

JPRS-LAM-88-001  
4 JANUARY 1988

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# ***JPRS Report***

# **Latin America**

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# Latin America

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**Bonamy Named New Commissioner of Police**  
32980065 Nassau *THE TRIBUNE in English*  
24 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] ACP Bernard Bonamy will take over the duties of Commissioner of Police on November 21 when Commissioner of Police Gerald Bartlett retires after 41 years of service with the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Mr Bonamy's appointment as the new commissioner confirms The Tribune report of September 22 tipping him for the post.

Mr Bonamy, who has a law degree from the University of the West Indies, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner on December 24, 1985.

The son of Mr and Mrs B.H. Bonamy of Arthur's Town, Cat Island, ACP Bonamy joined the force as a recruit constable in June, 1963.

He was graduated from the Police College in November, 1963 as a Baton of Honour winner.

In 1968, after being promoted from a lance corporal to corporal, he was transferred to CID and with two other officers, headed the first drug squad.

He was promoted to sergeant in January, 1970 and in June, 1971 was transferred to SIB with the rank of Inspector.

He was transferred to Freeport, Grand Bahama, in 1973, where he became commanding officer of the SIB branch and in 1975 received an in-service award to study law at the UWI.

On his return to Nassau, he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of SIB and spent another year in Freeport.

He was promoted to Deputy Superintendent and was elevated to Superintendent in 1983.

He attended a 1969 Miami seminar held by the American Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (now the Drug Enforcement Agency).

Mr Bonamy also served with the Commission of Inquiry into drug trafficking and related corruption.

/06091

**Sandiford Welcomes PRC Visitors; Assistance Discussed**

32980055a Bridgetown *BARBADOS ADVOCATE*  
in English 10 Oct 87 p 6

[Text] Barbados Prime Minister, Mr. Erskine Sandiford says he welcomes Chinese technical assistance for employment generating projects, particularly cottage industries and those involving straw works, a Government statement here said.

Mr. Sandiford's comments were made to a visiting six-member Chinese team headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zhu Qizhen.

Today's talks centred on the on-going technical cooperation programme between the two countries.

The areas include agriculture, trade, industry, education and sports, particularly the construction of a proposed in-door gymnasium.

**Want Help**

The Chinese Vice-Minister said his country was interested in help from Barbados to develop its tourist industry.

He invited the Barbados leader to visit China at a mutually convenient time.

Mr. Sandiford said he was looking forward to China's support for Barbadian Dame Nita Barrow's candidacy, for the Presidency of the 1988 43rd United Nations General Assembly.

He said if Dame Nita were elected to such a prestigious position within the United Nations, it would bring great honour and credit not only to Barbados and other Third World countries but also to all women around the world. (CANA).

/06091

**Report on Visit of PRC Foreign Ministry Official**  
*32980056a Belize City THE BEACON in English*  
*10 Oct 87 pp 1, C*

[Text] Belmopan, Wed., Oct. 7—The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Peoples' Republic of China, Mr. Zhu Qizhen, left Belize today following an official visit at the invitation of the Government of Belize.

Mr. Zhu Qizhen led a 6-man delegation which arrived in Belize Monday for discussions with Belizean officials on bilateral relations and the economic and technical co-operation programme between China and Belize. Agreement for this programme was signed during a visit of a Belize delegation headed by Prime Minister Esquivel to the Peoples' Republic of China in April of this year. Accompanying the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister were the Assistant Director General of Latin American and Oceanea Affairs Mr. Zhu Xiangzhong, the Deputy Head of the Department of the Directorate of Latin American and Oceanea Affairs, Mr. Yang Lerong, the Second Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking Mr. Shi Longzhuang, Chinese Ambassador to Mexico and Belize Mr. Shi Chunlai and Interpreter from the Chinese Embassy in Mexico Mr. Ma Xiao Yong.

On Tuesday, the Chinese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs met in Belmopan with Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Manuel Esquivel. He also met his Belizean counterpart, Mr. Samuel Rhaburn. Later, he paid a courtesy call on the Governor General Minita Gordon at Belize House. The delegates were hosted at a luncheon at the Belmopan Convention Hotel.

Scheduled to arrive in Belize today is a 5-member team of technical experts from the Peoples' Republic of China. They will be involved in further discussions with Belizean officials to identify priority projects in the economic and technical co-operation programme between the two nations.

/06091

**Envoy Comments on Ties to Mexico, Increase in Arrests**

*32980066a Belize City THE BEACON in English*  
*17 Oct 87 pp 1, 7*

[Excerpts] Belize's Charge d'Affaires in Mexico Mr. Atlay D. Morales has expressed serious concern over the dramatic increase in the arrest of Belizeans travelling to or through Mexico.

In a private interview with THE BEACON, Mr. Morales said that more than 40 Belizeans are presently languishing in jails in Mexico, and that the vast majority is being held on charges connected with the illegal drug trade.

Most of the accused persons are being held in nearby Chetumal, but about one-fourth are jailed in penitentiaries scattered over Mexico such as San Luis, Rio Colorado; Caborca; Hermosillo; Mexicali, and Loreda.

Mr. Morales, the highest ranking Belize diplomat in Mexico, confirmed that the Mexican and Belize governments have already agreed on an exchange of prisoners format. The agreement nevertheless awaits approval by the Mexican Congress which began sitting last month.

Mr. Morales warns that the exchange of prisoners does not mean that those exchanged will be set free when they get home. Whether in Mexico or Belize, they will be expected to serve out their sentences.

The Belizean Charge d'Affaires said that the Embassy will always try to help in contacting relatives in case of arrest of a Belizean national.

"We cannot use diplomatic influence to secure the release of Belizean prisoners in Mexico," Mr. Morales explained, "as all foreigners in any country are subject to the laws of that country."

On a different plain, Mr. Morales had high praise for Mexico-Belize cooperation efforts.

Mr. Morales drew attention to the school in San Roman, Corozal District, donated by the Mexican Government and People, and applauded the efforts of Education Minister Lic Gonzalez Avelar in stepping up the education assistance programme, which affects so many different sectors in Belize.

At present there are 53 Belizean students in Mexican universities—5 doctors doing post graduate courses, and 48 others doing graduate work in the fields of medicine, agronomy, agriculture, economics and archaeology.

In the light of Belize's accelerated interest in tourism, Mexico's Minister of Tourism Enriquez Savinal is currently working out plans to afford Belizean officials and interest group to tour places of interest in Mexico.

Belize also has an extensive technical assistance programme with Mexico, and Lic. Sanchez, the Director General of Technical Corporation in the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been appointed by the government to oversee cooperation in those technical assistance areas.

Belize has found a friend and big brother across the northern border.

/06091

**Report on Esquivel Speech Marking Independence Day**

32980056c Belize City *THE BELIZE TIMES*  
in English 27 Sep 87 p 6

[Text] The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Manuel Esquivel, spoke at the official ceremony in Memorial Park, Belize City, marking the sixth anniversary of Belize's independence. The PM based his speech on the 1987 theme "Belizeans Building and Proud".

He spoke about production in agriculture: citrus, cocoa, bananas, corn and beans, meat and new crops for exports all of which contributed to economic growth. Government had plans for rice exports and for reopening the Libertad Factory to manufacture alcohol. "This project alone represents an investment of some \$25 million when it is fully in place, and represents up to \$20 million in annual exports," he said.

The price of marine exports had risen and production was increasing with shrimp farming. A World Bank programme was under negotiation to help twenty small shrimp farmers.

Tourism had sprung to life. Hotel occupancy was at its highest level ever. Work will commence in November on the construction of the new 16 million dollars hotel for Belize City at the Newtown Barracks.

There were foreign and local investments in the garment industry, food processing, soaps and detergents and new agricultural ventures.

Said the PM: "The construction industry is flourishing. Above all, jobs are being created. The private sector is building and proud."

The Prime Minister's government was leasing land at the rate of some twenty thousand rural acres per annum and 500 urban lots per annum; and his government pledged to press on to satisfy the needs not only of Belize City but throughout the country.

Work continued on roads: fifteen miles of the Hummingbird Highway will be reconstructed (a \$12 million EEC project); plans were in preparation for the resurfacing of the San Ignacio to Benque Viejo del Carmen section of the Western Highway; "twenty five miles of road from San Felipe in Orange Walk District to Hill Bank will open up the interior of the north and eventually will lead to a direct route from the north to Belmopan." (On this project the PM must have got his geography wrong as there is a 10 mile road from San Felipe to Hill Bank and this is not part of the road project from Belmopan to Shipyard and thence Guinea Grass.)

There will be a \$30 million project to expand the electricity, funded by the World Bank. A new telephone exchange building is under construction and a new loan of 19 million dollars will increase the telephone system.

Government is building a 1 million dollars building for the University College of Belize (after scrapping the \$12 million Belcast project in Belmopan); a new terminal building for The Belize International Airport (which is part of the ongoing economic programme with the UK) and a new Belize City Hospital for 100 beds with an EEC loan (after abandoning arrangements to build a 200 bed hospital with a loan from a French consortium, the Hospital would already have been built).

The PM repeated his old boast about "rescuing the economy", and cited the IMF to back up his boast. "The IMF estimates that in 1987 the economy is likely to grow by about 4.5 percent as compared to 2.6 percent in 1985 and 3.9 percent in 1986, and the mission team have remarked that 'the improvement in the public finances is particularly noteworthy'." (It is recalled that in the 1987 budget debate the PM said that Belize was freed from the IMF and that it is incumbent on us to keep our economy strong and to avoid a relapse into the arms of the IMF.)

"Government of course continues to work toward the elimination of its current account deficit. The \$20 million deficit estimated in the 1987 budget is now projected to be less than half that amount." (On March 20, 1987, the PM presented a budget with a deficit of \$97.9 million.)

"We will continue to work towards reducing it even more than is currently projected. Exports in 1987 are expected to top 1986 exports by \$22 million, a 15 percent increase. The public sector's expenditure on development projects in 1987 is expected to reach \$60 million—a 40 percent increase over 1986. These noteworthy achievements continue to contribute to an upward trend in our approved external assets. Government is building and proud," concluded Mr. Esquivel.

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**Opposition Politicians Charge Spying by Secret Police**

32980056b Belize City *THE BELIZE TIMES*  
in English 11 Oct 87 p 7

[Text] The pattern is the same all over the country. There have been persistent reports from opposition politicians in all six districts that agents of the Security and Intelligence Service (S.I.S.) have been eavesdropping on private meetings and approaching functionaries of the party for information about the future plans and strategy of the party.

The scene is reminiscent of the dreaded political secret police of authoritarian regimes. But it is happening right here in Belize. Instead of an intelligence service which protects the security of our country regardless of the Administration in power we see developing in Belize a dangerous secret service carrying out the political dictates of the Esquivel regime to spy and report on its political opponents.

The thinking of this secret police which presents a clear and present danger to our freedom and right to privacy was expressed recently by the Head of the S.I.S. Mr. Ephraim Usher interviewed in the August Vol. No. 6 issue of the Government publication "Belize Today".

The Director of S.I.S. boasted in this interview that there is "a machinery in place which assesses the loyalty of an individual to the state".

So now we have it. Thompson's S.I.S. will decide who is loyal and who is disloyal to the state. And if you are deemed disloyal well—that makes you a "subversive". And if you are "a subversive" in their eyes then they won't stop at criminal libel. Next time round the charge will be sedition and treason. The tendency is frighteningly clear—dictatorship by the party in government.

In case we misunderstood what the Director of S.I.S. said in the above quote, we refer to another section of this interview when he said "The Government often needs accurate information to assess the reliability and loyalty of its employees who have access to classified information." Watch out Senior public officers! Big Brother is following you!

Finally at the very end of this interview Mr. Efrain [as published] Usher makes no bones as to who is his boss. THE BELIZE TIMES told you sometime ago that the UDP politicians controlled the S.I.S. The Director has now confirmed this: "The decision as to what affects security and what does not, what must be secret and what can be made public, is in the final analysis a matter of political decision and judgement."

/06091

**Citrus-Growing Industry Expanding in Toledo District**

32980066b Belize City THE BEACON in English  
17 Oct 87 p 2

[Text] The latest copy of Toledo's BTIA news carries an interview with Toledo's Chief Ag. Officer, Mr. Ralston Flowers. It contains good news for the district. Mr. Flowers says quite simply that things are looking up in the district with 4,000 acres of citrus planned for the future by three different groups. This will entail a larger working population than currently exists in Toledo and so will considerably increase the sale of local products—including beef, pork, chicken and eggs. He advises for these reasons beef cattle could be a good investment in the district.

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**Freedom Party Joins Others From OECS as IDU Member**

32980057 Roseau *THE NEW CHRONICLE* in English  
9 Oct 87 p 6

[Text] The Dominica Freedom Party was one of four OECS political parties to take up full membership of the International Democrat Union.

The New National Party of Grenada, the People's Action Movement of St. Kitts and the New Democrat Party of St. Vincent were all accepted at the third party leaders meeting held in West Berlin from September 24-26.

Alvin Knight, General Secretary of the Freedom Party, told newsmen, that the IDU is a means of increasing the unity among the existing member parties and also to assist all like-minded political parties in the rest of the world.

"For us in Dominica", he said, "quite apart from improving our national image in that we belong to yet another international body, we see our membership also in terms of assisting, not just the party, but the growth and development of Dominica as well."

Mr. Knight also felt that discussions at the political level was more likely to get a sympathetic ear rather than at a government to government basis.

The International Democrat Union now has a membership of 27, with Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga being one of the Vice Presidents. He is also the Chairman of the Caribbean Democrat Union.

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**DLP Threatens To Disrupt Government-Led Functions**

32980067 Port-of-Spain *DAILY EXPRESS*  
in English 27 Oct 87 p 15

[Text] Roseau, Monday (CANA)—The Opposition Dominica Labour Party (DLP) today threatened to disrupt official functions taking place in DLP-held constituencies if elected DLP representatives there are barred from speaking at these functions.

Deputy DLP leader Elford Henry told Parliament the proposed DLP action was in defence of democracy and in protest at what he said was a latest trend being adopted by the ruling Dominica Freedom Party.

Henry's statement prompted Health Minister Ronan David to warn that any official function of his ministry disrupted by the opposition would meet the "full weight of my office".

Last week DLP parliamentary representative for the Grand Bay constituency Pierre Charles stormed out of an independence semi-final cultural show, carrying with him his public address system which was to have been used at the function.

The opposition parliamentarian took the action after he was told he would not be allowed to address the function which was being held in his constituency.

Pierre last year was allowed to address a similar function held at the same venue.

A similar incident occurred in August when DLP leader Michael Douglas, the representative for Portsmouth and an elected member of the Portsmouth City Council, was prevented from addressing the inauguration of the Portsmouth Town Council.

/06091

**NDC Mass Meeting Discusses Party Policies, Plans**

32980068b St Georges *THE GRENADIAN TRIBUNE*  
in English 7-16 Oct 87 p 16

[Text] The first workshop of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) was big; the second one was bigger and from all indications the party's first convention, tentatively set for October 18, would be even much bigger yet.

More than 350 party loyalists from throughout the country assembled at the St. David's R.C. School on Sunday to discuss various aspects of the party's policies and programmes and make recommendations and/or alterations, as to what should or shouldn't be included as they see fit.

The session which was described as inspiring by an aged participant lasted for seven hours. Eight workshops were organised after which delegates gave open testimonies as to how they feel about the NDC. It was indeed heart warming.

Chairman of the function, the Hon. Phinsley St. Louis reminded the gathering that NDC is a family party. "Politics has divided our people but the NDC will ensure that politics re-unites us, once and for all", he stressed. He said what we're experiencing in Grenada today is a new trust in politics since no other party gives the people an opportunity to discuss a document which sets out its policies and programmes.

Leader of the Opposition the Hon. George Brizan in what was described as an inspiring address recalled "the good old days" when politics was not an issue and everybody use to live as one big family. This, he said, was purely because of love for one another and a strong community spirit which was one of the shining elements of Grenada's culture. Where has this love gone to? he asked. He added however that the NDC is the only party today capable of creating that atmosphere whereby Grenadians can live once more as a people and enjoy the joys of familyhood.

A 75 year old woman said in a testimony "all my grey-hair turned black when I heard the Hon. George Brizan talked about the importance of good family life".

Hon. Dr. Francis Alexis described the charismatic leader as her Majesty's alternative Prime Minister "since we in the opposition are the de facto government (real government) and they (those in power) are the de jure government (government by law)".

In his analysis of the present political situation, Dr. Alexis said that certain Government Ministers are not talking among themselves, "because they afraid one another like cat afraid Holy Water".

"They are also afraid of people because they know that where-ever they present themselves they're booed loudly. But we in the NDC are not afraid of the people since we're from the people, we're of the people, we work for the people and we go forward by the people", the constitutional expert added.

/06091

**NDC Organ Says NNP 'Big Boy' Seeks To Oust Blaize**

32980068a St Georges *THE GRENADIAN TRIBUNE*  
in English 7-16 Oct 87 pp 1, B

[Text] We have been reliably informed by sources close to N.N.P. that a certain N.N.P. big boy is hatching up a plan to throw out Herbert Blaize, Ben Jones, and Pauline Andrews from NNP/GNP party.

Our sources also told us that at a certain meeting held recently this "big boy" was discussing secretly with a few people the matter of getting rid of Blaize if he refused to step down.

It would appear that this "big boy" sometime in 1984 made commitments to his foreign bones in true mafia style, he finds Blaize is standing in his way. His bones are apparently impatient with him, so he is now barking like a mad dog.

Certain developments have been taking place recently which forces one to take this seriously and not to dispel it as mere rumour.

Firstly we know that this "big boy" walks around with a gun in his brief case and sometimes openly boasts of it.

Secondly we know that one of his closest henchmen is a (one of the) man who was accused in 1978 of the assassination of a Government Minister.

Thirdly we have been told that this "big boy" has just helped out one of the persons who was suspected by people of the brutal murder of Mr. Shears, a father of 11 children some time in 1975. Mr. Shears' wife has since gone mad as a result of grief.

Fourthly we have been informed that he has recently been recruiting persons who were prominent in the P.R.A. in 1979 and 1980 but who were later imprisoned by the P.R.G. because of their extremism, their violent tendencies, which even PRG was afraid of and for their supposed involvement in marijuana and drugs.

Fifthly he was instrumental in getting a violent ex-army officer appointed to a top job in Grenada this year.

So it is difficult (see page B) [no page B or continuation of story found]

/06091

**Report on Meeting of MBPM National Representative Council**

*32980058c St Georges INDIES TIMES in English  
26 Sep 87 pp 1, 2*

[Text] On Sunday 20th Sept 1987, the National Representative Council of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement held its monthly meeting.

The meeting which was very well attended focused on the reorganization drive that the party is presently engaged in, as well as the preparations for the commemoration of October 19th in Victoria.

Reports were given by the parish coordinating bodies of the different parishes, highlighting the activities that were held in each parish, and plans for future activities, and the weakness and shortcomings of the work since the last NRC.

The NRC looked at ways and means of improving and strengthening the work on the ground by increasing the involvement of parish Cadres in sport, culture and community work.

Concerning plans for the Oct 19th commemoration, it was decided to hold a program of sport, culture and political speeches in a manner befitting the Oct 19th Martyrs. Plans are under way to set up a bar, to have a D.J. on hand and to bring in a guest speaker from the outside.

Bro. Kenrick Radix in his address to the NRC noted that "MBPM as a party has the intellectual allies that was necessary for ushering change." He said that "we should sink our roots deep and imitate the old NJM led by Bishop which had the people as the centre of its activity."

He stressed that "many of our Cadres were denied jobs because the government fears that they will become shining examples, but that we must be like steel and sink our roots deep into the society."

On the Oct 19th commemoration, Bro. Radix stated that "Oct 19th had local regional and international significance. If we do the work and penetrate people we would be able to send out shock waves about the true reality. Let us dedicate the month of October to the spirit and memory of our Martyrs. If we work like Maurice Bishop, we will work every day, we will work like Jackie Creft who worked night and day, like Unison Whiteman, who lit up with the people and Vince Noel, Norris Bain, Gemmar Belmar and others who sacrificed their lives in the interest of the working people."

Concluding the meeting, Bro. Radix criticized the NNP regime which had "plunged the country in economic chaos through unemployment, retrenchment and the

creation of a few millionaires". He ended by saying that the present crisis had no effect on the people because it is a foregone conclusion that was predicted years ago by the MBPM.

Finally he said "the only place to rest our head was with our party, the MBPM, and we have to go out there and encourage them".

The NRC meeting closed on a high note with delegates confident that the reorganization drive was taking shape and pledged to make Oct 19th commemoration one of the best ever.

/06091

**MBPM Reviews National Problems, Outlines Its Positions**

**Assault on NNP**

*32980058d St Georges INDIES TIMES in English  
17 Oct 87 pp 1, 2-5*

[Text] The political situation in Grenada today can be described as the Grenadian Masses urgently looking for a political force or movement to seriously tackle and solve the burning social, political and economic problems of the country. If one were to look at the situation objectively, one would add that the masses are looking for a movement which they feel confident will deliver and even expand the programmes of the People's Revolutionary Government.

After 33 months of the New National Party (NNP) regime, the entire Grenadian People are convinced that the NNP has no answers for the main questions affecting the development of Grenada. In fact the popular opinion is that NNP has pushed Grenada fifty (50) years backwards. The NNP has become the most unpopular Government in the history of Grenada. It has lost the respect, support and even attention of the vast majority of Grenadians. The demise of NNP has been because of its right wing, neo-colonial, corrupt and inefficient handling of every aspect of the Nation's business. An examination of five (5) major areas would show how the NNP has failed miserably.

**(1) The Economy**

Grenadian's economy today reflect no growth in the areas which can develop a self-reliant nation economy. The NNP scrapped the PRG's policy of building a mixed economy; with state, private and co-operative sectors; and declared that it would rely solely on the private sector to build the country's economy. It did not just talk of local private sector but said that it would mobilise large numbers of foreign investors to boost the economy.

The results have been disastrous. No genuine foreign investment has come. In the case of the three cases which turned up, all were fraudulent. The Ingle Toy Factory

collapsed two months after starting-up and Ingle was later tried in the U.S. for having defrauded money a U.S. agency. [sentence as published] Grenada Airways collapsed some weeks ago, leaving an overdraft debt of over \$2.5 million at the local state owned National Commercial Bank. In addition it has possession of Grenada's \$3.7 million aircraft which cannot now be located. Last week a law suit of \$380 million (US) was filed against the company in Miami. The third case of Ramada Renaissance Inn is a classic of neo-colonial economics. The company was given a state hotel of 156 rooms with ten (10) acres of land at Grand Anse Beach, at a rent of \$50,000 U.S. a year or \$4,166 a month. In addition it got fifteen (15) years tax holidays, fifteen (15) duty free on all equipment and materials and permission to bring in 20 foreign workers into the country. The NNP regime also gave state guarantee for a loan of \$7.3 million (US) at the International Finance Corporation (I.F.C.) for the company leasing the hotel. Other foreign investments are yet to come.

In recent months, the case of Courts a British Furniture Firm which bought over Huggins Furniture Department with the aim of selling furniture in Grenada has caused real problems. This multi-national firm threatens to destroy the local furniture industry and the NNP is unable to deal with it.

Another aspect of the NNP's economic policy has been to rely on its colonial master, the US, for hand-outs. The regime got a shocker in 1986 when USAID cut back 10 percent on its promised grant for that year and spoke of a bigger cut in 1987. This caused a \$10 million cut-back in the 1986 budget mid-way that year. An all time record current account deficit of \$27.3 million was recorded in 1986. In fact USAID has virtually pulled out with a number of complaints.

As part of the plan to put the economy into the hands of the private sector the regime began a big sellout of state property. Most of the enterprises started by PRG have been dismantled or sold with plans to sell the others in 1987. But this has begun to backfire already. Foxinn, Bouganvillen and Panache faces economic collapse and is about to move out.

The NNP regime now plans to sell the two state commercial banks in 1987. The regime also liquidated the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA) thus wiping out the attempt to build a co-operative sector of the economy.

The decisions of economic strangulation have been coupled with savage taxation of the poor and a plan for mass retrenchment. In 1986 NNP introduced Value Added Tax (VAT). A VAT of 20 percent was imposed. At the same time the regime abolished Income Tax. This led to a situation where the business executive who gets a salary of \$3,000 plus monthly is paying the same tax as an agricultural worker who works for \$150 monthly. VAT

has also proved oppressive and burdensome, crippling the spending power of poor people. VAT has led to widespread tax evasion, struggling, and hardships.

The regime has not been able to collect more revenue to pay workers, neither has it been able to start new projects and create more jobs. As a result, it has decided to retrench 2,000 public workers in 1987.

The results of this retrenchment plan would be devastating on the nation. Each worker in Grenada has an average of five (5) dependents. This means that some 10,000 persons will be directly affected by the plan. Retrenchment means more unemployment, poverty and starvation.

The NNP began implementing the retrenchment plan at the end of July 19, 1987. Over 60 workers were sent home in the first instance. Victimization and spite cloud the retrenchment as many workers who served the PRG were the first to go. When the plan was implemented not a single Trade Union was consulted.

The NNP's policies have proven to be a strategy of gloom and doom for Grenada and the Grenadian people have rejected it as a way forward.

## (2) Unemployment

NNP's economic policies have led to mass unemployment from 49 percent in the Gairy years to 12 percent by 1983. Today unemployment is over 40 percent with 50-60 percent among women and over 60 percent among youths. The dismantling of the state sector, failure to bring foreign investment, lack of any real job creation in the private sector plus the new retrenchment plan have added to make an employment graveyard. No jobs exist for unemployed at present and the future looks bleak.

## (3) Social Sector

The PRG's years began the creation of a new Grenadian Citizen with new and previously unknown opportunities in Education, Health and other social sector programmes. These were all crushed by the invasion and NNP has made no effort to create the conditions for their revival.

In the case of health, there has been a dramatic deterioration in the standard of health services. The hospitals have been badly managed and under supplied. The policy of Free Health Care was removed so that in 1987 big fees are being charged for basic health care.

Today, the education sector is directionless. There are no programmes nor new initiatives designed to improve the standard of education. It is now well known that the programmes of Adult Education, Teacher Training, Work Study and Curriculum Development have all been destroyed.

### Crimes, Drugs, Abuse and Mental Disorder

The total lack of a social policy together with unemployment and high taxes have led to massive increases in crimes and drugs. Over the last six months, Grenada has witnessed virtually daily crimes of a nature never seen before. Brutal murders, armed hold-ups, rapes and high-way style robberies have been widespread. In addition, there has been an explosion of petty stealing.

Closely related to the crime wave has been the introduction of hard drugs into Grenada. Cocaine and Crack have become widespread in the country. In all of this the regime has proved powerless to solve the crime or to arrest the major drug pusher. This has led to a marked increase in fear among the people of Grenada as the thieves strike at will.

### Workers Rights

The entire direction of the NNP has been to give big business total control of the economy. It has thus permitted workers rights to be trampled under foot by employers. The regime itself has refused to negotiate with a new wage agreement with public servants but instead has threatened them with dismissals. Last year the regime removed one day's pay from public servants when they went on sick-cut to protest lack of progress in wage negotiations.

Private employers have used the authority given to them by NNP to literally crush all workers rights. In one case last year the Grenada Breweries fired all 120 workers at its plant after they had merely threatened industrial actions over the sacking of one worker.

There has been no new legislation proposed for expanding workers rights and programmes of profit sharing, worker education and worker participation in management have all been crushed.

### NNP's Foreign Policy

NNP has made every effort to turn Grenada into a colony of the US. In every international forum NNP has slavishly backed the United States position. The most terrible example has been the NNP's abstention in resolutions for nuclear free zone in the South Atlantic, Independence of St. Helena and stopping of the US undeclared war against Nicaragua. It has backed Star Wars and US protection moves against Third World countries e.g. garments and sugar. In the Caribbean it has been a leading member of Caribbean Democratic Union, a body for extreme right-wing policies in the region which is linked to the International Democratic Union.

Instead, Grenada has been made a pawn in every aspect of US Foreign Policy.

### NNP in Fighting Corruption and Inefficiency

Probably the most visible issue which led the people of Grenada to lose all confidence in NNP has been the disarray inside of the ranks of the party, widespread corruption and gross inefficiency of NNP's ministers.

The party is now openly split into two sections. One section has left and formed itself into an opposition in Parliament. As we predicted, the fighting has finally led to a break between the Brizan and Alexis group and the Blaize GNP group. Again Blaize out-manoeuvred them and gave them the choice between falling on a rock or a hard place. When they got there he ordered them to apologise or resign. They opted for resignation and are now out of the NNP. This last move has left the NNP in complete chaos. The infighting and split with the NNP is taking place in the midst of widespread corruption charges. There have been allegations from very reliable sources that ministers of NNP have accepted major bribes in the conduction of state business. These allegations have become even more rampant following the demise of Grenada Airways.

Overall, the regime is unable to motivate anyone to work on its behalf.

All of the factors discussed above have been the basis for conclusion that people are now looking for a real credible alternative to NNP.

As it loses popular support and sees its members crossing the floor into an emerging strident opposition, the NNP is resorting to the use of state terrorism. Four months ago it rushed an Emergency Powers Act through Parliament clothing itself with the powers to declare a State of Emergency and to put the constitution on hold.

In September, a series of night stops and searching of vehicles was carried out by the Police Force together with the para military Special Security Unit (SSU). Motorists were stopped arbitrarily, made to get out of their vehicles, and then they were stopped and searched at gun point.

Industrial action by workers at the General Electricity Services Ltd., protesting the high-handed dismissal of one worker saw the immediate despatching of SSU to the work place with guns seeking to intimidate the workers. Therefore, as NNP collapses, state terrorism sweeps in, bringing tension and unease to the nation.

A political assessment of Grenada cannot be completed without looking at certain other political and social forces.

### The Church

Firstly the Church. Since the 1983 invasion, the church in Grenada has both the established Churches (CCG), who came under the umbrella of the Grenada Conference of Churches, and the massive influx of US moral majority type churches.

The RC Bishop speaking on behalf of the CCG likened President Reagan to Moses and the freeing of the Israelites from Bondage. "After God is President Reagan" was the incredible statement coming from some churchmen. They have used every opportunity to slander, ridicule and attack the years of the Revolution.

The position of the established church has been given total support by the large influx of US based churches which have made their entry into Grenada. It is likely that more than thirty such sects have entered Grenada. They have come to spread President Reagan's right-wing message and are very vulgar about it. There is in fact, a permanent religious crusade on in Grenada with the objective to divert the whole society from politics and reality and turn it into a conservative country.

Today, the church is totally silent on all burning issues. It has point-blank refused to join in activities in solidarity with suffering peoples, even on apartheid.

### The Other Political Forces

There are three political parties opposing NNP. A break-away section of the NNP called National Democratic Congress (NDC), Gairy's United Labour Party (GULP) and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

NDC is now in control of the Parliamentary Opposition. Its policies are no different from NNP. The dispute with the NNP has been over Blaize's style of leadership and a number of petty issues. NDC has failed to make any significant impact, has no mass base, and is yet to emerge as a serious political organisation. The NDC is composed of all political breakaways. In fact the people have christened them Brizan and the Breakers.

Gairy's GULP is a significant political force in the country. Within recent times the GULP has been engaging in widespread political activity around the country. Gairy has also chosen a list of candidates for the elections and maintains that NNP will fall any day.

Despite GULP undoubted support it does not have the support of a majority of the people. Its support is not growing and is very unlikely to do so. What GULP hopes for is a major split up of all other forces which could permit it to have the largest section of voters. GULP policies have not changed from the years of Gairy's dictatorship. There are no new forces among Gairy's Executive.

The Gairy who was overthrown by the Revolution of 1979 has returned with the same twisted ideas of pre-1979. Historically, Gairyism is even more irrelevant than the years gone past. Faced with the failure of NNP the U.S. sees Gairy as their ace in the hole. They have been inviting him to functions and in February 1987 the U.S. St. George's School of Medicine gave Gairy a special award for services rendered. There is no doubt that the U.S. is considering doing with Gairy what they did with Balaguer in the Dominican Republic.

Gairy is presently trying to reorganize his own party which is aimed with much infighting. He is 90 percent blind and he wants his replacement to be someone who will ensure his call at all times. The Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement is the only serious political force in Grenada today. There is no doubt that the party has growing support in the country. Its programme can be said to be the only programme of any political party which is aimed at genuine national development.

Since its founding however, the party has suffered from a number of handicaps. Most serious of these has been the legacy of the 1983 disaster. People blamed the members of the party not for the crimes but for not exposing the Coardites before.

Earlier, there was also some doubts deliberately urged by the U.S. as to the involvement of the members of the MBPM in the murder of Bishop. The trial has, however, cleared up this completely and has vindicated the MBPM Executive. In addition MBPM has been faced with a hostile U.S. bent on destroying the left forever in Grenada. The NNP from its inception has singled out the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement for political victimization and harassment. Their attitude to the MBPM has been further strengthened since their coming to power.

Evidence of this spiteful attitude to the MBPM directed by the U.S. and the C.I.A. has been further exposed by Bob Woodward of Watergate fame when he revealed in his book that the C.I.A. spent \$675,000.00 U.S. for propaganda to ensure that the MBPM was not elected in the 1984 elections. Additionally Woodward claimed that Eugenia Charles of Dominica was given \$100,000.00 for her role in the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

The NNP has singled out two members of the MBPM's executive for victimization. Einstein Louison's passport has been seized for over two years now. He has been made a prisoner at large in his own country and cannot travel while members of all other political parties can travel. Dr. Terence Marryshow a Grenadian doctor trained in Cuba has been denied the right to a job and has been refused permission to practice as a medical doctor. At the same time, many other people who support the MBPM have faced victimization as well.

What is clear is that the U.S. plan in Grenada has failed completely. Its main hope was to install NNP as a proxy under the facade of democracy to carry out its plans in Grenada. NNP was supposed to be a united, democratic U.S. tool to crush the left forever and build a Grenada in the image and likeness of the U.S. and Reaganomics.

Reality has, however, shown the NNP as a fragmented, corrupt, inefficient, neo-colonial bunch of political mimic men, so the plan of the U.S. has failed.

Their plan to wipe out politically the left forever, has failed as MBPM enjoys widespread support and has never gone under as the US expected. The U.S. economic plans have also failed bringing only hardship to the people.

This is the state of Grenada today. A people who have seen hardships, a people who are now looking for a new political vehicle to tackle the social, economic and political problems of the society.

#### Party Policies

32980058d St Georges *INDIES TIMES* in English  
17 Oct 87 pp 1, 5

[Text] We stand for:

1. The right to life of every Grenadian.
2. Peoples' participation in every aspect of government.
3. The building of a mixed economy with state, private and cooperative sectors.
4. Freedom of religion for all the people.
5. The right of workers to form and join trade unions of their choice and have proper protection of employment.
6. The right to universal and free secondary education for every Grenadian child.
7. The right to proper housing.
8. The right to free basic medical care for every family.
9. All citizens being equal before the law.
10. Restoration of CPE.
11. The building of friendly relations with countries of different social systems.
12. Building strong and vibrant mass organizations among the different sectors of the population.
13. We are committed to continuing the cause of the former beloved leader of our country Maurice Bishop and the October 19th Martyrs. We must go forward in their memory.

14. Naming the airport the Maurice Bishop International Airport.

15. Full recognition and honour of all national heroes and martyrs of our people, particularly the October 19th Martyrs.

16. Full independence and sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of Grenada.

17. Full constitutional development in full consultation with the people.

18. Establishment of a commission of inquiry into the events of October 1983 to clarify:

(a) The responsibility for the killings of PM Bishop and others.

(b) Investigate thoroughly the circumstances leading up to the massacre of Oct. 19th and the invasion of the country on 25th Oct. 1983.

(c) Properly identify and make authentic lists of those killed or injured in the Oct. events.

Ensure that proper compensation is paid to those whose property was damaged by the war.

MBPM is committed to the full independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Grenada and indeed of all nations in keeping with the principle of sovereignty.

MBPM will not permit any foreign military bases or the stationing of foreign troops on our soil.

We maintain and uphold that the Caribbean must be respected as a zone of peace.

MBPM supports the struggles of all peoples fighting for their liberation.

For a firm, principled non-aligned foreign policy.

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#### Internal Dissent in GULP Cited

32980058b St Georges *INDIES TIMES* in English  
3 Oct 87 p 2

[Text] Latest reports reaching Indies Times say that there is more trouble inside Gairy's Party. The latest rounds of trouble, it is said, came with the readmittance of Friday into the party.

The trouble sparked off when Friday was chosen to run in the St. John's constituency in place of Exzel Thomas. Thomas it is said refused to accept and has since resigned from the party.

Thomas' resignation came as a shock to the GULP since he has been a major back-bone, financial and otherwise.

Inside reports say that Thomas is hopping mad since he has made many investments in the constituency which Friday is about to inherit.

Since the decision was taken Friday has been seen regularly in Gouyave passing from shop to shop conducting rum and cornbeef politics.

The latest rounds of trouble has left Gairy's party in real chaos with Gairy's state of health being questionable.

/06091

**New Parliamentary Secretary for Out Islands Named**

32980058g St Georges *THE GRENADIAN VOICE*  
in English 10 Oct 87 p 8

[Text] Carriacou now has a new Parliamentary Secretary. Senator John DeRoche (from Petite Martinique) was sworn in as replacement to Bernard Bullen last Wednesday at the Governor General's house. (Mr Bullen resigned for personal and family reasons).

Senator DeRoche sees his new job as "very challenging".

He is very confident that he can make a meaningful contribution towards the development of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. He told the *Grenadian Voice* this week in the interest of the people "I will do whatever is humanly possible....I will do my utmost".

One of the first projects he intends to look at is the drainage situation in Petite Martinique. He noted the poor drainage there which causes mud to come down in front of the lone government school on Petite Martinique. A delegation which includes Mr. Paterson, road officer—Public Works Department, and other officials from that department along with the senator will visit there soon.

He observed that the century old problem of the contraband trade "could be a delicate one and would need the effort of government, merchants and the boatmen to deal with the situation as it exists now."

He however condemns the "indiscriminate searching of Carriacouans" by customs officials on the mainland.

Mr. DeRoche, himself an experienced boatman, at one time owned a 17 ton vessel which traded between St. Lucia, Martinique and St Maarten.

He was a school teacher from 1939 to 1946. He migrated to French Guyana where he worked for more than ten years.

He also worked and studied in England and Canada. In 1966 he studied at the Montreal Institute of Technology, in Montreal, Canada.

The senator is a Member of the British Empire (MBE) and also a Justice of the Peace (JP).

/06091

**Government 'Spies' Target Civil Servants To Be Fired**

32980058e St Georges *THE GRENADIAN TRIBUNE*  
in English 11-25 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Report reaching *THE GRENADIAN TRIBUNE* states that a NNP watch-dog is now visiting various Government departments for the sole purpose of deciding who is next to be retrenched.

The report further stated that the NNP watchwoman was once an employee of the Ministry of Agriculture which she is now spying on.

The middle-aged woman who left the Finance department there on Monday for the Mirabeau Agricultural Training School, where Extension Officers of the Eastern Agricultural District are based, is said to be attached to Government's retrenchment team.

It was said that the woman spent three weeks in the Archibold Avenue based office with a pen and a little notebook monitoring and recording each move workers there make.

"The woman keeps on writing, even though one go to the toilet she recording that, I don't know if she is journalist or what, said a source close to the Ministry. [sentence as published]

The Tribune condemns such a 'peeping Tom' behaviour by government and will endeavour to keep you, our reading public, with more information as they come to hand.

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**Jagan Cites Bribery, Corruption, Calls for Reforms**

32980069a Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS  
in English 29 Oct 87p 5

[Text] Recently introduced integrity legislation in Trinidad and Tobago is included among regional resource material being examined by the Guyanese Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) toward the promotion of political reform in the country. The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) political leader Dr Cheddi Jagan made the disclosure yesterday during an interview with the *Express* at the headquarters of the Transport and Industrial Workers' Union (TIWU) in Laventille. The former Guyanese Prime Minister and veteran politician referred to the recently released report of an Integrity Commission set up by the Guyanese government to investigate claims of corruption in the South American mainland country. Reading from a statement issued by the PPP, he said that since the mid-1970's the PPP had declared that "lack of democracy, racial and political discrimination, bribery and corruption, squandering acted as fetters and retarded production and productivity." He added that the findings of the Commission pointed to "a get-rich-quick syndrome" and "bribery and corruption" which had reached "epidemic proportions." Quoting from the report, Dr Jagan said that the multi-sectoral Commission had found that "a number of public officers seem to think that public funds are there for the taking." "Under bureaucratic, authoritarian PNC (People's National Congress) rule, morale so necessary for increased production and productivity is at a record low level," he said. "For the working people, life is a daily hassle for basic necessities—water, fuel, electricity, transport, spare parts, to name a few." According to Dr Jagan, the findings of the report together with the depth of the difficulties of the Guyanese people was convincing evidence of the need for serious political and electoral reform. He said in that regard that the PPP, together with four other opposition parties, was soliciting the support of regional governments and peoples in the move to deepen talks on the needed reforms. He said that he did not expect much from the current drive by the PNC to encourage foreign investment since the necessary infrastructure had not been put in place with problems being experienced with the reliable provision of electricity, water and a telephone system. He said that the root of Guyana's problems was in its politics and that reforms were urgently needed. The Guyanese opposition leader leaves for London today, following which he is expected to witness the Soviet Union's 70th anniversary celebrations to mark the success of the revolution of 1917.

/06091

**Government Program Designed To Spur Economic Growth**

32980059c Georgetown NEW NATION in English  
11 Oct 87 p 8

[Text] Government has adopted a course of action designed to achieve rapid, balanced and sustained

growth in the national economy over the next four years. This programme is to be reviewed constantly.

Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Patrick McKenzie in an address to the farmers and agriculturalists at the symposium at Sophia last week, outlined the broad objectives of the course of action adopted by Government.

One of the objectives is that agricultural production must have a significant impact on the national economy. Farmers must adopt methods to ensure higher yields from the same acreages.

The assets of production including the mills, factories, farm equipment, drainage and irrigation canals and access roads are to be maintained in good working order to satisfy the objective of food and nutritional self-sufficiency and food security.

Dr. McKenzie said that one of the objectives is to encourage new agricultural enterprises. These will include new farms and businesses that will concentrate on processing and marketing. Arising out of this objective will be the creation of more jobs, a situation that will enhance the national economy.

One important objective of Government's course of action deals with improving the image of agriculture. Dr. McKenzie said that with an improved perception of agriculture people at all levels of education will see this pursuit as a worthwhile and acceptable venture.

Production will be structured to increase foreign exchange earnings and the use of the local material for material, energy, and home furnishings, will be pursued at higher levels.

The items identified for focus with a view to increasing the foreign exchange earnings are rice, sugarcane, edible oil, cereal grain, legumes, soyabean, root crops and plantains, fruit, livestock, honey, fisheries, agro-industry and agro-energy.

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**Further Bilateral Cooperation With Venezuela Discussed**

32980059a Georgetown NEW NATION in English  
4 Oct 87 p 8

[Text] Deputy Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation, Dr. Patrick Kendall has returned from Venezuela where he held discussions on bilateral co-operation between that country and Guyana.

While in Venezuela, Dr. Kendall also led Guyana's delegation to the 13th Annual Council Meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

Dr. Kendall's discussions with Venezuela businessmen were aimed at reviewing some of the initial bilateral contacts which were made when President Desmond Hoyte visited that country in March. Discussions were held with Ginpo, Kudor, C. Itch and Avex, among others.

Co-operation in fishing, forestry and art and craft also featured in the discussions.

According to Dr. Kendall, a Venezuelan firm, C. Itch, has expressed an interest in the reconstruction of Black Bush Polder, and the rehabilitation of the Garden of Eden Power Station.

A Venezuelan Company based in Maracaibo is willing to set up a cement plant in Guyana; while another is interested in co-operating with IDEAL of Guyana to establish a bicycle factory.

Dr. Kendall and his party visited the Peruvian Consulate where discussions were held about Guyana's participation in two line of credit arrangements—a US\$15 million from the Andean Development Fund, and US\$50 million from FONEX.

The SELA Council meeting focused on the Latin America Reserve Fund which was described as a good idea by delegates, and a strategy for regional co-operation.

At the meeting there was general agreement on a draft proposal to formalise SELA/UNESCO co-operation.

The meeting also discussed Latin American and Caribbean Industrialisation and External Debt. Delegates agreed that protectionism is having a negative impact on the demand for agricultural commodities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

/06091

#### **Paper Gets Newsprint-Import OK; Shortages Persist**

*32980069b Bridgetown CANA in English  
2210 GMT 29 Oct 87*

[Text] Georgetown, Oct 29—The Guyana Government has approved a trade import licence for the privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper to import a quantity of newsprint valued at about 20,000 U.S. dollars, informed sources told CANA on Thursday.

The paper's stock of newsprint is reportedly almost exhausted and its situation has not been helped by a loss of a number of rolls of newsprint to the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper said to be awaiting an emergency shipment from Trinidad and Tobago.

Approval was granted under the Guyana government's no-funds licensing scheme which provides for enterprises to import essential items provided no foreign exchange has to be released by the (Central) Bank of Guyana.

Funds for the purchase of the rolls is being made available to the STABROEK NEWS by the Washington-based National Endowment for Democracy which last year approved a grant of over U.S. 100,000 dollars for the 10-month-old weekly tabloid paper.

The STABROEK NEWS, whose earlier issues were printed by the Trinidad EXPRESS newspaper, acquired its own printing press recently and started printing in Georgetown a month ago.

The paper has stressed, however, that its ability to sustain its operations will depend heavily on approval from the central government to import newsprint and other inputs.

The state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper, meanwhile, is experiencing severe difficulties in maintaining its production levels because of an acute shortage of newsprint blamed largely on Guyana's foreign exchange problems.

In recent weeks, the company has had to drastically slash production and is now marketing only about 14,000 copies of its eight-page daily and 16-page Sunday editions whereas its circulation is usually in excess of 40,000 copies daily and about 80,000 on Sundays.

This shortage of newsprint and the consequential shortage of newspapers has sent the cost of the papers skyrocketing with vendors demanding two dollars and more for the daily whose official price is 50 cents and as much as five dollars for the Sunday issue, which usually sells for one dollar.

The shortage and the consequent drop in revenue are also causing serious financial headaches for the company fighting to overcome the effects of the 56 percent devaluation of the Guyana dollar earlier this year.

In order to maintain its operations on a limited scale, it has had to borrow supplies from the STABROEK NEWS as well as from its sister state-owned commercial printery, Guyana National Printers Ltd which stocks the more expensive bond paper.

The length of the paper also varies from day to day—14 inches some days and 16, 17, or 18 inches on other days.

/06091

**PPP Organ Reports on Problems Besetting TUC**  
*32980059b Georgetown MIRROR in English*  
4 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] The recently-concluded 34th annual delegates conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress did little to mend political and other differences within the labour movement. In fact, a negative vote by pro-government unions which knocked down a proposed amendment aimed at democratising the TUC has served to exacerbate the already pronounced divisions.

In effect, the amendment proposed by NAACIE and supported by the militant six-union bloc, sought to remove loopholes in the rules which allow for small unions to dominate the bigger unions.

In the past, those loopholes were exploited by pro-government forces who set up small unions, sometimes with less than 20 members, and have up to three delegates at conferences. It is understood that currently, there are other applications from small unions, recently formed, for TUC membership. In such a way the TUC has been manipulated, resulting in a body becoming less and less committed to workers' interests.

The amendment sought to establish that unions can seat three members only if they have more than 250 members. At voting time the PNC unions defeated the proposals. GAWU, which has been consistently fighting for the democratisation of the TUC staged a walk-out and picketing exercise outside the conference venue in protest.

The issue of changing the rules also came up at previous conferences and led to heated debates, walk-outs and court actions. On many occasions conference did not conclude its business. Last year's conference took a decision to hold a special conference to discuss the issue, but this never materialised.

No doubt the continued emasculation of the TUC pleases the present regime which would like to boast of a stable labour landscape when wooing foreign investors for renewed external assistance to the ailing economy. Honorary President of GAWU, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, in an appeal to delegates, urged that one sure way of dealing with the situation was to demand a political solution which will end the infightings and allow for an independent labour movement.

While both General Secretary Joseph Pollydore and George Daniels criticised existing wages and high cost of living; among other things, pro-PNC unions were against motions and declarations which they deemed to be embarrassing to government.

For instance, one motion on the economic situation which spoke of deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, alarming unemployment, hardships due to IMF-type policies and called for indexation of wages and price controls, was suspended. The PNC unions objected and while the conference agreed that it should be rephrased, this was not done.

In all, 60-odd motions were adopted, but as in the past, as many delegates noted, hardly anything positive will be done to implement them. Because of their majority pro-PNC unions were able, on many occasions, to amend motions by other unions to make them palatable to the ruling party.

Sources say the main issue will continue to be the democratisation of the labour movement. In a statement, GAWU said a change in the present rules is the "foundation of a democratically run movement". It is convinced that for labour to recover its lost position, it will have to face up to the challenges. "The disunity which characterised the movement for many years must now give way to meaningful unity based on militancy to protect workers' interest for a better life," said the statement.

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## Seaga Outlines Plans To Deal With Crime, Violence, Drugs

### 12-Point Action Plan

32980070c Kingston *THE DAILY GLEANER*  
in English 8 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] A 12-point action plan to fight crime was outlined by Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga at a meeting with some 35 national organizations at Jamaica House yesterday.

The plan, which was welcomed by the representatives present, contains new measures and some initiatives previously taken by the government to deal with the problems of crime and violence in the society.

As outlined by the Prime Minister, the action plan includes:

—The establishment of a fund of \$2.5 million to increase the money available for rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals. Government will contribute \$1.5 million to the fund and the private sector will be asked to raise the other \$1 million.

—The review and re-organization of the parole system. The Prime Minister said that the numerous serious crimes which had been committed by parolees necessitated "drastic changes" in the implementation of the parole system.

—The prohibition of roadblocks by demonstrators. Demonstrations will be allowed but the police have been given instructions to break up roadblocks as the government would not tolerate the "anarchy into which Jamaica is descending", the Prime Minister said.

—The equipping of the Jamaica Defence Force with mobile radar units which will allow for the detection of low-flying aircraft, as well as communication with pilots of aircraft which infringe Jamaican airspace without authority. The JDF will issue warning signals for the pilots to land and if orders are disobeyed they will be shot down by ground-to-air missiles.

—A substantial increase in the fines for the trading and possession of ganja and cocaine. For the possession or trading of 100 pounds of ganja the fine will be \$160,000 and for 1,000 pounds the fine will be \$1.6 million. Fines for the trading and possession of cocaine are unlimited in the Circuit Court. Fines, reinforced by funds from the Treasury and from assets forfeited in drug-related cases, will be used in the fight against crime.

—The blockading of airstrips, with court injunctions to prevent the removal of blockades.

—The expenditure of US\$2.5 million on outfitting the Jamaica Constabulary Force with the latest state-of-the-art communication equipment islandwide to prevent jamming, as well as the introduction of a computerized system of fingerprinting.

—The tightening up of bail procedures with regard to drug-related crimes. The enactment of a Bail Act to set the terms and conditions of setting bail throughout the island is under consideration.

—The expansion of the numbers, responsibilities and duties of district constables. They will be re-established in the communities where they live to act as the intelligence arm of the police force to apprehend praedial larcenists, vandals of schools and other government properties and others engaged in criminal activities.

—The full implementation of legislation and a system of licensing to regulate workers in the tourist industry and to reduce the harassment of visitors.

—The barring of people who have been convicted of drug offences from re-entering Jamaica.

—An examination of the plea-bargaining system with a view to its expansion.

### Remarks on Drugs, Violence

32980070c Kingston *THE DAILY GLEANER*  
in English 9 Oct 87 p 2

[Text] A call on the business community, the churches, the trade unions and the many interest groups in the island, to assist in the fight against crime in the society, was made by Prime Minister Edward Seaga on Thursday.

At the meeting with some of these groups at Jamaica House, at which he outlined his 12-point action plan against crime and violence in Jamaica, the Prime Minister urged the groups "to put their money where their mouth is and their mouth where their money is."

After announcing the 12 points, Mr. Seaga reminded the gathering that the fight against crime was an on-going one. He said crime did not only constitute homicides or drug-related offences; rather, it encompassed praedial larceny, visitor harassment, vandalism of schools, robbery and rape.

The Government, he said, was fighting crime on all fronts; and in the area of drugs, Jamaica was now ranked the Number One country in the world in its successes (in this area).

In 1986, he said, some 7,160 acres of ganja were destroyed through eradication and interdiction carried out by the security forces, and Jamaica was now poised to be rid of the entire ganja threat.

He said that the dangers of ganja had now extended beyond those posed to the human, physical and mental condition, and the constant threat of seizure of Air Jamaica aircraft, to include damage to the watersheds of the country, the export development programme, and the problem of the seizure and fines imposed on aircraft and ships on the Jamaican routes.

Mr. Seaga attributed the Government's success in reducing the trading of ganja in part to the "massive fines" levied against drug dealers; and said that another measure, the Forfeiture of Assets Act (under which the proceeds of drug-trafficking as well as the assets of drug dealers can be seized) was in the process of enactment.

Turning to the idea of politically-motivated crime, Mr. Seaga told the gathering that it was "wrong and objectionable" to say that politics was the basis of all criminal violence in the island.

"At the same time, let us not delude ourselves that it does not exist," he said. "Last year, both parties made concerted efforts to reduce, if not eliminate, political violence in the Local Government election and we succeeded to a certain point," the Prime Minister noted.

"But," he went on, "national leaders should not close their eyes to the wide array of crimes which had nothing to do with politics and which was undermining the society."

He called on the business community, the churches, trade unions, and the many interest groups in the island to "put their money where their mouth is and their mouth where their money is" and assist in the fight against crime in the society.

The Prime Minister said the Government would not go the route of the Home Guard and Community Councils, but would use the Constitution, the framework of the judiciary and the rule of law to assist the security forces in the fight against crime.

He suggested that the churches preach against drugs and drug-related offences in the same vigorous way that they had preached against casino gambling in the island.

"We have demonstrated that political violence can be controlled, but what of the other forms of crime and violence?" he asked. The Prime Minister noted that "there is an enormous amount of room for the voice of the citizenry to be heard."

In calling for the support of the organizations and the public, Mr. Seaga said that the security forces were working very hard; and to demotivate them with criticisms at a time when the statistics showed that crime was on the decrease, was "not the thing to do."

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### **Army Weighs Weapons Options for Hitting Ganja Planes**

*32980070a Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER  
in English 9 Oct 87 p 1*

[Text] The Jamaica Defence Force is working on the technical specifications of the type of weapons which will be used to shoot down planes illegally entering Jamaica's airspace.

National Security Minister, the Hon. Errol Anderson, responding to questions by the *Gleaner* yesterday said there was a wide variety of weapons and the Military had to determine what sort of fire-power would be required to do an effective job.

Concerning the acquisition of radar equipment, he said the units would be mobile ones which could be moved around the island. A team of Israelis is expected in the island shortly to discuss the matter, he added.

There was also the likelihood of an international tender to acquire the necessary equipment.

Asked about a timeframe, the Minister said it was of "urgent priority".

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Edward Seaga told representatives of 35 organisations at Jamaica House that the Government had a 12-point plan to deal with the crime problem. Among the 12 points was:

"The equipping of the Jamaica Defence Force with mobile radar units which will allow for the detection of low-flying aircraft, as well as communication with pilots of aircraft which infringe Jamaican airspace without authority. The JDF will issue warning signals for the pilots to land and if orders are disobeyed they will be shot down by ground-to-air missiles."

Mr. Anderson, when asked about the acquisition of "ground-to-air missiles", said that what the Prime Minister was outlining was a policy decision. The technical details were still under consideration.

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### **Union Dissatisfaction Poses Threat to Sugar Crop**

*32980070d Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER  
in English 8 Oct 87 p 1*

[Text] There is still a threat to this year's sugar crop scheduled to commence early November, with the failure of the producers and the unions to reach an agreement on a new labour contract at Tuesday's meeting at the Ministry of Labour.

A spokesman for the unions—the BITU and the NWU—said that the workers were becoming restive, and he predicted “a whole lot of heat” before the talks are concluded. The parties meet again next Thursday at 10 a.m.

There was some progress, in terms of wages, at Tuesday's talks. The Sugar Producers Federation (SPF) increased its offer from 7 1/2 percent in the first year and 5 percent in the second year, to 10 percent in the first year and 7 1/2 percent in the second year, while insisting on a 5 percent crop bonus in the second year but none in the first.

There was also agreement on one item of fringe benefits: that unused sick leave would be paid for in the first week of each crop.

However, the parties failed to make any headway on improvements in fringe benefits such as: pay for injured workers; medical benefits for pensioners; production incentives; safety facilities at factories; pensions; the examination of task rates system; and shift premium.

The Gleaner understands that the unions are insisting on the producers paying the difference between National Insurance Scheme (NIS) sick leave benefits and normal salaries. The producers offered 25 percent.

In terms of medical benefits for pensioners, the employers were unable to offer an expansion of the current scheme. The producers want the production incentives to take into consideration rated capacity, efficiency and tons sugar per day produced by the respective factories, which the unions are opposing.

It is also understood that the producers wish a contributory pension scheme to supplement the current non-contributory scheme, to which the workers would contribute 5 percent—a proposal which the unions have also opposed.

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### Government Reaches Wage Agreements With Five Unions

32980070e Bridgetown CANA in English  
1908 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Kingston, Nov 6—Jamaica's Public Service Minister Clifton Stone on Thursday signed new two-year wage agreements with five major trade unions, leaving registered nurses as the only major group of public sector employees still holding out for a better package.

The agreement, covering an estimated 15,000 employees in central and local governments, provides for a 12.5 per cent pay rise from July this year and 15 per cent from next August, plus fringes.

Industrial relations analysts said the agreements—with the Bustamente Industrial Trade Union, the National Workers Union, the Trade Union Congress, the Jamaica Union of Public Officers and Public Employees and the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers—would have further undermined the nurses' position.

They were already weakened when Stone got teachers, doctors, and the Civil Service Association to accept his package, scoring early successes in negotiations that might have been bitter because of a 10 per cent wage ceiling imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

By pushing back the start of the contracts to July in the first year and August in the second year, the government has been able to give the appearance of an agreement above the dictates of the IMF, one official here noted.

Stone has been able to argue that low inflation improved the real wages of workers. The government has projected inflation this year at about seven per cent and says it is on target for this year.

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**Simmonds Reports to Parliament on Budgetary Matters**

32980060a *Bassetterre THE DEMOCRAT in English*  
22 Aug 87 pp 1, 12

[Text] The National Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis on Tuesday of this week duly held the Legislative Sitting of which notice had been previously given. All five (5) Bills listed under Public Business on the Order Paper were introduced, read and passed into law. These Bills were shortly entitled (1) The Supplementary Appropriation (1986) Act 1987; (2) The Diocesan Synod of the North-Eastern Caribbean and Aruba Incorporation Act 1987; (3) The Marriage (Amendment) Act 1987; (4) The Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act 1987; (5) The Carriage by Air Act 1987.

The first Bill was introduced by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Right Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds. The second, third and fourth Bills were moved by the Minister of Education, Health and Community Affairs the Honourable Sidney Morris, while the fifth Bill was introduced by the Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities the Honourable Ivor Stevens.

As predicted by THE DEMOCRAT for weeks, the three-man Opposition Team was conspicuous by the contradictory presence of controversial Opposition Senator Henry Browne who on 26th June 1987 was the subject of a Press Release issued by the St. Kitts Labour Party. The Release dealt exclusively with Browne's resignation from the Executive of the Labour Party and also with his intention to resign from the National Assembly as a Senator. Browne, the Release said, felt unable to alter his decision, and so his resignation was accepted.

Confirming widespread speculation that Browne would be forced into eating his words in order to attempt to hide the fact that no one else in the Labour Party can be found to take Browne's place, Browne put in his appearance without any retraction or explanation or apology for his complete about-face. In a bid, therefore, to divert attention from their embarrassment and confusion, the Opposition made a big show of quarrelling with the Government's fully detailed and itemised supplementary appropriation.

The Opposition stance was an elaborate and shallow "red herring". It was Labour hypocrisy at its worst. Browne, who had short-sightedly resigned on account of his own Party's lack of leadership and lack of vision, inconsistently showed up and with blatant disregard for the public he had misled, arrogantly refused to offer any excuse for his presence, for which he will draw the sum of \$1,000. Instead, Browne accused the Government of arrogance, lack of leadership, short-sightedness, lack of vision, greed, incompetence and blatant disregard for the people.

Following upon Prime Minister Simmonds' straightforward and sober introduction of the various Heads of Expenditure, the hollow and unconvincing presentations from the Opposition received the lashing that they deserved. Prime Minister Simmonds demonstrated clearly that the \$9,836,771 which was being brought to account was spent, as provided in the Constitution, in the interest of the country. He mentioned specifically the sum of \$2,475,000, and explained that the whole of that sum was appropriated to meet the cost of investment in the National Bank. The Prime Minister said that this investment was part and parcel of Government's role in saving the National Bank from the Opposition's plans to ruin the Bank in order to hijack the country.

Prime Minister Simmonds also made reference to a sum of \$5,316,625, which he said had been required to pay part of the compensation, inclusive of interest, agreed in respect of the Sugar Estate Lands unconstitutionally acquired by Labour without compensation. A third sum of \$540,000 was spent by Government in partial repayment of a loan made in connection with the purchase by Government of the said Sugar Lands. These three items together amounted to the sum of \$8,331,625, or 85 percent of the whole amount brought into account. It can be seen at a glance, said Prime Minister Simmonds, that this expenditure shows the responsibility of the present Government as against the previous Administration.

In all, the amount spent on Capital Expenditure, that is to say, on investment and long-term projects, amounted to \$8,519,006, or 87 percent of the whole amount brought to account. Added to this overview, Prime Minister Simmonds emphasised that the final figures for 1986 finances were \$59,184,559 for Revenue versus \$58,285,389 for Expenditure, which gave a surplus of \$889,170. Having placed the Bill into its proper perspective, Prime Minister Simmonds dismissed Opposition charges of overspending, in the face of a large surplus. The fact of a surplus is obviously evidence of under-spending, if anything.

Prime Minister Simmonds also brushed aside Labour's criticism for coming late to Parliament with these figures. Labour, he said, never came into Parliament at all, where the supplementary appropriations for several years are concerned. They have no moral authority for advancing such a criticism. Besides, their inadequate planning sticks out like a sore thumb as against this Government's programme of construction, training and investment to ensure that the variety of interest of our people is fully served.

Equally persuasive and supportive contributions came from the Hon. Richard Caines, and the Hon. Hugh Heyliger, who gave a comprehensive statement on the implementation of the Government's programme of agricultural diversification.

**Outline of 1986-1990 Development Plan Reported**  
*32980060c Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English*  
*19 Oct 87 p 5*

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts—St. Kitts and Nevis is considering setting up a near EC\$10 million plant using sugarcane to produce alcohol, modernising its sugar industry, and bringing hundreds more acres into food production under a development plan calculated to sharply improve the agriculture-based economy.

The twin-island state is also moving to boost exports, cut unemployment, lure more holiday-makers, and trim a worrying import bill.

Tax concessions and softer loan terms as well as tougher hire-purchase arrangements are part of the strategy outlined in the 236-page 1986-90 development plan just released here.

Proposed establishment of the EC\$9.5 million "pure cane spirit" distillery and bottling plant are part of a multi-million dollar programme earmarked for the sugar industry, which accounts for 60 per cent of gross exports and employs one-third of the labour force.

EC\$4.5 million are being spent on replacing old and worn-out equipment, \$15.8 million on mechanical cane harvesting, 18.8 million on equipment to generate power from the cane by-product bagasse and \$4 million on an irrigation system for canes.

The plan is to increase sugar production by 28 per cent to 35,100 long tons by 1990 "depending on market conditions".

The government said it wanted to re-establish the sugar industry on a sound economic footing to improve its foreign exchange earnings and its job-creation capacity.

The next three years should also see sharp increases in non-sugar agricultural production and acreage, with the land under peanuts, cotton and rice to climb by 225, 208 and 44 acres respectively between 1985 and 1990.

The plan forecasts coffee production going up from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds and bananas from 12,000 to 30,000.

The government also expects increases in meat production and fish catches, to be backed up by cutbacks in imports and a range of incentives to fishermen and other food producers.

Apart from agriculture, manufacturing and tourism are listed as the major areas for development in the plan, under which government expects inflation to be restricted to 2.6 to 4.6 per cent yearly.

Manufacturing was expected to grow at an annual four per cent, tourism three per cent and agriculture 2.5.

The government forecast a nine per cent reduction in unemployment, an increase in house-building, and an upgrading of public utilities as well as the health service.

Under the plan, export earnings of the industrial sector are expected to climb from last year's EC\$56.3 million to EC\$79.5 million by 1990.

The sector was also expected to employ an additional 1,500 people.

A number of new projects are in the works, subject to the result of feasibility studies. These include the bottling of mineral water for export, furniture manufacture, the export of cut flowers and the manufacture of floor tiles.

Regarding tourism, the government said it planned spending more money on promotion.

Tourism officials are projecting a rise in stay-over visitors—from almost 50,000 last year to 104,000 in 1990.

Employment is expected to double to 2,000 and tourist receipts to climb from EC\$53.5 million to EC\$133.7 million.

To check consumption, the government said it would have to look at amending hire purchase conditions, having quantitative on essential goods and services, and moving to reduce illicit imports.

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**OECS Unification Issue Addresses by Compton, Hunte**

**Compton's Views**

32980061a Castries *THE WEEKEND VOICE* in  
*English* 26 Sep, 3 Oct 87

[Speech by Prime Minister John Compton at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College graduation ceremony on 20 September 1987]

[26 Sep 87 p 19]

[Text] The frequent recurrence of this question of Caribbean unity is an indication that Caribbean unity is inevitable. In spite of the years of stirrings and manoeuvrings, from the broken down West Indies Federation throughout CARIFTA, CARICOM, the West Indies Associated States and the Organisation of East Caribbean States, the march towards West Indies unity continues and beats in the heart of every true West Indian. And how many flags we fly or how many anthems we sing, we come back on this same road because that is our destiny. We are one people with one common destiny.

The mistakes of the metropolitan powers in the granting of independence on demand should not be permitted to cast us in a mould from which we cannot break out. We should not permit ourselves that these decisions made not by us, but for us, should condemn us to live in isolation and in the end in a world of poverty and dependence which, unless we do something about it, will be our destiny. Rather, we should use our independence to forge a unity of the region and create from these scattered islands, a nation formed by us from our own intellect and shape this nation in our own image and likeness.

From this historical perspective we should realise the injustice which was meted out to us as Britain hastily divested herself from her colonial appendages to equip herself for entry into the European Economic Community. You will remember that it was in the 1960s that Britain first made her application for membership of the European Economic Community, and having a number of colonies as appendages would be an obstruction to her entry. She therefore very hastily divested herself from these appendages and granted them independence on demand.

Indeed, when Grenada applied and was granted independence, we were in fact in negotiations with Grenada to see whether we could not have some sort of union. We had the Petit St. Vincent agreement for freedom of movement and the right to purchase land and work in each other's country unrestricted. While these negotiations were going on Britain went behind our backs and entered into negotiations with Grenada for independence.

While we have this contradiction that the small and the weak are being thrown disunited into separate moulds to perpetuate the weakness, the rich and the powerful are now casting our centuries of isolationism and hostility to equip themselves for entry into the 21st century. We cannot permit the mistakes of the past, the lack of vision, the lack of political will to imprison us in solitary confinement in these tiny islands that we call our nations. We must summon up the courage and break out of this bind and forge new links which will give meaning to our independence, and new hope to our young people, so that they can seek a wider horizon for the exercise of their talents.

In doing so, we are not reinventing the wheel. In fact we have many historical precedents. This year happens to be the bicentenary of the forging of the American Constitution uniting 13 colonies into a single nation, and it is interesting to read the preamble of that constitution because it has been proclaimed as one of the greatest documents that the human mind has produced; it has been copied by many an emerging nation, probably with varying success. The fact is the preamble to this constitution makes interesting reading. It says: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice and domestic tranquility, to provide for the general welfare, to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and posterity...." This preamble should stand out as an inspiration to all of us, in our trials and our tribulations as we read of the trials and tribulations of that young nation, trying to forge together from a desperate people, some sort of unity.

It also warns us that there will be many difficulties ahead but many of us see the obstacles, rather than the opportunities, and obstacles can be real or they can be contrived. But as I see it, obstacles are the things that you see if your eyes are off your goal. If you have a goal in mind keep your eyes on the goal and you would overcome the obstacles.

Our goal should be the formation of a more perfect union between these scattered islands that are left stranded by the receding tide of colonialism. The words "a more perfect union" are also relevant because we now have a union of sorts; we have the OECS with many things in common: one currency, issued from one Central Bank; we have one Court of Justice, a central secretariat, we cooperate in many fields, we share, some of us, representation overseas, but without the direction and guidance of a central government, the decisions taken by the authority are implemented on a voluntary basis. Some countries make decisions, and as soon as they go home, decide whether to implement them or not, and much to the chagrin of others who are prepared to go ahead.

We have the example of CARICOM trade. When a country runs into difficulties, its government goes back on the undertakings it has given other countries because of its own situation at that particular time. There is no central government to enforce the decisions that have

been taken by the authority in all solemnity. So although we have a union of sorts, there is no central controlling authority; it is all done on a voluntary basis between independent countries.

So without the guidance and direction of a central government we have to ask if this is the sort of union that will long endure. The leaders interact quite well now; there's a sort of chemistry among them, but is this the sort of rock on which you can build a union? Personalities change, but should the fabric of an organisation change with a change of personalities. During the past four years or so, the OECS has made tremendous strides in uniting the people of the sub-region. We have made progress in almost every field; our currency is strong, our sportsmen do us proud in the field, our system of justice has been upheld; but this is not the foundation on which we can build a union that will endure, this shifting sands of personalities. Tomorrow personalities change and the whole thing falls down.

Before we had the OECS, we had WISA and we saw what happened with Grenada. When there were changes of personalities in Grenada things started to change. We must therefore strive for a more perfect union by institutionalising our gains. We've made many gains but these should now be institutionalised. We can do that only by placing them within the framework and under the direction of a central government guided by a constitution which will not change with changing governments and personalities. Only in this way we can give meaning to our independence and hope to our people.

Again we look at the American constitution. What does it seek to provide? It seeks to provide for the general welfare, the well being of the people within the framework of a democratic union. Can we in these scattered islands with small domestic markets achieve the goal of providing for the general welfare of our people in a manner befitting their aspirations and the aspirations of the part of the world in which we live. Because poverty is a relative term. As I had to tell the people in the World Bank and the IMF that what is poor in the Caribbean is not poor in India, not poor in Bangladesh where conditions in which some people live here and we consider it poor is tolerable in Bangladesh. What they tolerate we will not tolerate it here, because our aspirations are framed in the part of the world in which we live.

We live in the Americas. Can we provide the general welfare within the context and environment of the Americas that our people in these scattered islands see and are bombarded with all the time? We have television bringing that type of standard of living right to our doors. Can we by ourselves provide it? These are the questions that we must ask ourselves. What resources do we command? What type of markets do we offer?

Yesterday, I visited a factory in Vieux Fort. There were 180 girls and 30 boys working there. The production of that factory in one week can clothe all St. Lucia because

our market is so small. They can provide enough shirts to give each of us one. 150,000 shirts they can provide in a week. What markets do we have as an industrial base? When you are industrialising you must have some sort of a domestic market. We do not have it with 100,000 and 150,000.

We look at the question of agriculture and bananas, the cornerstone of our economy. Could we have successfully marketed our bananas without pooling our resources under the umbrella of WINBAN? WINBAN has endured because people get some benefits from it, because the whole institution has been put in legislative form, all of us have common laws to guide the marketing, research etc. of our bananas.

We look at tourism. Although we can speak of small being beautiful; small can also be monotonous. People don't come to a small island year after year. Very few of them repeat, because after they have seen the limbo dance, the fire eating and the crab race, what else is there? But if we can offer them the beaches of Antigua, the nature walks of Dominica, the history and the beauty of St. Lucia; if we can offer them sailing in the Grenadines coming in on one ticket, with one entry, it's going to be a different story for tourism. We can only do these things if we institutionalise the gains that we have made.

You go for a 20 minute ride from St. Lucia to St. Vincent and you have the forms, the immigration forms, the customs formalities, the bureaucratic delays etc. when you're on a holiday.

When we're speaking about our development, there are three things that we've got: we look for agricultural development, industrial development and tourism development. Can we do these things alone or do we have to cooperate? And if we are cooperating, do we do it on a personalised basis or have we got to institutionalise that sort of cooperation?

We have to examine the difference it would make if we can offer a manufacturer not our small market, but the whole 500,000 of the OECS, the difference it will make to our tourist development when we are talking about negotiating air routes and air rights.

This winter we will be having problems with airline seats out of Europe because British Airways permits only one flight by BWIA out of St. Lucia. But we have in the OECS four international points of entry. We have St. Kitts, Antigua, St. Lucia and Grenada, yet we have to go on our knees to try to get an extra flight into London. You see the negative effect that has on our tourism.

British Airways has 10 flights into the Caribbean, we've got two into London. So we pay the price for our disunity and this price is stagnation in our tourist industry, lack of opportunities for our people, unemployment etc. This is not the way, as I see it, that the promise which was given at independence can be fulfilled.

While we continue to hesitate, others are forging ahead. The world is not going in little pieces now; it's going in big blocks. You have the EEC and you have COMECON, the western nations have theirs, the eastern nations have theirs, big blocks getting together. You have the ASEAN countries, people getting together because of the economic difficulties that the 20th and 21st centuries pose.

By 1992, all the barriers to travel and commerce in the European Economic Community will come tumbling down. There'll be one passport. You enter into any one of the EEC countries with one passport, one nationality, no customs barriers for 250 million people. We are here with 550,000 in the OECS, a population not big enough for a small village in England and America. Yet we have seven governments, with seven Prime Ministers, and seven Governor Generals, 70 Ministers etc. We spend 500 million dollars on administration, then we go to these very people and ask them to give us aid to develop our countries. What aid do we ask for? Basic things like to repair the streets, to give rural water supply, to see a High Commissioner and an Ambassador making a big speech to give a few books to the Library, and we speak of ourselves as independent nations wanting to influence things that happen in the outside world.

By 1992 there will be free circulation of all goods including our bananas. We market our bananas under a protective system. Suppose we lose the protective market how can we defend it? What can we do individually? Collectively we have some clout because we have a market. We can offer them a market for 550,000 in return for their market for our bananas. But can we talk about offering them a market for 100,000 people? We are not serious.

All of these questions will come crowding upon us and 1992 is not very far.

In the part of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution I read we spoke of domestic tranquility. How can you have domestic tranquility? You have it because of a satisfied people. People must know that you are providing for the general welfare. And that's why the American constitution was so carefully crafted. How can you have domestic tranquility if you have 15 and 20 percent unemployed? One of these days they would rise up and disturb your domestic tranquility. You have domestic tranquility because you provide for the general welfare and how can we provide for the general welfare without pooling the resources we have. There is a limit to what we can do in islands as small as ours. We must develop by pooling our resources, pooling our talents. If we don't have the domestic tranquility we cannot have investment. We need outside investment, and this is not coming unless you have domestic tranquility.

[3 Oct 87 pp 6, 11]

[Text] The danger we face is that without political unity we can become pawns on the international chessboard. People can come and use us. We saw what happened between 1979 and 1983 when we nearly got ourselves engulfed in the east-west conflict. This Caribbean has always been a zone of peace; but the guns were firing because we became pawns on the international chessboard, because the domestic tranquility in Grenada was disturbed for the reason that there was no attention to general welfare. So you got yourself all mixed up in the east-west conflict.

Unless these islands have some stability we will be just like leaves trembling in the international breeze; every time the wind blows, you would see us trembling. We have looked at this over the years, in fact since about 1984, the governments have been examining these problems, because we know each other. As I said the chemistry is good, we work well together, so after talking through the night sometimes, we've come to the conclusion that in the international environment, these mini states, unless they unite, will have a short time to live and will be full of misery.

So while promoting this initiative, the OECS Governments are anxious to ensure the fullest participation of the people and that the Union should not be seen as an imposition by the political leadership of the various countries. But at the same time, leaders are there to lead to take the initiative and we should never forget that governments are elected by the people and they are elected because the people want them to guide and lead, and taking of an initiative on a fundamental issue as a political union is an initiative that should come from the governments. But this initiative, if it is to succeed, must involve all shades of opinion in explaining issues to the people and obtaining their reaction.

But it is unrealistic to expect that one sudden morning we will find that the people are up and saying that they are in favour of political unity. The initiative must come from the governments and the governments must be assisted in that initiative by persons who are opinion-formers in the community, because the governments elected, on the day of election have not been adorned with all the wisdom in the country. Not because they are elected, they suddenly become wise and all-powerful; they've got to seek the opinions and assistance of persons...

As to the procedure we're asking the question in two parts: first, if or whether we should proceed, and secondly, how. In discussing the question over the weeks, there's been a general assumption to proceed and people are asking not whether, but how we will proceed. There's a basic underlying assumption to proceed, and they're asking how.

Well, as I said the governments want to hear from the people; but there are a few specifics which are the sine qua non in any form of union. First, there must be a

common citizenship with all the rights and privileges that go with citizenship and that comes from the basic issue of freedom of movement. Without that there can be no union. There's no point of talking of a political union with one single government and citizens cannot move around their own country or work in their own country or live in their own country. The country will be yours and you have the right to live and work in any part of it.

This is the issue that invokes most of the fears. What do we fear? These islands are about the same level of development. Except for Montserrat we have about the same populations. Now why should all Dominicans rush to St. Lucia, all St. Lucians rush to Antigua. There's always been that fear. Everybody will come to your country. Everybody will come to St. Lucia. Why should everybody come to St. Lucia? You go to Dominica you hear the same thing: that all the St. Lucians will come to Dominica; you go to St. Vincent, (you hear) all the Grenadians will come.

We had the Petit St. Vincent Agreement; it lasted three years or more how many Grenadians came here? How many St. Lucians went there? They could have travelled freely.

We take the U.S. again as an example, where 250 million people travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific, over a vast land mass. In Canada, they speak about "from sea to shining sea," from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Look at the difference between them and look at Latin America to the South, look at Central America, warring factors going to war over football. Look at the difference in economic development, because the restriction to commerce and travel has been removed in the United States. Why do you think that the Europeans are removing restrictions to travel? It's because of the advantages of economic development it brings. The British could say all the Frenchmen will come to England, and the Frenchmen could say all the Germans are coming. These are people who have been to war four times in less than 100 years. Where are they today? The united Europe that was falling behind is now challenging the United States for primacy in economic development because two men were bold enough to start the iron and steel community; they were not afraid.

As Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Fear is the biggest enemy of man.

The second essential in any political union is that there must be a single head of State, the embodiment of the nation, a presidential system; a person who has to go in every nook and cranny and ask people to vote for him. So he must be known in Calliaqua in St. Vincent as he is known in the Mabouya Valley in Dennery, as he is known in Marigot in Roseau and at Marigot in St. Lucia. That is essential. It is not that one day the boys meet in a room and you hear that so and so is going to be

president, or we have a leadership crisis or power struggle etc. There must be a direct vote for the head of the nation. He must be elected by the people.

The third one, we must provide for a democratically elected Parliament with elections held at determined intervals and this must be enshrined in the constitution together with the protection of human rights and the rule of law. Not one morning we get up and we hear we have a one party state and there's going to be no elections etc. There must be elections at specified intervals for your parliament with democratic elections and an enshrined Bill of Rights. The abuses that brought about Grenada cannot occur, because they can but it must be enshrined there and protected by an independent judiciary.

And fourthly, if we are speaking about economic development, a government that will provide for the general welfare of the nation, there must be equal opportunities for the citizens for the movement of both goods and capital. There must be a free market. Shirts made in St. Lucia must be sold in St. Vincent. There is a situation here where the St. Vincent Government owns 12 1/2 percent of the shares in a boxing factory here; they get profits this year amounting to 250,000 dollars, yet we cannot sell a single box in St. Vincent because they have their own factory.

People are asking whether this form of Association will be a unitary state or a federal form of government. That is the subject of negotiation and we have people studying this question. We have some very eminent West Indians. The person we have asked to head this team is Dr. Alister McIntyre, a Grenadian, Willie Demas is working on it, as are Sonny Ramphal, Dundas who is in the Commonwealth Secretariat, Vaughn Lewis. The first thing that we have to decide is what form of government. The central government must have powers to carry out the functions it is charged with. Our first attempt at federation, the Federal Government had no powers; the politicians, the political leaders did not go to the federation, because politics and government is about the exercise of power. People stayed where the power was. Manley didn't leave Jamaica, neither did Eric Williams. So you sent your second eleven, and the leaders, anytime the federal government did something, they brushed it aside. The Federal Government had no teeth. You must have a government that has powers so your best people will go there to give service, otherwise they will stay home, and from this vantage point, they will erode and chip away at the structure of your central government and it will collapse.

We have to look at whether we will have a unified form of government or a federal structure. If you have a federal structure, you want a federal civil service in addition to the existing civil service and you have a burdensome bureaucracy again. The economic advantages you would have gained would be lost by servicing the government. So we have to look at what will be the

administrative cost and it is more costly than the one we have now, what is the justification because we spoke of the justification being one of economies.

So we look at whether it is federation or unitary state. Sometimes it is just a matter of description. What is Britain? Britain is a unitary state with one Prime Minister, one Head of State etc. etc., but there is Scotland with its own system of laws, of civil laws, a large amount of devolution of powers to Scotland. There's a Secretary of State for Scotland; there's Northern Ireland, there's a Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. There's also a Northern Ireland Parliament and yet it is a unitary state, not a federal system.

You have the case of Papua New Guinea, a unitary state with a great amount of devolution of power. These are things we have to sit down and examine; when we have the answers: yes, proceed, then we go ahead and examine these questions. But these questions must be answered in the course of time, but don't believe that when you write a constitution it is like the laws of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be changed. The American constitution has gone through 26 amendments. We don't expect that once we have formed the union, every nut and bolt will be in place from the inception and we will come up with a perfect document. This has to evolve. Once something is static and not a living thing it will die. The constitution must be a living thing. It must be changeable and changing to meet the circumstances as the world evolves. The important thing is for us to have the will to get up and take the first step because what we are going to create is not going to be a perfect animal but at least we will have taken the first step of creating a single, sovereign nation.

Some people are talking about undue haste, but we have been at this for 25 years. Every meeting of the governments that you go to, Ministers pledge their allegiance and undying loyalty to the concept of Caribbean unity, but this was all talk and rhetoric. Now it has taken a few courageous political leaders who have placed the question squarely on the political agenda of the Caribbean.

I believe the climate is right. Tomorrow changes in political leadership can set us back and when they set us back now, they set us back for another 25 years. If this thing goes flat now, there's no reviving it for another 25 years. If people say no now, it means it will take another generation to revive it.

As I see it the tide of regional unity is now at a flood and we must take the current while it serves.

If we wait to satisfy those we call the "yes-butters." Those who say, "Okay, but not now," we will never take the bold step, because there will always be the doubters among us. But let us proceed with those who are willing. The U.S. started off with 13 colonies, but it was not 13 colonies which went into the federation. It was 12,

Rhode Island stayed out for four years before they joined the union. And after that country after country, State after State came into the union, Hawaii being the last, making it 50.

The founding fathers didn't think because Rhode Island was not in, they would not make a start. In the Canadian Federation, Newfoundland stayed out until 1948, from 1867 to 1948 and remained as a colony of Great Britain. In 1948 by referendum, Newfoundland came in and joined the Dominion of Canada.

So what is happening now with some doubters should not impede those who want to go ahead because there will always be the doubters, the "yes-butters," always be the "not nowers."

Let us begin this long journey into meaningful nationhood by taking the first step.

We have proposed advisory committees in all the islands and I hope that the talents of the Guild of Graduates will be available for this purpose. This is the greatest challenge that you will meet in your lifetime, and I hope you will accept it, and with us who are bold and brave move to the dawn of a brighter day for a truly independent Caribbean where nationhood will have meaning. Let us begin and let the OECS lead the way.

#### Hunte Criticism

32980061a Bridgetown CANA in English  
1646 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Castries, Oct 26—Leader of the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Julian Hunte on Sunday hit out at the governments of St Lucia, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, saying they were far from serious about plans for a political union.

Addressing the annual SLP convention, Hunte said the three governments had done nothing to convince Eastern Caribbean people they were serious about the unity initiative, and had done everything to show they were not committed to make it work.

He accused the governments of using the unity issue as a smokescreen for their shortcomings in dealing with the serious economic problems related to unemployment, education, and health which the islands face.

To this day, despite the many urgings of this party and those of the other sister states in the sub-region for more details on their plans for OECS unity, no responses have been forthcoming, Hunte said. They cannot provide the details, because they have none. For had this not been a smokescreen, they would have taken time out to at least develop what it is they are proposing.

The unity initiative involves most members of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Hunte, who is also the chairman of the Standing Committee of Opposition Parties of the Eastern Caribbean (SCOPE), referred to recent statements by Dominica and St Vincent that they were interested in making their own arrangements for travel because of their dissatisfaction with the services of LIAT, the regional airline.

He also mentioned plans by Dominica to set up a carton-manufacturing plant, which will compete with existing operations in St Lucia and St Vincent.

While they talk about OECS unity, they are hard at work trying to destroy the little integration with presently exists. They are both out to destroy LIAT and Dominica is now trying to emulate St Vincent by establishing their own box-manufacturing plant in competition with St Lucia.

Winera (the plant in St Lucia) is a company owned by the Windward Islands governments and Venezuela—that includes Dominica and St Vincent. This is a very serious issue, and the St Lucia Labour Party must be prepared to fight it with all the might we can muster, he declared.

Hunte said if Dominica succeeds with its present objective, neither of the boxing plants will be viable, but if any is to prosper it will be Dominica's.

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#### **SLP Leader Hunte Reports on 9-Day Visit to Cuba**

##### **Visit Reported**

*32980061b Castries CRUSADER in English  
26 Sep 87 p 1*

[Text] The Leader of the Opposition Hon. Julian Hunte left St. Lucia yesterday on a visit to Cuba. He was accompanied by S.L.P. stalwarts Tyrone Maynard and Lawrence "Seton" Poyotte.

The visit follows a trip made to Trinidad in August on the invasion of the Oilfield and General Workers Union (OWTU) during which Party Leader Hunte felt that he had taken a wrong line on the Grenada Invasion and had indicated his new thinking in a speech to the OECS Opposition Leaders meeting when he criticised the invasion of Grenada for the first time.

During the April Election campaign Mr. Hunte adopted a strong pro-US line and the speakers on the SLP platform made strong Anti-Communist statements. Mr. Thomas Walcott the Party Chairman went as far as attacking the P.L.P. for sending young men to Communist Cuba.

Mr. Hunte's Cuban visit in the company of Messrs Maynard and Poyotte suggests that the W.R.M. element of the S.L.P. has taken the ascendancy in the Party and is steering the Party Leader along a more socialist orientation.

##### **More on Visit**

*32980061b Castries CRUSADER in English  
10 Oct 87 p 2*

[Text] Leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party, Julian R. Hunte returned here over the weekend at the head of a three man delegation which paid a one week's visit to Cuba.

The visit, from September 24 to October 2, was a familiarisation trip, during which the S.L.P. delegation met with leaders of various disciplines and made calls at a number of institutions, including hospitals, schools, factories and medical centres.

While in Cuba, the SLP leader also had a meeting with the St. Lucian students pursuing academic studies at the University of Havana.

On his return here, Mr. Hunte said it was a very fruitful and refreshing visit. "The experience has shown that Cuba is a unique experience, which cannot be compared with the English speaking Caribbean", he said.

Mr. Hunte said the visit came in the midst of several planned trips to enhance the SLP's international relations in the region and beyond. He has already been to the U.K., St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jamaica, and before year-end, will visit Guyana, Argentina, Canada and the United States.

The trips are being made by Mr. Hunte in keeping with his responsibility as spokesman on Foreign Affairs within the leadership of the SLP.

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**Opposition Leader Beache Addresses SVLP Convention**

32980062b Kingstown *THE VINCENTIAN in English*  
25 Sep 87 p 1

[Article by Maralyn Ballantyne]

[Text]

**OECS Political Union**

Opposition Leader Vincent Beache has commended Prime Minister James Mitchell on putting forward the idea of OECS political union, but feels that Mitchell's modus operandi smacks of dictatorship. Mr Beache was speaking at the annual convention of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party. He also called on Mitchell to retract his "infamous" 1980 Declaration which laid out why Mitchell wanted the Grenadines separated from St. Vincent.

"How can we be assured of his sincerity for political union when on one hand he is seeking union and on the other hand he is fragmenting," Beache said.

"We demand that Mitchell retract the 1980 Declaration if he is serious about bringing the OECS together," declared the Opposition Leader. He termed the declaration as "seditious." Beache accused Mitchell of not wanting genuine dialogue and serious consultation.

Mr Beache said that Mitchell's idea of OECS political union was to marginalize the opposition in the OECS, and therefore "we say 'no' to unity, at any cost."

He likened the Mitchell type unity move to "being asked to get married but now knowing what woman or man, what church, or what time."

**Committee To Study Policies**

Mr Beache told the Convention that SVLP has set up a committee to conduct a very detailed study and make recommendations on policy matters relating to social security, education, agriculture and fisheries, and the regional security system (RSS). He said that SVLP had already explained their policy on those areas at their 1986 Convention.

Mr Beache said that the policies of the Mitchell government are creating economic graveyards in St. Vincent especially in northern St. Vincent where the sugar factory was closed down when the Prime Minister came to power. "Mitchell has dismantled the carefully tuned policies of the Labour Party," added Beache.

**Poor Health Services**

Beache said that "Mitchell treats St. Vincent and the Grenadines like the Fantasy Island in the popular TV series by that name...Campbell in white suit and all,"

while the reality of poor social services cause the "untimely demise of many of our brothers and sisters, a situation over which Health Minister Jack happily presides."

"In typical fantasy style, Mitchell boasts of the surplus" (on the accounts), in the face of a criminal shortage of nurses, doctors and inadequate surgical supplies and facilities, Beache said.

**Tribute to Hudson Tannis**

In a short tribute to party leader Hudson Kemuel Tannis, Beache said Mr Tannis not only gave his life but his soul as well for the Vincentian people whom he so dearly loved.

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**Report on De Freitas' Attendance at CBI Symposium**

32980062a Kingstown *THE VINCENTIAN in English*  
25 Sep 87 p 1

[Article by Patricia John]

[Text] The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is attempting to turn over a new leaf after reasons for their shortcomings had been assessed at the Congressional Study Mission and Symposium on the CBI held recently.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Marcus De Freitas, attended the Symposium. He explained to the media on Wednesday morning where the CBI felt they had gone wrong and some of the proposals put forward. He claimed that the Symposium was needed "in order to breathe new life into the Caribbean Basin Initiative."

One of the main reasons cited by the Minister at the Symposium for the CBI's failure to realize their major objectives was that it had not sufficiently consulted with the Caribbean and so could not fully understand the needs of the region. Mr. De Freitas also mentioned the fact that the CBI had not been properly promoted in the United States and that many people are still unaware of what its purpose is.

Constraints in the United States and in the Caribbean which existed in 1983, are still evident today showing how little progress has been made. For the U.S. these include failure to give tax incentives to U.S. businesses to encourage them to invest in the Caribbean. Caribbean constraints included a shortage of technical support staff in the Public Sector.

Mr. De Freitas made a special case for the Eastern Caribbean States. He proposed a special regime for the production of garments and of leather goods to be established to bring trade to the smaller islands. He said,

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“manufacturing these items in the Eastern Caribbean cannot pose any serious threat to the US based industries and would not even be noticed by US manufacturers.”

Mr. De Freitas' proposals were well received by the CBI. He said that he hoped his efforts will help the process of co-operation and understanding between the U.S.A. and the Caribbean.

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**NAR Executive, Cabinet Meet To Study Systems, Policies**

32980071d Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
in English 28 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Cabinet and the national executive of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) will begin a series of meetings today at the party's Albion Street, Port-of-Spain, headquarters.

A party source explained yesterday:

"It is anticipated that the party will gain some insight into the operations of government, and the Cabinet will get a better appreciation of the party's views on a number of urgent and important national matters."

Today's meeting, from 6 p.m., will be chaired by National Security Minister Herbert Atwell, in his capacity as chairman of NAR.

The source declined to say if the sessions were prompted following the recent meeting of the party's national council, at which officials criticised the "insensitivity" of certain government ministers and called on Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to take corrective measures.

**Own Distinct Identity**

The official added:

"We all seem to know where pre-Carnival shows should be held, where a school should be built, which police station needs painting and so on.

"We are going to iron out these issues in the context of the party having its own identity as distinct from the Government—even though we all subscribe to our manifesto pledges."

Today's meeting also will lay the groundwork for future regular dialogue between both sides.

Another important NAR meeting takes place tomorrow at Albion Street when its parliamentary arm meets in caucus. Chairing this session will be acting Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. It starts 7.30 p.m.

Among matters to be tackled is the agenda for the next parliamentary sitting which is expected to resume sometime within the next two weeks.

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**Constituency Revisions Aimed at Boosting ULF Fortunes**

32980071e Curepe THE BOMB in English  
9 Oct 87 p 19

[Text] A move is on the drawing board to have the 36 electoral constituencies re-arranged so that at least four constituencies could be effectively subtracted from the East/West corridor, and substituted in a wide spread across the counties of Caroni, Victoria and to a lesser extent, Nariva.

In fact the whole idea behind this move, seemingly, is to give the United Labour Front-based section of the National Alliance for Reconstruction a stronger base-hold among its present indigenous constituencies, and place it in a much stronger position in the NAR government than presently obtains.

BOMB learnt that in order to pursue this objective, a 'select' committee of the ULF-based section of the ruling party has been set up to go into the whole question of the distribution of constituencies.

A Junior Minister is heading this committee, which has long charged that the constituencies were gerrymandered by the then ruling People's National Movement to suit itself, and effectively stave off any threat to its alleged supremacy in the East/West corridor.

*The committee also claims that the number of electors on the voters list has been grossly exaggerated, especially along the said corridor, in order that the PNM could have allocated more seats there, since it traditionally had a strong following between Diego Martin and Arima.*

But the results of the December 15 general elections have changed all that, and since the NAR swept through the entire country, including the E/W corridor, the ULF faction of the 'party of parties' wants to ensure that it has its fair share in the electoral distribution.

The committee contends that the electoral list is exaggerated by about 200,000 "ghost voters" of which at least 100,000 are in the E/W corridor. It further contends that Tobago should only have one seat and not two, since that was a proposition by the PNM for the PNM, but which backfired in 1976 when ANR Robinson and Dr. Davidson won them for the Democratic Action Congress.

In the present distribution of seats, there are 16 in the East/West corridor, two in Tobago and 18 in the rest of Trinidad.

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## Policewoman's Death Sparks Stories About 'Elite Squad'

### Coverup Charge

32980071a *Curepe THE BOMB in English*  
9 Oct 87 pp 1, 28

[Text] For the second time this year the BOMB accuses Police Commissioner Louis Jim Rodriguez of covering up a murder of one of his juniors—right under his nose.

Last February, PC Philip Savary was murdered by a colleague while on a coke raid down the islands.

His body has not been seen since.

And last week Friday, another young and bright cop, WPC Bernadette James, was shot at point-blank range by a colleague.

She died on the spot.

The bullet had blown a big hole in her chest.

Bernadette, mother of a boy aged seven and a girl, five, was murdered in the presence of PC Jim 'Crow' Rodriguez, Security Minister Herbert Atwell and the Deputy Police Commissioners.

Because of the cold terror of the Rodriguez administration and the fear of elimination by a gun-toting colleague, a very close police pal of Bernadette's spoke to the BOMB on the events leading up to her killing.

"Bernadette was executed around 9 a.m., on Friday October 2, while participating in an anti-terrorist exercise on the Tucker Valley Shooting Range.

"She was shot at point-blank range with what appeared to be a Browning .45.

"She died on the spot, but her muscles were still in spasms when she reached the hospital.

"Bernadette was a member of the secret anti-terrorist police squad—MOPS.

"MOPS never carried out an exercise with live ammunition, but that morning it appeared that someone in authority slipped a live round into the magazine of the man who was supposed to fire a blank shell at Bernadette."

Last Monday, Jim 'Crow' Rodriguez issued a Press release via the Division of Information in Whitehall which gave a brief account on how he condoled with the James' family on the killing.

Rodriguez neglected to tell the family and the country how the murder took place under his big eyes.

She confided that "I have seen something that I shouldn't have seen. I can't talk. If I have to die, I prefer to die like a good cop than to talk."

Bernadette was a true and dedicated cop and never divulged what she saw that disturbed her so much.

She was known to be almost broke and out of pocket, but again that Thursday, Bernadette had loads of cash.

Did someone pay her off for keeping her mouth and eyes closed?

Bernadette's police friend could not tell.

Shortly after the shooting, the 20 officers in the exercise were summoned by Rodriguez and swore they will never divulge to the public what happened, the police source said.

A BOMB investigative squad assigned to the 'police execution' found that MOPS is a top secret, political unit within the Police Service.

It was created by ex-Commissioner Randolph Burroughs and was part of the Tactical Squad.

When the Tactical Squad was disbanded, the MOPS was reformed under the Task Force.

The aim of MOPS under the former corrupt regime was to protect the Cabinet ministers should anything like the 1970 uprising recur.

Bernadette was recruited for the Guard and Mounted Branch but never spent a day there.

### Details From Inquest

32980071a *Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN*  
*in English 28 Oct 87 p 3*

[Article by Francis Joseph: "Witness: WPC James Was a Member of Elite Police Unit"]

[Text] Police Superintendent Gregory Mendes revealed to Coroner Meville Baird yesterday that WPC Bernadette James was a member of the elite Multi-Optional Police Section (MOPS) in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, which sometimes trains with "live" ammunition.

Testifying on the second day at the inquest into the death of WPC James which occurred on October 2, Supt Mendes said that this elite squad was headed by Deputy Commissioner Lance Selman, who was absent when WPC James was fatally shot at Covigne Road, Chaguaramas.

Mendes said the members of MOPS were part of an ongoing team. "Administratively, I am head of the unit. As I am on study leave, acting Supt Reginald Taylor is my assistant."

### Serious Exercise

Questioned by Mrs Patricia Roberts, who is seeking the interest of the deceased's family, about the size of the elite squad, the witness said he was not prepared to answer the question because of security reasons.

Mendes admitted that Commissioner of Police Louis Rodriguez and two deputy Commissioners were present when WPC James was shot. He said members of MOPS were assigned Browning pistols, Uzi's and M-16 rifles.

Mendes admitted that on October 2, there were to be four exercises in Chaguaramas—one at Covigne Road, another at the Tucker Valley shooting range, and two others at a location which the witness did not disclose.

While blanks were to be used at Covigne Road site, Mendes said live rounds were to be used at the shooting range. "The other two exercises, live and blank ammunition were to be used. The handing out of bullets is a very serious exercise. They are normally issued hand-to-hand."

Mendes said it was very likely that the live bullets could have been given for the Tucker Valley exercise, before the start of the Covigne Road exercise.

"But the men on the Covigne Road exercise were not part of the Tucker Valley exercise, as far as I can recall. Some of the men who were on the 'live' ammunition exercise, were also supposed to be on the 'blank' ammunition exercise."

The witness said these exercises did not come off. He said the officers at Covigne Road would not have been issued with live ammunition. He said they would have been using blanks in Smith and Wesson nine millimetre semi-automatic pistols.

### Splinters in Leg

During the questioning, Supt Mendes said he presumed that WPC James was sitting alone in the police 'bus. But he said he would not be surprised if WPC Holloway was seated next to her.

He said WPC Holloway complained of feeling a burning on her leg, and on checking, she discovered splinters of glass in her leg. She was despatched for medical attention.

Further, Supt Mendes said that PC Gregory Pierre did not surrender his firearm to him before he left with WPC James for the hospital. He may have given the firearm to Sgt Maxima en route, or at the hospital.

In response to attorney Roy Holford, who is looking after the interest of PC Pierre, Supt Mendes said Pierre drove his jeep to block the 'bus, alighted, went into action, and fired upon the 'bus.

### Armed Escort

Supt Mendes also revealed that some members of MOPS were hiding in the bushes armed with rifles with blank ammunition. He said he could not be specific if they were armed with live ammunition that day.

The witness told the Coroner that it was necessary that the convoy leaving the St James Barracks to Chaguaramas be escorted by armed personnel. He said that was necessary to protect the arms, ammunition, equipment and personnel.

He disclosed that the armed escort comprised members of MOPS who were on the exercise that day. Supt Mendes said he was considered the best shot in the Police Service, and was an instructor in weapon training.

He said he had been in charge of MOPS for the past four years. He said that during their exercises, MOPS used Korean and Israeli-type bullets.

Mendes said he had implicit confidence in PC Pierre, who had been a member of MOPS from its inception. Further hearing has been adjourned to November 9.

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### Minister's Warning of Social Unrest Sparks Dispute

#### Humphrey's Remarks

*32980071c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Oct 87 p 1*

[Article by Neil Parsanlal]

[Text] Works, Settlement and Infrastructure Minister John Humphrey yesterday called on colleagues Selby Wilson (acting Finance Minister) and Trevor Sudama (Minister in the Finance Ministry) to find the funds to implement an extensive development programme in 1988.

Humphrey warned that unless the programme receives financial backing of the Government, the result would be social unrest, which he saw as being "around the corner."

The Minister was speaking after presentation of a plan called "Settlements Thrust Development Perspective for 1988," entailing developmental works in areas such as Waller Field, Couva and San Fernando, and subsidiary areas like Bon Air, Malabar and D'Abadie along the East/West Corridor.

The plan was developed by a core group in the Works, Settlement and Infrastructure Ministry that was set up to "examine the perspectives for the future development of the Ministry in relation to its 1988 budget."

Presentation of the plan at the Financial Building, Eric Williams Plaza, Port-of-Spain, was attended by Sudama, Wilson, Attorney General Selwyn Richardson, Planning and Reconstruction Minister Winston Dookeran, Junior Minister in the Ministry of Works Carson Charles, and acting Prime Minister Basdeo Panday.

### Creation of Jobs

Taking part in the presentation was Chairman of the National Housing Authority, Ivan Laughlin, who said the development includes house construction but would also impact greatly on the creation of jobs, centred firstly around the construction of infrastructure.

It also will create economic opportunities by opening up new areas and setting new development tendencies significantly related to agricultural development.

Another beneficial aspect of this development, said Laughlin, will be the establishment of genuine community viability thereby creating opportunities for commercial, industrial and tourist development.

After the presentations, Sudama noted that while the projects would indeed bring great benefit to the country, the obvious lack of finance could prove to be the spanner in the works.

### Private Sector Money

He pointed out that the funding for so extensive a project will have to come from either savings on recurrent expenditure, local lending sources or external lending sources, but could not say whether or not his Ministry would be able to come up with significant funds.

To this Humphrey replied that the Finance Ministry was sitting on \$1 billion of private sector money which could be put to more practical use. He suggested also that the money spent on Government's various welfare projects be re-directed to provide funding for these projects which would prove even more beneficial in the long run.

He asked Sudama to look seriously at the way the Finance Ministry was managing the nation's resources and declared that there was need for new thinking in that Ministry, a cause for which, he said, he was prepared to continue his agitation.

Humphrey was also on the attack following a comment by Michael Paty of the recently established Projects Implementation Team, that the group would be looking at projects that showed potential for "bankability." Minister Wilson later apologised to Paty for the "Minister's outburst."

### Rebuke From Underling

32980071c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
in English 29 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Works and Settlement Minister John Humphrey was rebuked by his junior Minister yesterday for predicting social unrest as a result of the country's economic problems.

"I wish to, as the Minister in the Ministry, publicly dissociate myself from those remarks," said Joseph Toney.

"I feel that, at this point in time in the history of our country, senior Government Ministers should be making far more responsible statements on matters of national reconstruction," Toney said before opening a shipping seminar.

Humphrey was quoted as saying on Tuesday that unless the ten-month-old Government finds the funds from somewhere for 1988 development work the result would be social unrest.

The remarks were reportedly made at a meeting of Ministers and officials to hear new development plans for 1988.

### Outspoken Member

Humphrey denied having made the comments in the context he was quoted, stating that he foresaw social unrest by 1991 if unemployment stayed at its current levels.

Known as one of the more outspoken members of Cabinet, Humphrey told the technocrats and Ministers that there was a need to look at the way the nation's resources were managed—a cause he was prepared to continue agitating for.

Government this year failed to come up with its full borrowing programme, switching to more local borrowing to make up for a shortfall in its \$791.5 million foreign borrowing target.

Officials said the capital budget—for development programmes—had been the area most hard hit by the lack of funds.

### Humphrey on Economic Stimulation

32980071c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
in English 29 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Works, Settlement and Infrastructure Minister John Humphrey told the *Guardian* yesterday his Ministry was working on measures to stimulate economic activity in the country with a view to creating new jobs.

The Minister said this was the purpose behind the plan, Settlements Thrust Development Perspective for 1988, which was presented for public information at a meeting on Tuesday at Eric Williams Plaza, Port-of-Spain.

Speaking on the philosophy behind the plan and the efforts of his Ministry, Humphrey told the *Guardian* the objective was to combine the resources of his Ministry and the private sector to stimulate idle capacity so that the country would benefit through the creation of jobs, growing more food and building more houses.

### Constructive Approach

"All of these efforts are gaining ground," he added, emphasising the positive and constructive approach of his Ministry to the problem of unemployment.

Humphrey said he was aware of the urgency of the problem. The outlook appeared dismal as they had not been able to create a single new job.

He referred to statistics produced by the NAR which indicated that at the present rate of absorption of school leavers into the work force the country would be faced with an unemployment level of 50 percent within the next five years, a situation which could lead to social unrest.

### Cabinet, NAR Concerns

32980071c Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN  
in English 1 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] A special meeting of Cabinet will be held this week to consider statements made by Humphrey, Settlement and Infrastructure Minister, John Works, at the presentation of a plan called "Settlements Thrust Development Perspective for 1988," held last Tuesday.

The Cabinet meeting is to be chaired by Prime Minister ANR Robinson, who is due to return today from his business trip to North America.

### Great Concern

The special Cabinet meeting follows two meetings of the NAR Executive Council and the NAR Parliamentary Caucus on Wednesday and Thursday nights of last week, at which reports state great concern was expressed at what has been described as Humphrey's continuing indiscipline.

At the Tuesday Settlements Thrust meeting, Humphrey was reported to have got into several arguments with colleagues and with members of the private sector who were invited by Government to assist in project identification and implementation.

Humphrey, according to reports, made references to social unrest if certain things were not done. Minister in the Ministry of Finance Selby Wilson, apologised to those present for Humphrey's outbursts.

The following day Humphrey's Junior Works Minister Joseph Toney also publicly disassociated himself from Humphrey's remarks.

On Thursday night, at the party's parliamentary caucus meeting, Humphrey was roundly condemned over his statements about social unrest and for accusing a *Guardian* reporter of bias. As the parliamentary caucus was meeting inside, ordinary NAR members were outside also expressing their concern.

Humphrey was not present at the time, but he was present on Wednesday night when the executive meeting was held and his behaviour condemned.

### Senior Minister

Humphrey, the *Sunday Guardian* learnt, left in the middle of what one executive member described as a "thunder" session in which members criticised him for last week's outbursts.

Both meetings made recommendations for Cabinet to deal with the situation where a senior Cabinet minister was making statements not only on possible social unrest in the country, but where he also said that Government was sitting on \$1 billion of private sector money that could be put to more practical use.

The *Sunday Guardian* also learnt that at the Thursday night meeting, Parliamentary members said they could no longer tolerate Humphrey's attitude and what was termed his "irresponsible statements."

They said he was not prepared to accept criticism, and failed to appreciate the Government's limited money had to be divided to keep the work of all ministries going.

### Humphrey Elaboration

32980071c Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN  
in English 1 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Controversial Government Minister John Humphrey sought to clarify statements allegedly made by him last week at a Seminar on "Development Perspectives for 1988," organised [by] his Ministry of Works, Settlement and Infrastructure.

Mr Humphrey, in a letter to the *Sunday Guardian* yesterday said the statements attributed to him has put him "under severe pressure" from some of his colleagues.

"Let me quickly add," Mr Humphrey said, "that pressure is something to which I've grown accustomed in my long years of struggle for Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr Humphrey related: "After the Ministry's representatives had concluded their presentations, one of the members of the audience who is associated with PIP (Project Implementation Programme 1988) made the point that employment creation was not high on the list in their prioritising of projects. He pointed out that foreign exchange impact and bankability were the major criteria.

### Employment Creation

"Another member of the audience disagreed with the low priority given to employment creation and noted that unless employment was priority number one for the country, there would be 'social instability.'

"He further pointed out that with social instability, the tourism thrust and foreign investment initiatives of the Government would be seriously undermined."

It was at this stage Mr Humphrey said he intervened, "and supported the statement that unless we find urgent solutions to the employment crisis there would be social unrest. Note carefully I was not the one to introduce social unrest.

"I want to restate my basic position with respect to unemployment. It is the nation's most pressing social problem, and in my opinion, the Government of which I am a part, must treat, and has been treating employment generation as a number one priority.

"It is also my firm conviction that unless measures are implemented urgently to expand economic activities and create jobs for the suffering unemployed, there will be social unrest."

### Development Programme

Stressing his statements were misrepresented, Mr Humphrey said it was suggested that he equated the non-release of funds from the Ministry of Finance for the development programme of the Ministry of Works, Settlement and Infrastructure with social unrest, as if to blackmail the Ministry of Finance.

"What I actually did was to appeal for the timely release of whatever would be allocated to enable the Ministry to get the show on the road.

"I pointed out that it had been indicated to me that once money was voted by Parliament for the Development Programme, an overdraft could be established to make the money available as needed to meet commitments. This could be established by issuing of Treasury Bills," Mr Humphrey said.

He went on: "I promised to continue to agitate for more effective management for the country's money resource, both the money of the State and the Private Sector.

"I showed that \$1 billion could be sourced for development through establishing a partnership between the State and the Commercial Banks in a New Development Bank funded with State welfare funds and a release from the Central Bank of part of the Statutory Reserve. This money could serve the dual purpose of sharing welfare while achieving development with proper management of the programmes by Government with Private Sector participation."

Mr Humphrey said the "so-called outburst" referred to "was an impassioned support for the NAR manifesto with Private Sector participation."

Mr Humphrey, in concluding said: "I am willing to concede that anyone who dares to be innovative and to propose revolutionary ideas for solving social and economic problems may be easily misunderstood by traditionalists and opposed by those who have a vested interest in maintaining that status quo."

### Opposition View

*32980071c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
in English 3 Nov 87 p 1*

[Text] Opposition parliamentarian Morris Marshall has supported Works Minister John Humphrey's statement last week that social unrest would result if unemployment stays at its present level.

Addressing the annual conference of the Diego Martin West constituency of the People's National Movement (PNM), Marshall, the MP for Port-of-Spain East, said Sunday he was neither advocating social unrest nor did he wish it, but he charged that despair, frustration and hopelessness were pervading the society.

The unemployment situation was now at crisis level, drug abuse was on the increase and secondary school-leavers were wondering where they would find jobs, he told a Four Roads Community Centre audience. Marshall added:

"Minister Humphrey is therefore quite correct in his analysis. Social unrest will take place. It is inevitable, unless certain fundamental things are done to ease the frustrations and economic problems that a large section of the national community is presently facing."

Marshall said the PNM was not giving the country the impression it was a serious and viable political alternative. He said his party needed strong and dynamic political leadership, and a management team.

### Viabile Alternative

Noting that the economic crisis was so severe that families were being sent into "receivership," Marshall confessed he was not totally satisfied with what has happened in the PNM since its December 15, 1986 defeat in the general election. He said.

"The party has moved too slowly to put its house in order to effect the necessary changes to give the country the impression that we are a serious and viable alternative.

"I submit with humility that there are a number of things that we can and must do.

"This new and dynamic management team will inject new ideas, new political thoughts, a new vision, a new thinking in the party and new inspiration among the party membership."

Warning members not to allow any clique or group to take over the PNM, Marshall said there was urgent need to review the Chaguaramas Declaration, one of the most important documents of the PNM, which ruled the country for 30 years until the December 15 polls.

### NAR Support

32980071c Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN  
in English 4 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Any attempt to muzzle or discipline Works Minister John Humphrey will have far-reaching consequences for the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

This is the warning from a group of NAR members calling itself "Nation on the Alert for Humphrey," the initials—NOAH—of which are the same as the organisation formed by Humphrey to coordinate disaster relief operations—Nation on Alert to Help. But are separate entities.

The warning from the other NOAH is the latest in the controversy sparked by Minister Humphrey's support of a statement made by a member of a Government-appointed body, that social unrest could result if the unemployment problem was not tackled quickly.

Humphrey's remark also caused consternation among his Cabinet colleagues.

In the statement issued yesterday, the NAR Government also was warned to stop being "so PNM" and that it must be realised that turmoil goes hand in hand with change.

### Long-Term Consequences

The pro-Humphrey group contended that Humphrey is one of the hardest working people in the country, his Ministry is the biggest and there is no question that he has motivated the people in the various departments and authorities to produce. The statement said:

"Just examine the streamlining of the port in the last few months as an example. Any attempt to muzzle or discipline Humphrey will have far-reaching consequences for the NAR and the Government, and those who conspire had better think carefully about the long-term consequences of their actions.

"If the recalcitrants in the NAR do not stop their attempts to undermine Humphrey, the rank and file of the party will react, and the reaction may not be pleasant. In fact the grassroots of this country will rally to his cause.

"We must remember that a recent survey showed that Humphrey was chosen as the most popular minister, and just as important, as the minister who was showing most results."

NOAH described as despicable what it called the use of the Press by those with connections.

### Not Attacking PM

It said that "Humphrey has stated many times that he is not attacking the Prime Minister. He is attacking the system controlling the nation's finances which will not let him get on with the job.

"At the crux of all this lies one simple fact: Humphrey is a visionary in this land of myopia, and history has proven that all visionaries face fire sooner or later by those who fight change. Humphrey is outspoken, and the NAR had better learn to live with this fact, because in or out of the party he will continue to be outspoken for the people of this land."

NOAH also warned it would do well for his detractors to have a look at what is going on in the rest of the world: Gorbachev is under fire in the Kremlin by one of his friends for not acting quickly enough. Deng Xiaoping has just resigned in China, and taken the old guard with him.

In Antigua, Prime Minister Bird is under pressure to fire his son. The United States Senate has rejected Reagan's nomination of Judge Bork to the Supreme Court.

The statement concluded:

"The NAR must realise that turmoil exists in other countries too. Turmoil goes hand in hand with change. The NAR must stop being so PNM and remember that open government was one of its promises to the country."

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**Sugar Workers Union Accuses Police of Beating Members**

*32980071b Bridgetown CANA in English  
1801 GMT 2 Nov 87*

[Text] Port of Spain, Nov 2—Trinidad and Tobago's militant sugar workers union today called for an investigation into a weekend incident in which the organisation said one man was arrested and others beaten when plain clothes police officers entered its headquarters.

General Secretary of the All Trinidad Sugar and General-Workers Union (ATSGWTU) Sam Maharaj said the four policemen attacked the union's security guard after being told there was no parking space.

ATSGWTU officials said the incident allegedly took place Friday night towards the end of a cultural show at the union's central Trinidad complex. They said the officers arrived at the complex in the heart of Trinidad's sugar belt and, unable to get parking space, began to beat 31-year-old Simon Williams, who was later arrested in the presence of show patrons.

Maharaj described the attack as unprovoked and said persons who tried to intervene in the dispute were also struck.

Parliamentary representative for the Chaguanas area, Planning Minister Winston Dookeran, said here Monday he would be looking into the allegations.

The ATSGWTU is the power base of External Affairs Minister Basdeo Panday, who took leave as union president general after December 1986 general elections.

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**Rival Factions Vie for Leadership of Union**

*32980063 Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS  
in English 28 Oct 87 p 5*

[Text] Two rival factions within the Transport and Industrial Workers' Union (TIWU) are in the fight to fill executive positions at the union's elections due next month.

The "Progressives" team, led by outgoing chief grievance officer, Albert Aberdeen, is expected to face a stiff challenge from the "United Progressives" headed by former TIWU president and veteran trade unionist Clive Nunez. Both Nunez and Aberdeen have been nominated for the post of president together with Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) bus driver, Solomon Phillip.

Aberdeen, 35, has been with the union since 1970 and has held a high profile in union affairs since the departure of Nunez from the leadership of the union, amidst a spate of internal disputes, two years ago.

Nunez, a former candidate alongside Aberdeen in the "Progressives" camp, has been active in a number of interest groups and was arrested and charged recently during protest demonstrations organised by the Jamaat al Muslimeen.

With the vacating of the post of president, first vice-president Desmond Bishop acted in the position. However, for the elections, Bishop will face the polls as the "Progressives" candidate for general secretary.

Last Monday, Nunez summoned all "United Progressives" candidates to a briefing session held at the union's Laventille headquarters. Aberdeen has also organised a number of activities prior to the elections while Phillip is yet to declare his platform.

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