada NEWSLETTER

Volume 20

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Number 17

## LIAT STILL MAJOR CARRIER AT POINT



But that lead has been cut down considerably from the 1989 peak.

**A**UGUST CONTINUES TO be the peak month for passenger traffic through Point Salines International Airport, a peak which for the last few years has shown a steady climb, but a current declining rate of increase reflects the threat posed to Grenada's Tourist Industry by recession in the metropolitan countries.

According to statistics of the Grenada Airports Authority there were 182,631 passenger movements (arrivals and departures) through Point Salines International Airport in 1989. That figure is approximately twice Grenada's population as recorded at the last census, and, in 1990, total movements grew to 219,920, an

increase of 37,289 or 20.4%.

Reflecting the world-wide recession, however, there was a marked drop in the

### IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
● LIAT Still Major Carrier at Point Salines.....	1
● Blindness Prevention Committee Launched.....	5
● International Co-Operation Needed To Fight Drug Problem	8
● First Training Seminar For Caribbean Women Journalists	9
● U.S. Army Builds School For The Deaf.....	10
● News Shorts.....	11

### TOTAL PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

January To December

1989, 1990, 1991

	Numerical		% Increase
		Increase	
1989	182631		
1990	219920	37289	20.4%
1991	239066	19146	8.70%

the rate of increase from 1990 to 1991. The total increase in passenger movements in 1991 was only 19,146, bringing the figure for that year to 239,066, a slim increase of 8.7%.

A similar trend is seen when the January to July figures for 1990, 1991

Please See AIRPORT Page 2

**AIRPORT From Page 1**

and 1992 are compared.

In 1991, there was, in this seven month period, an increase of 12,830 over the 1990 figure which brought the total passenger movements for 1991 to 136,025, an upward movement of 10.4%.

the airport continues to decline, the 1992 figure may not fall far short of or may even slightly exceed the 1991 figure.

LIAT continues to hold the lead spot in percentage of passenger movements through the airport, but that lead has been cut down considerably from the 1989 peak of 52.4%.

**TOTAL PASSENGER MOVEMENTS**

	January To July	
	1990, 1991, 1992	
	Numerical	% Increase
1990	123195	
1991	136025	+10.4%
1992	143561	+ 5.5%

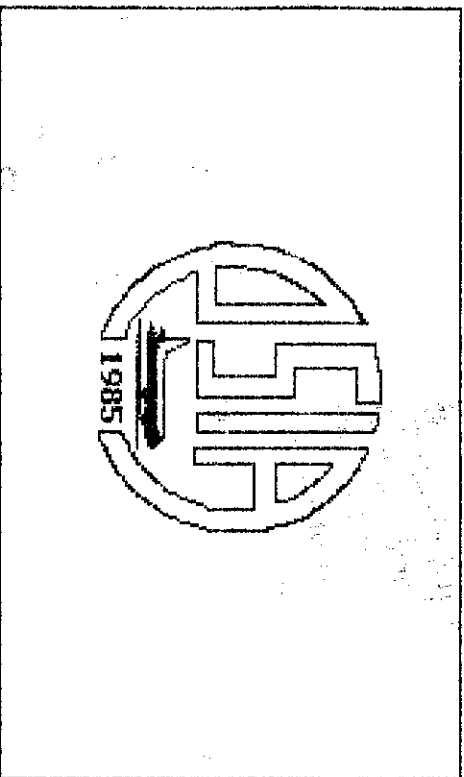
In 1990, LIAT's percentage fell to 46.8% while that of BWIA, which was 38.3% in 1989, fell to 33.5%.

The loss of both these airlines may be attributed to the advent of American Airlines (AA) which began to serve Grenada in July 1990 and captured 10% of the total passenger traffic that year.

In 1992, however, the numerical increase over this period was merely 7,536, registering a growth of only 5.5% and a total of 143,561.

With diminishing annual growth, there is concern that figures for January to December 1992 may fall below the 239,066 total of the peak year of 1991.

However, there is one encouraging sign. Reference to the chart on page 3 will show that, in the January to July period, with the exception of July, the 1992 monthly figures have been equal to or have exceeded the 1991 figures.



Should this trend continue, even if the rate of increase in passenger movements through

In 1991, LIAT had a further fall to 40.8% while BWIA had a slight increase of 1.3% to 34.8%. In this year, AA moved up 4.4% to 14.4% of total passenger traffic.

Please See AIRPORT Page 3

**PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC**

Year	LIAT	BWIA	AA	BA
1989	52.4%	38.3%	—	5.3%
1990	46.8%	33.5%	10.0%**	6.3%
1991	40.8%	34.8	14.4	5.5
1992*	43.4%	32.9%	13.0%	5.9%

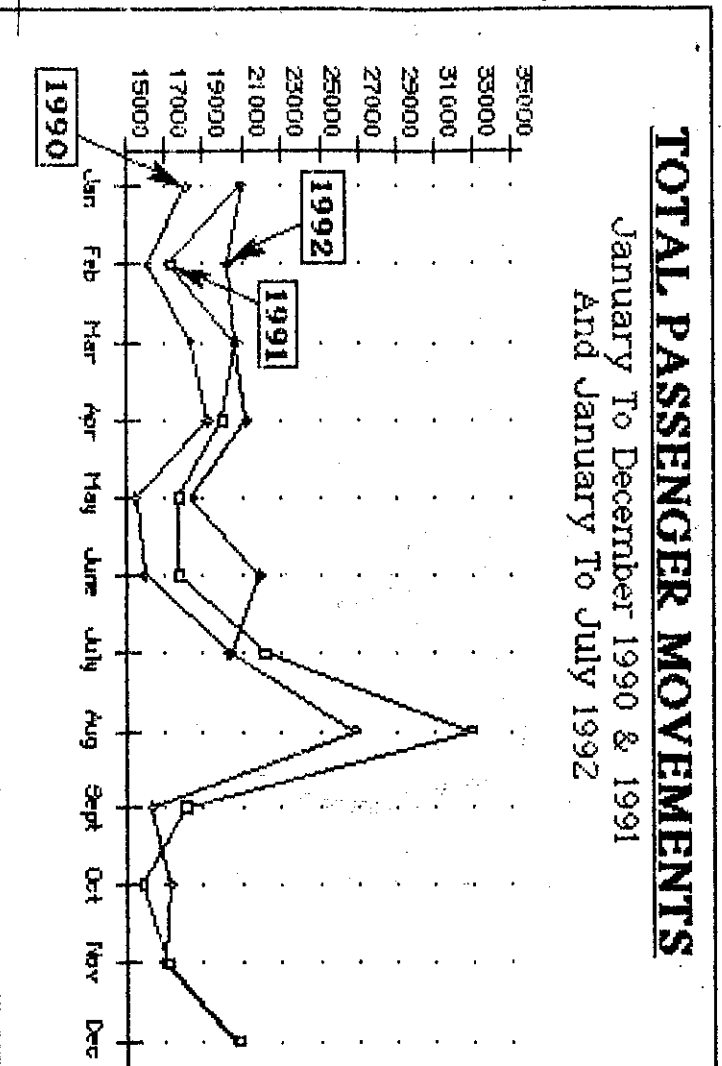
\* January To July

\*\* June To December

AIRPORT From Page 2

### TOTAL PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

January To December 1990 & 1991  
And January To July 1992



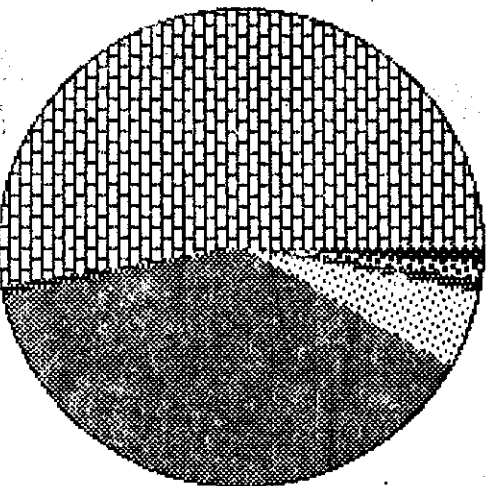
The January to June figures for 1992 indicate that, over this period, LIAT has increased its percentage slightly to 43.4% while BWIA has dropped to 32.9%. AA showed a slight loss of 1.4% during this period.

in the percentage of total passenger traffic captured. The low point was in 1989 when the percentage was 5.3% and the high point in 1990 when the percentage stood just 1% higher at 6.3%.

Over the period January 1989 to July 1992, British Airways has shown little fluctuation

### PASSENGER TRAFFIC

By Airline  
1989



The pie chart on this page, and those on page 4, show passenger traffic through the airport for all airlines and aircraft for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 and for January to June of 1992.

See Charts On Page 4

End

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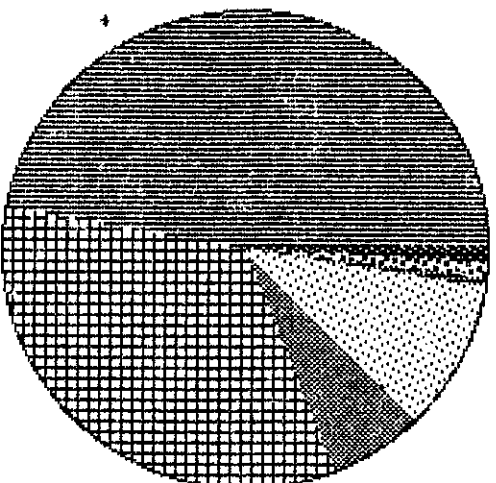
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### PASSENGER TRAFFIC

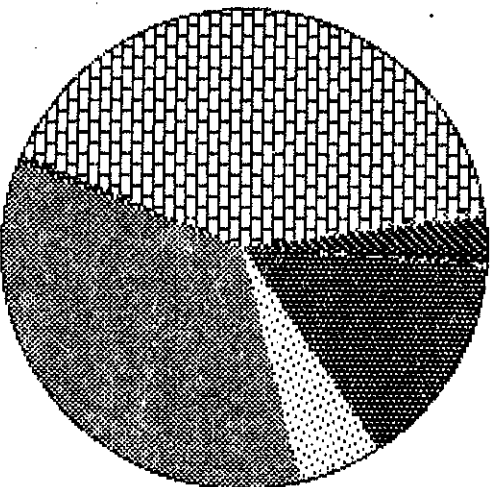
By Airline  
1990



■	Aerpostal	0.7%
▤	Canada 3000	1.2%
▥	ALM	0.6%
▦	AA	10.0%
▧	BA	6.3%
▨	BWIA	33.5%
▩	CARI Cargo	0.0%
▪	Chartered	0.5%
▫	LIAT	46.8%
▬	Military	0.1%
▭	Private	0.3%

### PASSENGER TRAFFIC

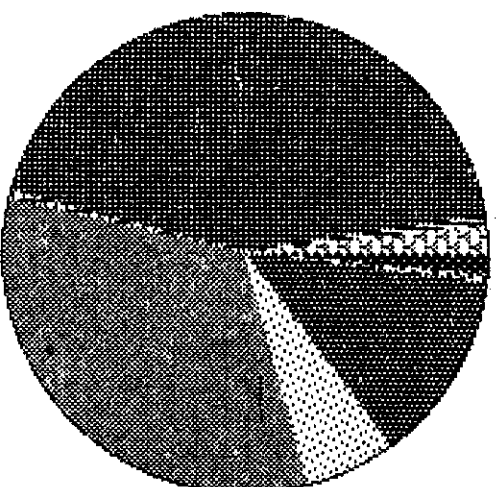
By Airline  
1991



■	Canada 3000	0.8%
▤	ALM	0.3%
▥	AA	14.4%
▦	BA	5.5%
▧	BWIA	34.8%
▨	CARI Cargo	0.0%
▩	Chartered	0.6%
▪	LIAT	40.8%
▬	Military	0.0%
▭	Private	0.4%
▮	Aerotuy	2.3%

### PASSENGER TRAFFIC

By Airline  
January To June 1992



■	Canada 3000	1.4%
▤	ALM	0.4%
▥	AA	13.0%
▦	BA	5.9%
▧	BWIA	32.9%
▨	Chartered	0.6%
▩	LIAT	43.4%
▬	Military	0.0%
▭	Private	0.4%
▮	Aerotuy	2.0%

# BLINDNESS PREVENTION COMMITTEE LAUNCHED

**T**HE INCIDENCE OF THE eye disease, glaucoma, is higher in the Eastern Caribbean than anywhere else in the world.

This information was given, in an interview with NEWSLETTER on October 5th, by Dr James Dailey of the New York based, philanthropic, eye-care organisation, Project Orbis.

*"The prevalence of glaucoma in the Eastern Caribbean is 13 to 18 percent," he said, "while the percentage of glaucoma in the Western World is about one third of one percent."*

Dr Dailey was in Grenada attending a two-day symposium launching a Government sponsored "Prevention of Blindness Committee", and delivered the feature address at the opening ceremony.

### Based On The Fact

He said the reason for the high incidence of this disease in the Eastern Caribbean is not known, but it may be genetic. The reason is possibly based on the fact that there is an isolated genetic pool with inter-marrying in the sub-region, he said, and it may have some connection with African stock imported as slaves.

Most of the slaves taken to the West Indies were brought from a narrow part of the African coast, he explained, but, because the population of that part of the coast has diffused throughout West Africa, it has not been possible to connect the incidence of glaucoma there with the high incidence in the Eastern Caribbean.

The prevalence of glaucoma in Africa is one to two percent, he said, and it should be

noted that the prevalence in the Eastern Caribbean is about 15 times as high as in Blacks in the United States and 9 times as high as Blacks in Jamaica.

Dr Dailey said "glaucoma" can be

understood if the eye is thought of as a sink with a clogged outlet drain. The eye makes its own fluid, he said, and, because that fluid cannot escape, the pressure builds up and damage is done to the fine fibres of the optic nerve, resulting in blindness.

"It is a gradual, irreversible process", he said, "but it can be stopped with eye drops or surgery. There is no cure, only control."

### Set Of Problems

Referring to the work which the newly formed "Prevention of Blindness Committee" will have to do, Dr Dailey said each country has its own characteristic set of problems which require individual solutions.

There is, however, he said, one principle which applies to all countries and that is that all solutions, in order to be lastingly effective, must be generated internally.

*"People cannot come in from the outside with their solutions and have success", Dr Dailey said.*

There are also certain basic elements which must be present if the Committee is to attain its objectives, he said. The first of these, he said, is political will and one way to generate this is for the Committee to produce a sensible, coherent, economically and politically realistic proposal for the prevention of blindness.

Please See BLINDNESS Page 6

**BLINDNESS From Page 5**

The composition and size of the Committee is another important element, Dr Dailey said, it being limited to "workable" size and composed of people whose input is relevant to the problems.

"People in the Eastern Caribbean have been lucky with the ophthalmologists (eye-surgeons) they have in their countries", he said.

**There is, unfortunately, a situation where** He has worked in hos- **in the Eastern Caribbean where**

He has worked in hospitals in the Westindies, at Harvard in Boston and at Moorefields Eye Hospital in London, which is considered the best eye hospital in the world, Dr Dailey said, and the ophthalmologists practising in the Eastern Caribbean are at the same high standard as any in those hospitals.

Dr Dailey has high praise also for the Eastern Caribbean optometrists, the professionals who fit glasses, screen for eye disease and refer the patient on appropriately, but, he said, instead of the two professions co-operating, there is competition between them.

"There is, unfortunately, a situation in the Eastern Caribbean where the surgical fees are so low that it is more profitable for the ophthalmic surgeons to sell eye glasses than to work with the medical and surgical diseases," he said, "so, in order to feed and care for their families, they are forced to do work that might be done by optometrists."

Dr Dailey said the Committee would do a service to the two professions and to the patients if it could make suggestions leading to a more realistic fee structure so that "people will be encouraged to do what they are trained to do."

Dr Dailey was critical of Westindians who

feel they must go abroad to get the best possible eye-care, when, in fact, he said, there are professionals in the Eastern Caribbean who are every bit as good and probably better than those in North America and the United Kingdom because they are more familiar with the indigenous problem.

"They understand Westindian glaucoma," he said, "and if you go abroad for attention you will **the surgical fees are so low** that it is more profitable for **ophthalmic surgeons** probably get some junior person with no experience or understanding of your problem."

Other speakers at the symposium included Minister of Health, Mr Michael Andrew, and Dr Juan Carlos Silva of the Pan American Health Organisation.

**END**

**MILITARISTONES**

On 31st May 1966, excitement swept the Riviera Hotel on Grand Anse beach in Grenada. A skeleton had been unearthed in the grounds and the police had been called.

Murder was suspected, but when the remains were examined by an expert, they were found to be over 100 years old.

Curiosity was aroused, however, by the skeleton's teeth filed in the African custom and the bones were sent to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington for research.

Findings were that this is the skeleton of a young male Negro who probably died before 1830. Doubt exists as to whether he was born in Africa and had his teeth filed there or whether he represents evidence of the custom being practised in the Caribbean.

# INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION NEARLY TO ELIMINATE DRUG PROBLEM

## FOR COUNTRIES, ON THEIR OWN, HAVE RESOURCES TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING EFFECTIVELY



**R KEITH M FORD**  
Antigua's Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, said in Antigua on

October 9th that Caribbean people should realise that, although they cannot influence supply reduction of drugs from the south or demand reduction in the north, by effective law enforcement they can make their countries less attractive to traffickers.

"The only way to discourage traffickers is, firstly, by arresting and convicting them," he said, "and secondly, by removing the financial incentive to traffickers by confiscating their assets."

Mr Ford's comments were made as he addressed a one-day Regional Conference on "Education, Drug Trafficking and National Security", sponsored by the Caribbean Institute For Human Rights (CARIBICARE).

### Organised Criminal Element

There must also be awareness, he said, that Caribbean countries cannot deal with the problem on an individual basis when they are faced with such a highly sophisticated and organised criminal element with seemingly limitless resources at its disposal.

The Minister said much of the drug trafficking through Antigua has been by private vessels and private aircraft but because of a high incidence of interrupted deliveries in the late '80s, there has been an increasing use of the airport for cocaine and marijuana smuggling.

To combat this trade, he said, the Antigua Government will increase legal penalties for drug smuggling. For less serious offences tried before a magistrate, the maximum fine will be to EC \$100,000 or three times the street value of the drug, whichever is greater. For more serious offences heard before a judge, the penalty on conviction will be life imprisonment.

Other legislation before Parliament seeks to make provision for tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of drug trafficking in the possession of persons convicted of drug trafficking, the Minister said.

### Features To Disclose

"The Bill further creates new offences," Mr Ford said, "namely the offence of assisting a person to retain or conceal proceeds of drug trafficking; failure to disclose information likely to prejudice investigation into drug trafficking offences; money laundering; possession of property derived from unlawful activity and organised fraud."

Some notion of the magnitude of the drug problem can be gleaned from the statistics, the Minister said. In 1989, 271 lbs of marijuana and 5 lbs of cocaine were seized. In 1991, the figures were 127 lbs of marijuana and 15 lbs of cocaine with seizures for 1992, to date, are 254 lbs of marijuana and 1212 lbs of cocaine.

Mr Ford said it is clear that few countries, on their own, have resources to combat drug trafficking effectively, and he encouraged the

*Page 500 FORD Page 2*



# NEW SOCIAL ORDER NEEDED TO SOLVE DRUG PROBLEM

**D**ELIVERING THE FEATURE ADDRESS AT A REGIONAL CONFERENCE held in Antigua on October 9th on "Education, Drug Trafficking and National Security", Antigua's Minister of Home Affairs and Social Services, Mr Christopher O'Mard, said mention of the "drug problem" all too often fixed the mind on a narrow segment of the society, the drug addict.

"The Drug Problem, however, spans a far wider spectrum of the society," he said.

## **FORD From Page 7**

opinion that co-operation at the international level is vital if interdiction efforts are to be successful.

The Conference was attended by some 40 persons drawn from the teaching profession, Civil Service and the law enforcement agencies, and two Resolutions were unanimously passed.

One called on Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Governments, Trade Unions, Churches and other organisations to institute "with a sense of urgency", adult education programmes on drug abuse and high family values.

The other Resolution recognised that increasing numbers of young people are becoming involved in drug abuse and called on CARICOM Governments to combat this by increasing "emphasis on widespread education programmes and social service with fuller community involvement".

Copies of both Resolutions are to be given wide distribution to CARICOM Ministers of Education, Churches, School Principals, Community Clubs and other relevant organisations.

**END**

The heart of the problem is with the "drug barons", the Minister said, and he suggested also that a close look be given to the middlemen who act clandestinely as wholesale agents regardless of the damage they do to society.

Mr O'Mard said a sure move in the direction of preventing substance abuse lies in the direction of organised education programmes directed at several groups constituting the masses of the community.

**The concepts of right and wrong, good and bad and the recognised pillars of society, the home, school and Church, are not part of the world of drug producers and traffickers, he said, and modern society, with its inherent drug culture, needs to examine itself and take steps towards giving these pillars their rightful place.**

### **Look To Them**

Educators may begin to question whether or not the wide acceptance of the philosophy of "pragmatism" may not be related to the upsurge of recklessness, indiscipline and drug use among 20th century youths, the Minister said, and educators should consider whether 20th century teachers are sufficiently mindful of the influence of his or her personality on the characters of pupils who look to them for succour.

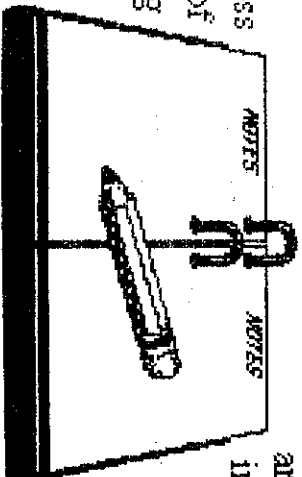
**Please See O'MARD Page 9**



# FIRST TRAINING SEMINAR FOR CARIBBEAN WOMEN JOURNALISTS

**P**RIME MINISTER NICHOLAS Brathwaite has expressed the view that, more than ever, there is need for responsible journalism which must seek to elevate, educate and empower the people of the Caribbean.

"To do this," he said, "the Press must demonstrate a sense of responsibility in reporting events, commenting on issues and proposing solutions to problems."



objectivity and fairness while avoiding sensationalism and bias.

This is not an easy task, he said, because, in carrying out its responsibility, the Press must recognise and reflect differences of opinions and interests of various groups in the society.

The Prime Minister's comments were made in Grenada on October 12th as he declared open the first ever seminar for Caribbean women journalists, and he urged the participants to aim at achieving accuracy,

Please See JOURNALISTS Page 10

## O'MARD From Page 8

"One characteristic of this age which may have a direct bearing upon the drug culture is the rapid increase in mobility", he said. "I need not say much about the proliferation of motor cars, aeroplanes and the concomitant increase in leisure which they provide for young people."

It is generally recognised that money and education are the strongest levers for upward social mobility, Mr O'Mard said, and the present generation has been born in the midst of comparative affluence with educational opportunities knocking at their doors.

Some, however, do not put the levers to positive use, one class preys on another in an effort to move upward, he said, it is a case of survival of the fittest and an ideal

social setting for the greedy and heartless producers and traffickers of drugs.

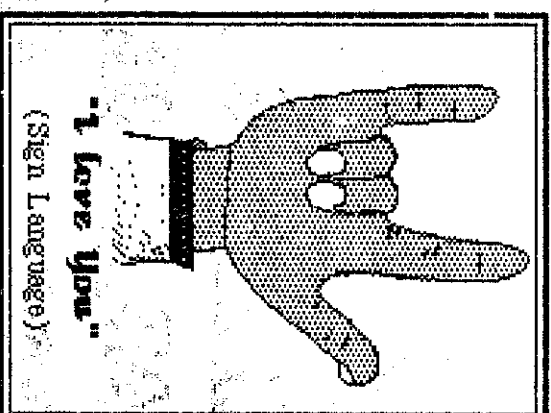
"Whenever I think about the drug problem," the Minister said, "I see the need for a new social order - one in which the struggle for social eminence will give place to a continual pursuit of virtue, and one in which, among other things, appropriation and exploitation will give place to philanthropy."

The Conference, which was sponsored by the Caribbean Institute For Human Rights (CARIBCFARE) was attended by personnel from the teaching profession, Civil Servants and the law enforcement agencies.

**End**

# US ARMY BUILDS SCHOOLS FOR DEAF

**"Grenada has benefited from the humanitarian, civic-action programme which is funded by the United States Government through the United States Atlantic Command" Veler**



**SENATOR CARLYLE GLEAN**, Minister for Education, on October 13th turned the sod for construction of a new school for the deaf to be built by the 448th Engineering Battalion of the United States Army with some EC \$270,000 funding from the United States.

Located in the parish of St David's, some

### JOURNALISTS From Page 9

Twelve women journalists, one each from Montserrat, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, St Kitts, Dominica and St Vincent, and five from Grenada, are attending the seminar.

Sponsored by the Commonwealth Media Development Fund, the Bustamante Institute of Public & International Affairs and the Thomson Foundation, the seminar will run for two weeks and is under the direction of Ms Heien Scott, Consultant to the Thomson Foundation.

In an interview with NEWSLETTER on October 12th, Ms. Scott said the seminar would cover both the practical and theoretical aspects of journalism. There would be, she said, writing work for the print journalists and those in the electronic media would have recording sessions.

four miles east of St George's on about half an acre of land donated by the Government of Grenada, the school will cater to about 100 pupils. It will stand next to a 50-bed EC \$380,000 dormitory recently constructed with funding from the Canadian Assistance Programme and from public subscriptions.

Speaking on this occasion, Miss Annette  
Please See DEAF Page 11

There would also be field projects, she said, and the seminar would provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas.

"The seminar has been designed for senior journalists who have had quite a few years of experience working for media organisations," Ms. Scott said, "but people who might not have had any formal training."

There is some flexibility in this, however, as the Seminar Director said whatever course has been designed, when the participants assemble the real needs can be and are assessed. There is no use, she said, in drawing up a course and executing it when it does not meet the needs of the participants.

Please See JOURNALISTS Page 11

## NEWS SHORTS

### Conference On Poverty

A three-day sub-regional conference on Poverty in the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo from September 30th to October

#### DEAR FROM PAGE 10

Veler, United States Charge d'Affaires, said, during the past several years, Grenada has benefited from the humanitarian, civic-action programme which is funded by the United States Government through the United States Atlantic Command.

**"To date," she said, "quite a few projects have been successfully implemented jointly by the United States Military, by the Grenadian Government and, very importantly also, by members of the community in which these projects have taken place."**

The projects include, among others, Miss Veler said, construction of primary schools, a sports pavilion, repairing of Government schools, and building of a craft and multi-purpose training centre.

In the fiscal year ending 30th September, a

#### JOURNALISTS FROM PAGE 10

If the participants need to sharpen their writing skills, she said, this will be introduced into the course, but, if they have already reached a high level, this aspect will be pushed to the background. She expressed the opinion, however, that all journalists can benefit from an examination of their writing ability.

Over and above this, Ms Scott said, the seminar would cover ethics, the power and responsibility of the media, the role of the woman journalist, what should be written about, how it should be written about and what the woman journalist can do to promote her career.

**End**

2nd, considered developments in the region's economies and evaluated the impact

**Please See NEWS SHORTS Page 12**

medical clinic was constructed at a cost of over EC\$200,000, she said, two water projects were completed and a primary school was refurbished at a cost of over EC\$250,000.

The Charge d'Affaires said the building of the School for the Deaf is being undertaken in the fiscal year 1992/93 and, in the same period a boat ramp is to be built at the Coast Guard base, each of those projects to cost some EC\$270,000.

#### Determined Efforts

Senator Glean complimented Mrs Margaret Dowe, President of the Society for the Deaf, for the determined efforts of the Society in having both the dormitory and the school built.



**MISS ANNETTE VELER**

The dilapidated, physical appearance of the present School for the Deaf at Cherry Hill, just north of St George's, is totally unsuitable, he said, and it is imperative that the children be moved to more suitable quarters.

He thanked the United States Government and the officers and men of the 448th Engineering Battalion for making the project possible, and said the school will stand as a monument to international co-operation and to co-operation between Government and a non-Government organisation.

**End**

**NEWS SHORTS from Page 11**

of structural adjustment policies and programmes in the region.

This conference, at which Grenada was represented by Acting Chief Welfare Officer Dennis Noel, also examined the availability of information and the possibilities for monitoring poverty in the Caribbean with a view to facilitating the design of relevant policies and programmes.

A release from the Government Information Service (GIS) states the conference was sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with support from the United Nations Development Programme.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite warned against taking literally that part of the "hurricane ditty" which says, "October, all over". There is no room for complacency, he said because disasters can strike at any time.

Speaking on this occasion, Miss Annette Yeler, Charge d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Grenada, stressed the importance of disaster management and the need to train persons involved in the exercise.

The workshop was sponsored jointly by the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the United States Agency for

**Don't write "West Indies" with a space,  
That space divides, it's out of place.  
Let's write "Westindies" as we should,  
Proud symbol of our nationhood.**

**Caribbean Disaster Managers****Meet In Grenada**

International Development and the Government of Grenada.

Some two dozen Disaster Managers from the Caribbean attended a workshop held in Grenada from 5th to 10th October.

Aim of the workshop was that persons completing the course of training satisfactorily would themselves become trainers.



Alistair Hughes

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