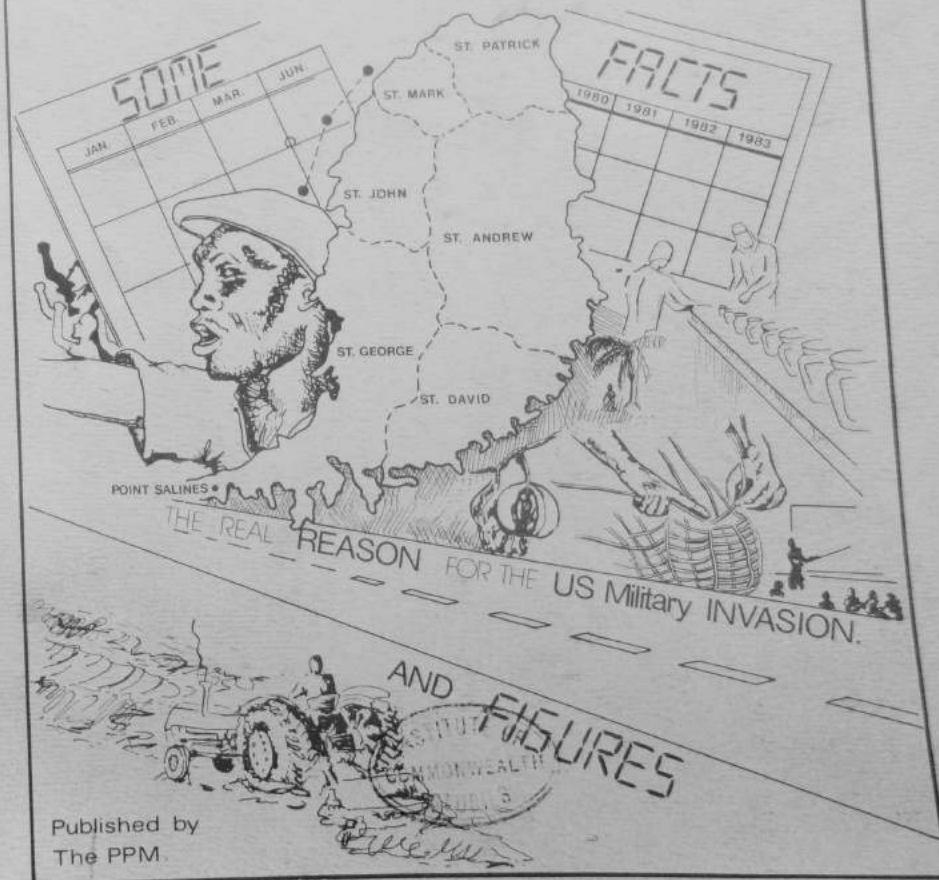


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GRENADA

UNDER THE **P.R.G.**





29 MAR 1985
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PREFACE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Aberdeen, at twenty-seven (27) is one of the most active political activists in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. As a political bureau member of the Peoples' Popular Movement and its International Secretary he is widely known in the Caribbean Region and elsewhere. A Queens' Royal College graduate and a holder of a diploma in Quantity Surveying, he has been consistently identified with progressive thought and action and in his short life span has been a social, community and political activist in a number of organisations including the Committee Against US Aggression (CAUSA), the United Labour Front (ULF), The Trinidad and Tobago Cuba Friendship Association and a number of others.

Michael Aberdeen from the inception of the Grenada Revolution in 1979 had been very close to the development of the revolutionary process in that island before its defeat, working in Grenada for brief periods with both the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as the Ministry of Housing. He paid frequent visits to the island during the revolutionary period attending conferences and doing his duty in defending the 'revo'. Prior to the defeat, a document entitled "What is Going on in Grenada Today" was being prepared for publication. Now the document has been updated and gives a detailed and necessary account of the great and important achievements of the Grenada Revolution 1979-1983.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

NEW CONSTITUTION:
LAW and ORDER
THE COURTS
PREVENTIVE DETENTION
ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/POLITICAL &
CULTURAL RIGHTS

OVERALL ECONOMY:
MIXED ECONOMY
PRIVATE SECTOR
CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR
STATE SECTOR: (i) Construction
(ii) Commerce (iii) Industry
(iv) Agriculture (v) Agro. Industries
(vi) Fisheries

FOREIGN TRADE

MARKETING & NATIONAL
IMPORTING BOARD:
Imports
Exports

GRENCRAFT

BANKING

TOURISM

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Grenada Electricity Commission (Grenlec)
Grenada Telephone Co. (Grentel)
Central Water Commission (CWC)
National Transport Service (NTS)
Radio Television

CARRIACOU and PETIT MARTINIQUE

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & THE
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

HEALTH

EDUCATION:

National Fisheries School
Agricultural Training Centre
The Mirabeau Farm School
Grenada Technical & Vocational Institute
Management Training
Training of Policemen
NISTEP

HOUSING

STANDARD OF LIVING

DEMOCRACY & PARTICIPATION:

Workers Parish Council
Youth General Meetings
Women's Parish Councils
Farmer's Zonal Council
National Consultations

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL MOBILISATION

MEASURES CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEMOCRATISATION OF NATIONAL LIFE

In Education, Culture & Sports
In Health & Social Services
In Public Administration
In the Economy
In Carriacou & Petit Martinique

SUMMARY

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES.

INTRODUCTION:

ON March 13th, 1979 the 29 year old Government of Eric Matthew Gairy was overthrown by a popular revolution of Grenadian Citizens under the leadership of the New Jewel Movement (NJM).

March 13th had its roots in the 1951 anti-colonial struggles of the Grenadian working masses, out of which Gairy emerged as the leading spokesman of the interests of the poor interests, which he decisively compromised thus reaping by the early 1979's, broad popular opposition.

Massive unemployment (49% of the workforce, 70% unemployment among women) decreasing educational opportunities, sexual exploitation of women, secret police brutality, murders and disappearances, profiteering by monopolists and widespread corruption made life intolerable for the masses of people (Grenada).

The formation of the NJM on May 11th, 1973 as a result of a merger of progressive organisations, coincided with the growing resistance of the people. From its inception, the NJM under the leadership of Maurice Bishop proved itself to be a party of a new type: consistently defending the rights of the people, patiently explaining the new vision of the new society, utilising all available means and forms to advance the struggle.

Standing firm throughout the long; dark period of terror unleashed by Gairy; having exhausted all forms of legal opposition; prevented from gaining state power by Gairy's electoral coup of 1976; faced with a situation of growing repression, the NJM moved decisively and the people responded positively.

The primary objectives of the Revolution were to check and redress the gross violations of human rights and abuses of democracy which were committed by Gairy under the disguise of constitutional government. These objectives were summarised in the First Address to the Nation on Radio Free Grenada on March 13th, 1979, delivered by Maurice Bishop in which he said,

"This revolution is for work, for food, for decent housing and health services and for a bright future for our children and great grandchildren. The benefit of the revolution will be given to everyone regardless of political opinion or which political party they support".

Ever since the March 13th, 1979 overthrow, the Gairy regime, the Grenadian Revolution had been constantly battling with various forms of attacks engendered mainly by the United States Government and perpetuated mainly by the regional media particularly, the Jamaican Gleaner and the Express and Guardian of Trinidad and Tobago.

The attacks on the Grenadian process had always taken the form of distorted propaganda on what was genuinely taking place in Grenada. International economic pressure, physical and material support for counter-revolutionary elements (June 19th, 1980 Bomb blast), and now the subsequent invasion by US forces, all of these attacks had been premised on the allegation that what existed in Grenada between 1979 - '83 was total suppression of fundamental human rights by the Peoples Revolutionary Government of Grenada (PRG).

There is, however, much debate on what constitutes human rights. Everyone agrees that the guaranteeing of human rights is of fundamental importance. All member states of Caricom affirm their people's freedom to exercise their human rights within the framework of existing laws. This common commitment to guaranteeing the peoples' exercise of human rights is however given concrete expression in ways which delineate the two poles of the current debates.

One of these poles places pre-eminent emphasis on the civil political rights of the individual on the basis that protection of individuals' rights ensures protection of the society's rights. The other pole emphasises the equal, if not pre-eminent, necessity of ensuring the exercise of peoples' economic, social and cultural rights as the basis upon which the full exercise of civil and political rights must be founded.

The Peoples Popular Movement (PPM) shared the view with the PRG in not perceiving the concept of human rights as embracing only the fundamental rights and freedoms which were inserted in most, if not all, of the Constitutions which were prepared by the British Government and handed over to its former Caribbean and African colonies, on the attainment of their independence; but instead, we are of the view that while there must be firm commitment to the preservation and enforcement of these civil and political rights, the economic, social and cultural rights are of equal importance.

Both within and beyond the Caribbean Region, we have all been bombarded and subjected to continuous and mounting allegations of continued human rights abuse in Grenada under the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG). The facts and figures presented in this document covering the period 1979 - 1982, provides one with the opportunity to make at least an initial judgement that these deliberate and mischievous allegations had in fact been refuted by the substantial and significant developments in such important areas of human rights concerns, health, employment and education. In addition, the newly emerging opportunities for the people themselves, to act as guarantors of their human rights had been provided through the institution of the organs of the new democracy, namely, the various mass organisations, the workers' councils, the parish and zonal councils and the trade unions. In fact it is because of these developments within Grenada under the PRG, which was a living example and testimony of all Caribbean People struggling for Freedom, that the US Government and its lackey Governments in the Caribbean were compelled to destabilise the Grenada Revolution and eventually destroy it.



A Revolution which was geared for a bright future for the children. Young children sharing joyous moments with their beloved Prime Minister.

NEW CONSTITUTION:

The former Government of Eric Matthew Gairy, at all material times acted or purported to act, under the disguise of constitutionality, adhering to the letter, if not the spirit of the Constitution which was in force prior, and up to March 13th, 1979.

The evidence shows that the old constitution enabled a dictatorial regime to ride over and trample the rights and freedoms of the people with the consequent unredressed abuses and violations of their human rights.

To be satisfied with removing the Gairy regime from power without eradicating the conditions which permitted the gross abuses and corruption for which Gairy had become notorious, would be similar to trying to cure a disease by treating the symptoms rather than its causes.

It is in this context of eradicating these violations and abuses and any further possibilities for their recurrence, that one of the first acts of the March 13th Revolution was the suspension of the Grenada Constitution (Peoples' Law No. 1 of 1979). It must be noted that this act of suspension of the constitution was duly notified to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 27 of the Convention under which the Commission is constituted.

In the Declaration of the Grenadian Revolution, the PRG (established by Peoples' Laws No. 2 and 12 of 1979, initially comprising of twenty-three (23) persons selected to represent a broad cross-section of the people of Grenada) as Trustees and Executors of the sovereign powers of the people, pledged, inter alia, to return to constitutional rule at an early opportunity. The Declaration also outlined the process which the Government intends to employ in the pursuit of this objective. It was proposed "to appoint a consultative assembly to consult with the people for the purpose of the establishment of a new constitution which would have reflected the wishes and aspirations of all the people of Grenada. That new constitution will be submitted for popular approval in a referendum in which all sections and strata of the population were to be involved".

The need for a new constitution would have been reflective of the wishes and aspirations of the people and always remain an obvious precondition for the return to constitutional rule. The timing of this return to constitutional rule, can only be determined after all the necessary, preparatory work had been completed. This means after a clear assessment had been made as to what are the real wishes and aspirations of all the people for which the constitution was being framed. The organs of popular participatory democracy (eg. Parish Councils, Zonal Councils, Workers Councils and mass organisations - as presented later) and the mass literacy programme which had been instituted by the PRG were geared to ensure not only that popular wishes and aspirations could be determined, but, indeed, that they could, for the first time, be effectively expressed.

It is important to note that although the Grenada Constitution was suspended on March 13th, 1979, significant portions have been re-enacted. Only those sections in the Constitution relating to parliament, the executive and fundamental rights and freedoms, remained suspended at the present time.

With respect to the civil and political rights of the people of Grenada, the PRG, in light of the suspension of the constitution had pledged to observe the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people, subject to certain measures, necessary to:

- 1: The maintenance of stability, peace, order and good government;

- 2: The final eradication of Gairyism; and
- 3: The protection of the People's Revolution
(See Declaration of the Grenada Revolution).

The Government of Grenada was committed to (including in the new constitution (preliminary preparatory work which had already began) provisions to guarantee to the people of Grenada, effective protections of their civil and political rights as well as their economic, social and cultural rights.

LAW AND ORDER:

By People's Law No. 5 of 1979, it was declared that all existing laws shall continue in force unless amended or repealed. People's Law No. 2 of 1979 vested all executive and legislative power in the PRG, which, as already mentioned, consisted of people selected to represent a broad cross-section of the Grenadian Society.

All people's laws made by the PRG in the exercise of its legislative functions were signed under the hand of the Prime Minister and published in the official gazette.

In the exercise of the legislative powers, the PRG had repealed certain repressive laws which were enacted by the former Gairy regime. The following are a few of the enactments which had been repealed:-

- 1: The Importation Publications (Prohibition) Order 1965:
which restricted freedom to receive ideas and information without interference (was repealed by People's Law No. 47 of 1979).
- 2: The Public Order (Amendment) Act 1974:
which restricted the freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference (was repealed by People's Law No. 46 of 1979).
- 3: The Essential Services Act 1978: and
The Essential Services (Amendment) Act 1978:
both of which restricted the right of Trade Unions to function freely (was also repealed by People's Law No. 46 of 1979).

THE COURTS:

The Courts System which was established prior to March 13th, 1979 continued to operate and had been strengthened by the PRG.

By People's Law No. 4 of 1979, a Supreme Court was established, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal. The jurisdiction which was formerly exercised by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court was vested in the new Supreme Court of Grenada. The number of judges appointed to the High Court had been doubled since the Revolution, in order to enable the Court to deal with the tremendous backlog of cases which had been allowed to accumulate under the Gairy regime.

The High Court continued to hold regular sittings to adjudicate on criminal matters in the same way as it did prior to the Revolution. The judges of the Supreme Court were independently appointed and continued to enjoy the security of tenure.

The Court of Appeal, in accordance with the Court of Appeal Law No. 83 of 1979, consisted of the President and two Justices of Appeal selected from a panel of Justices, appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, who, before he tendered his advice on the behalf, was required to consult with the Public Service Commission.

The Court of Appeal, from its inception in 1979, had been consistently staffed by distinguished jurists from neighbouring Caribbean Countries. This was perhaps the only known case in which the Justices of the final Court of Appeal of an independent state were all non-nationals and non-residents of that State. This unique situation tended to reinforce the independence and impartiality of the Justices and of the Court of Appeal.

No special courts had been established by the PRG. All persons who were charged with breaches of the criminal law were tried on indictment or summarily before the ordinary courts of Grenada.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION:

People's Law No. 8 of 1979, provides for the establishment of a Preventive Detention Tribunal charged with the function of conducting regular periodic reviews of the cases of persons placed in preventive detention under the provisions of that law.

A person may be placed under preventive detention pursuant to an order made under the said law if "he/she had taken, or had threatened to take; or was reasonably suspected of intending to take action of such nature; or on such a scale, as was likely to endanger the public safety or to deprive the community or any substantial portion thereof; of supplies or services essential to life".

On the day the Revolution began; and immediately thereafter, a number of persons were detained pursuant to orders duly made under the provisions of the Preventive Detention Law. All of these persons were members of the political directorate, their confederates and associates. Some of them, like the dreaded 'Mongoose Gang' and the secret or open police aides, whose notoriety was highlighted in the Report of the Duffs Commission, were known to have committed criminal offences and to have been engaged in acts of gross violations of human rights. No attempt was made by the former Gairy regime to bring these elements to justice. In fact, there was ample evidence which indicates that some of these crimes were counselled by certain members of the Gairy regime.

By the end of 1982 the vast majority of persons who were detained, had either been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from one to sixteen years. There had been acquittals in only two of the cases that had been tried.

In many cases, persons convicted for two or more offences, had received sentences which had been ordered by the Court to run concurrently. In addition, four persons had been convicted and sentenced to death, for offences arising out of the June 1980 bomb incident which was intended to eliminate the Governor General and the entire political directorate, but which resulted in the death of three persons and inflicted serious injury to ninety-four others.

By the end of 1982 a relatively small number of persons were still detained, some of whom were awaiting trial, while others were subjects of ongoing investigat-

ions with a view to criminal charges being preferred against them. The former Prime Minister, Eric Matthew Gairy, who had been charged with serious criminal offences was however operating freely in the United States of America. Extradiction had been requested, without success.



Four persons were convicted and sentenced to death for offences arising out of this June 1980 bombing incident which cause the death of Bernadette Bailey, Lauren Phillip and Laurice Humpbrey.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS:

In holding the tested and proven view that it is absolutely essential to provide and ensure that a peoples Economic, Social and Cultural rights are guaranteed and exercised to its fullest, (which in fact, provides the necessary basis on which the full exercise of a people's civil and political rights must be founded). The following were some of the many important and significant achievements instituted by the People's Revolutionary Government and attained by the People of Grenada during the first three years and nine months of their revolution in ensuring the existence of these fundamental human rights.

OVERALL ECONOMY:

The Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) in 1979, inherited a deteriorating economy and had addressed itself to the formidable tasks of rehabilitation and of laying a solid foundation for growth in the context of a mixed economy - (private sector, state sector, co-operative sector).

The Government's economic strategy centered on the following goals:

- a: The rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and addition to Grenada's infrastructural investment;
- b: The stimulation of productive investment both on the part of the private sector and through stepped-up public investments;
- c: The improvement of the efficiency of the public sector; and maintenance of sound, public figures;
- d: The emphasis on agriculture and tourism.

The Grenadian Economy ever since 1979 had grown consistently.

1979	-	2.1%
1980	-	3.0%
1981	-	3.0%
1982	-	5.5%

The growth rate of 5.5% in 1982 was indeed tremendous, given the fact that countries like the United States whose economy, not only grew backwards by 1.7%, but also had 15 out of every 100 businesses closing down; and according to their own figures, over 12 million people (110 times the whole population of Grenada; 10 times the whole population of Trinidad and Tobago) are out of work.

Canada also had a negative growth rate of 5% while those countries where the economy grew, the growth rates were not as high as that of Grenada.

Britain	-	0.5%
Italy	-	0.8%
France	-	1.5%
Japan	-	2.5%

It must indeed be noted that the growth rate of 5.5% for 1982 was almost double that of 1981 (3%); almost treble that of 1979 (2.1%). The Grenadian economy was growing faster as a result of the massive injections of funds into development projects every year, since the revolution.

It is also important to note that this growth of 5.5% in 1982, took place at a time when the prices received by the PRG from the industrialised capitalist countries for its ex-

ports of Cocoa and Nutmeg were very low, as well as the fact that the PRG was unable to sell sufficient quantities of its large stocks of nutmeg to make-up for the lower prices. As a result, Grenada collected one million dollars less from export duty in 1982 as compared to 1981. Despite this bad situation, the economy grew and unemployment was reduced principally because of the massive sums of money invested in capital projects in 1982, as well as over the entire period 1979 to 1982.

The management of the economy had improved significantly over the 3½ years under review (March 1979 to December 1982), in sharp contrast to previous years. This has resulted in a sustained, real economic growth which averaged 3.4%.

Every year since the revolution, the Government had maintained tight budgetary controls on current account expenditure. In 1982, the budget surplus was \$6.5 million. This was made possible by the upgrading of staff in the Ministries of Finance and Planning; and by the introduction of tight, fiscal management and vigorous, economic planning.

Over 60% of arrears owing to regional and international organisations; and inherited in 1979 by the PRG had been paid, while current account expenditure of the central government had been kept in check. All this, plus the widespread institutional reforms introduced, had increased public confidence in the economy. External grants and loans to Grenada had reached record heights in the economic history of Grenada (and in comparison to other O.E.C.S. States).

The PRG inherited oppressive inflation because of the refusal of the Gairy Regime to implement a policy of proper and effective price control - there existed widespread profiteering by a large section of the merchant community. Inflation rates eroded constantly the real income and standard of living of the people. Inflation since the March 13th Revolution was kept in check and was actually reduced:

1979	-	19.5%
1981	-	10.3%
1982	-	7.0%

The Central Government budget allowance moved from \$57.6 million in 1978 to \$168 million in 1982, with capital expenditure, used for expanding the productive capacity of the country, moving from \$8.2 million in 1978 to \$16.0 million in 1979; to \$34.9 million in 1980; to \$79.2 million in 1981; to \$101.5 million in 1982.

When all the Capital Expenditure is added for the period March 1979 - 1982, one gets a total figure of approximately two hundred and thirty-seven million dollars (\$237,000,000.00) which had been spent by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG). This massive amount of investment on its own stands as a remarkable achievement, and it completely overshadows the tiny amounts of money spent on capital projects during all of Gairy's 25-year dictatorship.

External Grants increased from \$2.2 million in 1978 to \$37.3 million in 1982 with External Loans moving from \$1.4 million in 1978 to \$20.8 million in 1982, representing the increased international confidence and respect in the economy of Grenada.

Grenada, prior to March 13th, 1979 had a shattered economy, high unemployment, widespread malnutrition, rampant corruption, high illiteracy and overall conditions of oppression and exploitation. The aim of the Revolution was to transform all of these ills and to make Grenada a free and just society.



Opening of the Community Centre in St. Pauls (March 1983) - one of the 12 Centres constructed under the P.R.G.



Schooleibldren marching in defence against external aggression and invasion in November 1980.

The people of Grenada through the PRG and participatory democracy, had benefitted; (and continued to benefit) from well-planned and well-executed programmes in industry, agriculture, tourism, housing, health, education, rural development, food processing, transport, communication, fishing, road building, sport, culture, co-operatives and many other areas.

The development programmes which the PRG had instituted since March 1979 had done much to eliminate the physical evidence of economic, social and cultural neglect, which the people of Grenada had endured under the Gairy dictatorship. The appallingly poor conditions of the roads, the health service, the water supply system, education, communication, transportation and the national economy in general, had been improved considerably under the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

Planned expansion of the capital investment programme had been the basis of Grenada's economic growth since the revolution. Direct productive investments in areas such as agro-industries, agriculture, fisheries, etc. had created linkages among different sectors of the productive spheres, thereby, multiplying the initial effects of the investment.

The laying down of the necessary infrastructure (eg. the International Airport under construction, 46 miles of feeder road, and 23 miles of main road, constructed (to date), in the period under review, greatly increased electricity generation, 50% increase in water supply had given support to the creation and expansion of directly productive investment.

MIXED ECONOMY:

Grenada under the PRG had a mixed economy, which meant that production was carried out by businesses which had different forms of ownership. In Grenada, the three main sectors producing goods and services were:

- 1: The Private Sector;
- 2: The Co-operative Sector;
- 3: The State Sector.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

This sector consisted of all the private companies in Grenada. The profits of their production went to the private owners of the respective businesses. However, a part of these profits went into the National Treasury, as taxes to the Inland Revenue Department. The operations of the private sector assisted Grenada in two other important areas. Firstly, when they exported goods, they brought valuable foreign exchange to the country; and secondly, when they expanded their operations in the productive sphere, they imported machinery and equipment and employed more people.

In 1982, the private sector increased its production by approximately 10%. It produced approximately \$13 million more in goods and services than in 1981. The private sector was growing, it was producing more and making more profits because the entire economy of Grenada was growing and doing well. This was so because the PRG and the people of Grenada were managing their economy wisely, and working hard to build Grenada.

In the first three years of the Revolution (1979 - 1982) massive sums of money had been put by the PRG into Capital projects, projects which had provided more employment.

This meant that there were more people with money to buy what the business-people were selling. The improvements which had been made in the development of the infrastructure (roads, water, electricity, telephone, port and airport facilities,) had also helped private business a great deal.

A measure as to the extent that the private sector had grown can be realised when you examine the loans given out by the Grenada Development Bank (GDB) which loaned money to businesses. In 1981, the GDB granted loans for 191 projects valued at a total of \$740,000. In 1982, the GDB granted loans for 238 projects, 25% more than in 1981 and amounting to \$1.5 million. These loans went to private business all over Grenada - the majority being in Industry - furniture-making, agro-processing and garment production.

In 1982, the Government collected 10.4% more company tax than it had calculated. The PRG has sought to encourage private sector confidence in a number of ways. There had been regular consultations between the Government and the private sector. There consultations had involved soliciting private sector responses to proposed Government Policies (eg. Investment Code; National Budget Plan, 1982) clarifying doubts, (eg. import licencing system; Marketing and National Importing Board) and working out co-operative solutions to problems of mutual interest (eg. marketing of primary product exports; identifying cheaper sources of agricultural inputs).

The Government continued to provide a wide range of incentives under the Fiscal Incentive Act, geared primarily towards the encouragement of manufacturing activities by providing duty-free concessions and tax holidays. Additional incentives were made available under the Qualified Enterprise Act and the Hotel Aid Ordinance. More recently, a draft investment code had been prepared. This code articulated economic support and other available incentives. The Investment Code also listed areas of economic activity available for Private Sector involvement and outlined the basic principles governing joint-venture operations between the Government and private enterprise.

THE CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR:

The Co-operative Sector had expanded greatly since the Revolution. This is because the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) had encouraged and assisted the growth and development of Co-operatives.

With the dawn of the Revolution on March 13th, 1979 and more particularly, with the establishment of the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA) (through Peoples Law No. 59 of 1980) there began a new thrust into this improved method of production.

NACDA provided financial assistance and technical guidance to persons wishing to establish co-operatives, especially in agriculture and related areas. NACDA had contributed in a major way to the progress achieved in the solution of the unemployment problems. NACDA had contributed directly in the establishment of twenty-three (23) Co-operatives investing \$972,986 up to the period under review.

In the Co-operative Sector, profits made belonged to all the workers, profits were also put back into developing the enterprise further. Some of the well-known co-operatives functioning under NACDA's banner, had made tremendous successes within a very short period of time. The following are five such examples:-

- 1: The Butler Agriculture Co-operative: located at Beause Jour - St. George's,

occupied 66 acres of land; Thirty acres of which were cultivated with spices, vegetables, citrus and other tree crops.

In sixteen months, this co-operative, involving 12 persons (2 women and 10 men) had produced some 80,000 pounds of food and exported 25,000 pounds of that total. Twenty-Seven thousand dollars (\$27,000.00) were collected from crops sold in 1981. The co-operative had total assets of \$125,000.00.

This Co-operative, besides, being concerned with their social development, for which they had implemented an Education Programme and an Agricultural Instruction Programme for upgrading their skills in agricultural practices, had recently completed a solar dryer for drying nutmeg mace; the construction of a bio-gas system which would have provided lighting facilities and cooking gas, as well as a vital manure for vegetable production; and a greenhouse for growing young plants.

The production of a newsletter on a regular basis was also a great accomplishment for this co-operative.

2: The Awade Handicraft Co-operative: in the parish of St. Mark's officially launched on May 6th, 1982 consisted of five members, with an average age of 25 years and had the capacity to produce sixty (60) pairs of some fifteen different types of sandals per month. They exported regularly to the United Kingdom.

3: The St. Patrick's Fish Marketing Co-operative: officially launched on February 14th, 1982, with thirty-five (35) members, received a loan of \$67,000.00 from NACDA. In four months this co-operative had caught over 7,000 pounds of fish, lambie and lobsters; and out of that total, sold some 2,300 pounds of fish to the National Fisheries Company.

4: The Grenada Publishers Co-operative: incorporated on October 22nd, 1981, consisted of twelve (12) members. This co-operative was the first of its kind in Grenada; and was involved in the printing of labels, medical certificates, posters, invitations and raffle tickets, among other things. It was their intention in the future to print exercise books and a newspaper. From October 1981 to January 1982 their assets totalled \$44,700.00 and liabilities \$26,000.00.

5: The Construction Co-operative: at River Sallee, St. Patrick's was another co-operative that was the first of its kind in Grenada. Launched on November 29th, 1981, with fifteen members, it had already increased its membership to twenty-six (26). This Co-operative had successfully completed contracts for the Ministry of Health and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) at Calivigny, St. George's.

Co-operatives were evenly distributed throughout Grenada, and between January and April of 1982, the General Secretary of NACDA said he received 20 proposals which was an indication of the growing interest in the co-operative movement among the population of Grenada.

The people of Grenada had been very responsive to the idea of the utilisation of co-operative formations as a tool in the drive to eradicate unemployment among women and young people.

THE STATE SECTOR:

The State Sector consisted of productive government enterprises which were owned by all the people of Grenada. In looking at the performance of the State Sector overall for 1982, one could see a 34% increase in the gross production of the State Sector in comparison to 1981. The total dollar value of what the State Sector produced in these two years are as follows:

1981	-	\$54.3 million
1982	-	\$72.9 million

These were important figures because they showed that the State Sector, which was actually created by the March 13th, 1979 Revolution, was leading the way in the economic development of the country.

In 1982, the State Sector enterprises (32 No.) achieved 90% fulfilment of what it had planned. This 90% fulfilment must be seen as a tremendous success because at the National Conference of Delegates on the economy which dealt with the Budget for 1982; It was agreed that an 80% fulfilment of the plan by the State Sector would be considered a success.



Sandino Plant Factory, which was set up to produce more housing.

CONSTRUCTION

In examining the performance of the different sections within the State Sector in 1982, we saw that Construction was way ahead, contributing 49% of the total production of the State. This represented a total production of \$35.9 million - a 28% increased growth as compared to 1981. This high percentage was due to the fact, that included in the many projects undertaken by the Ministry of Construction, which was created in 1982, were projects like the International Airport; the Eastern Main Road Project, House Construction, The Emulsion Plant, The Sandino Plant; the building of the new telephone exchange and dozens of other projects all over the country.

Also of significant importance were the Ministry of Construction's completed building projects in Carriacou - in particular, the completion of the Harvey Vale Jetty, and the repairs of the Hillsborough Jetty which meant that the once forgotten Sister Isle of Carriacou had been rapidly getting urgently needed infrastructural improvement.



New Jetty: Harvey Vale, Carriacou

COMMERCE:

Coming right after construction was Commerce, contributing 18% of the total state production, representing a total production of 12.7 million dollars; a 94% increased growth as compared to 1981. This performance was due mainly to the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) whose revenue jumped from \$6.5 million in 1981 to over \$12 million in 1982 (See details of Foreign Trade MNIB) (Grencraft and Banking later).

INDUSTRY:

Industry held third position contributing 14% of the total state production. This represented an increased growth in production from \$7.4 million in 1981 to \$10 million in 1982. The area of industry included for example, The Agro-Industries, The Coffee Plant, the Sugar Mill and Saw Mill Activities.

This development in Industry must be seen from the historical reality that the little industrial development which took place in Grenada before the March 13th Revolution, did not conform to any development plan of the Government. Indeed under the Gairy regime, whatever industrialisation policy that existed, was limited to inviting foreign firms to invest in Grenada. In return, these firms were offered special concessions in order to encourage them to remain. These concessions included non-payment of taxes; non-payment of import duties etc. However, in return, bribes were demanded by Gairy personally. Gairy's corruption had become so well-known that even the foreign firms ceased to respond to his offers.

As a result of Gairy's corrupt policies, Grenada's Industrial Sector remained tiny and undeveloped; and only comprised between four and five per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The fact that in 1982 only 5% of total recurrent revenue was collected from domestic production, reflected the very small amount of industrial production which was still taking place in the country. Industry employed approximately 10% of the work force and included furniture-making, alcoholic beverages (beer and rum), soft drinks, malt, cigarettes, laundry soap, flour, poultry feed, coconut-oil, nectars, jams and jellies.



Workers at the Spice Grinding Mill in Tanteen.

The policy of the PRG in terms of developing the Industrial Sector was to place emphasis on utilising the natural and human resources of the country to produce processed goods for local consumption as well as for exports. The production of nectars, jams and jellies, provided an industry which used agricultural raw materials (mangoes, guava, soursop, banana, tamarind and other fruits) and which also created jobs for agricultural workers. This policy of creating linkages among various areas of the economy, stimulated economic growth more quickly; and was part of the PRG's strategy for development.

AGRICULTURE:

In 1982, in most areas of the State Sector, there was growth. Only two areas was there a drop in production. Agriculture fell below planned production representing 4% of total State Sector production with a total production of \$2.8 million, 17% or \$0.3 million less than in 1981.

From March 13th, 1979, however, the PRG had moved on several fronts to correct the malaise that afflicted the sector. Analyses of the current status and detailed inventories of assets of twenty-six (26) state farms were made. All 26 farms were consolidated into the



Former P.M. Maurice Bishop and George Louison among banana trees at Bocage on Grenada's western coast during their regular fortnightly visit to farms.

State Farms Co-operation in 1980. Analyses indicated that four (4) of the farms were inherently unviable and these were disbanded as separate units.

The PRG had also enhanced and upgraded extension services and technical assistance to individual farmers, and had been providing larger flows of financial assistance for banana and cocoa rehabilitation.

The PRG and the Government of Canada signed an agreement of economic Assistance for the development of Grenada's Cocoa Rehabilitation Project on the 26th August, 1981. The aim of the project was to rehabilitate 10,000 acres of cocoa lands by replacing old low-yielding trees with new stock; and to establish a system to ensure continuing replacement on a self-sustaining basis over a long-term period.

The PRG By November 1982 had set up three Agricultural Training centres where youths were trained in modern agricultural techniques. The Mirabeau Farm School was also established. In 1981, "Year of Agriculture and Agro-Industries", the Sugar Cane Industry was expanded by increasing acreage under cane cultivation; and replanting ratooned fields. Idle lands suitable for cane cultivation were rented to farmers at \$25.00 per acre per annum. Cane farmers were sent to Venezuela to learn improved methods of cane cultivation and pest and disease control.

This course was sponsored by the Venezuelan Government as part of their Technical Assistance Programme to Grenada. The USSR also in 1981, donated equipment (trucks, jeeps, irrigation pumps, tractors and caterpillars) which were distributed among the various divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture. By the beginning of 1982, the PRG had spent 54 times more on Agriculture than what the Gairy regime had ever spent in its entire reign of power.

The establishment of private co-operatives of small farmers was also undertaken with financial assistance and technical support from the PRG. In addition, fertiliser was made available through the Marketing and National Importing Board, which also provided a market for farm products. Furthermore, some 100 kilometres (or 62 miles) of feeder and main roads were built or rehabilitated between 1979 and 1981. Plans were also being considered for the extension of electricity services to rural communities. Also the PRG had identified idle land and was embarking upon an evaluation of both land use and its potential. A Land Reform Commission had been set up for this purpose.

Agriculture was the main pillar of the Grenadian economy. It supplied a substantial amount of food to the people. It supplied raw materials for the Agro-Industries. It provided employment with 8,202 people being full or part-time farmers; and about 2,000 being agricultural workers. It also brought to Grenada, very important foreign exchange.

It must be noted that before the Revolution, agriculture had been totally neglected for many years; and food imports accounted for over 40% of total imports. Agro-Industry which was almost non-existent, was restricted to cottage-type activity.

Agriculture had been identified by the PRG as the "motor" of the Grenadian economy. In 1979, the PRG spent \$1.6 million on capital projects in agriculture (10 times more than was spent in 1978) and in 1982, the PRG had injected \$28 million in Agriculture. In 1981 the PRG spent 54 times more on agriculture than the Gairy Government in recurrent and capital projects.

Unemployed youths were being placed, after 12 weeks of intensive training, in productive jobs to increase agriculture output under the Youth Employment Programme (YEP). Idle lands were being brought into productive use under the Land Reform Programme, (Land Development and Utilisation Law 1980). The development of feeder roads and farm roads had been given priority in the road construction programme which was

underway in Grenada. As a result of these agricultural programmes, the provision of local foodstuff was increasing and there had been a significant reduction in the national food import bill.



Former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and farm workers share jubilant moments in the field.

AGRO INDUSTRIES:

Agro-industrial production had been stimulated since the revolution. In 1981, over 200,000 pounds of fruit and other products were purchased by Grenada Agro Industries from local farmers. These fruits were processed locally at a small food processing plant which was established since the revolution. In 1981, the products of the plant were sold both locally and overseas. Nectars, jams and jellies to the value of \$0.25 million were produced.

The first state-owned Agro-Industry Plant at a cost of \$1.0 million 'The True Blue

Processing Plant' which was officially opened on 13/9/81 began operation in January 1981 producing canned juices, jams, nectars, jellies, pepper-sauce - all using local products (mangoes, pawpaw, nutmegs, plums, tamarind, etc.) all with the "Spice Island" label for both export and internal consumption. At an International Food Fair held in Bulgaria in 1981, Nutmeg Jelly won a gold medal.



Agro-Industrial Production had been stimulated since the Revolution. In 1981, over 200,00lbs of fruit and other products were purchased from local farmers. Here a worker is seen pouring out hot sauce at the Agro-Industrial Plant.

A quantity of equipment and materials was imported for use at the Produce Laboratory in Tanteen. Among these, was a spice-grinding mill, the aim of which, was to utilise local spices and reduce the volume of ground spices imported into the country, as well as to distill oils from various spices and flowers for the newly established perfume factory.

The Coffee Processing Plant was the first Agro-Industrial factory of the revolution; and by June 1981 began exporting some of its products to regional markets. This plant served:-

- 1: To utilise local coffee for processing ground coffee;
- 2: To reduce imports of ground coffee;
- 3: To create employment.

FISHERIES:

Fisheries in 1982, fell short of its planned production target, (representing less than 1% of total state production) with a total production of \$175,000 which was 2% or \$4,000 less than in 1981.

The National Fisheries Company did not make enough revenue to meet its own expenses in 1982. It had to be subsidised by over \$200,000.00 from the National budget. The plan was for the National Fisheries Company to make an output of \$947,000.00 in 1982. It made \$175,200.00.

This Company operated in two areas, fishing and fish processing. In fishing, it com-



Locally processed filleted, smoked and dried fish being prepared for the local market

pleted 16% of its target and in fish processing, it completed 25% of its target. The National Fisheries Company was closed down by the PRG in 1982 to be reopened when the PRG was able to find better management to run it and when more efficient structures had been instituted.

Because of the importance of fish as a cheap source of protein, the PRG saw it as essential to develop the Fishing Industry, including fishermen's co-operatives, to catch more fish, as well as an efficient fish processing and marketing capability.

A National Fisheries School had been set up for the training of fishermen and women in modern and more efficient methods of fishing. Fishermen/women were being guided to move away from the traditional, inefficient and dangerous methods of fishing. The Fisheries Training School at Victoria, trained personnel on a three-month basis with 25 to 30 persons each session.

New jetties had been opened so as to reduce the problems that fishermen face in docking boats. Fishermen were now able to dock their boats alongside the jetty.

Locally processed filleted, smoked and dried fish were available on the local market. Exports of tinned tuna and flying fish in tomato sauce had also been successful. Grenada Fish Processing Plant, within the period April 1980 to September 1981 had increased its processing from 400 pounds per day to 3,500 pounds per day.

There existed a \$7.1 million Artisanal Fisheries Project which ensured that fishermen were no longer considered as a group from the lowest income bracket.

FOREIGN TRADE:

Before the March 13th, 1979 Revolution, most of what Grenada sold abroad, went to the advanced Capitalist countries like, Britain, West Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and the United States. At the same time, most of what was imported came from these same countries, and these capitalist countries decided the prices paid to them for the radios, cars, clothing, machines, food, etc. which Grenada buys from them. They also decided the prices that they would pay for the commodities Grenada sold to them eg. bananas, cocoa and nutmeg. (Before the revolution, virtually no foreign trading was handled by the State).

In trading with these countries, Grenada was always getting low prices for its exports and paying very high prices for its imports. This made Grenada very dependent on these capitalist countries. This also meant that some of the basic needs of the working people, like food, clothing and medicines could only be obtained at very high prices, especially when some of the local private importers put large mark-ups on the prices of these items which were already imported at very high prices. (N.B. This situation is still true for all countries in the region, including Trinidad and Tobago.)

On the triumph of the Revolution, the PRG had taken a number of steps aimed at improving Grenada's foreign trade situation.

The following are some of the measures taken by the PRG.

a: It had to take over the importation of certain basic items such as milk, sugar, and rice. This now meant that they were buying in bulk at lower prices and selling to the working people at prices lower than what they were paying.

b: It became actively involved in finding new markets for its local products so as to increase exports and find better prices, and increase earning of foreign exchange.

It was primarily for the above-two reasons that the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) was set up by the PRG.

c: The PRG had to change the composition of its imports by cutting back on the import of food and other products which could be produced locally and increased the import of machinery, equipment and other materials which were vital for increased local production but which could not be manufactured locally. Ever since the Revolution for example, the percentage of money spent to import food has fallen:

Food	1979	1980	1981	1982
	30.6%	28.9%	28.2%	27.5%

d: The PRG had to begin importing from other countries apart from the advanced capitalist countries. This was done in order to lessen Grenada's dependence on these capitalist countries, and at the same time, take advantage of credits and other benefits which might open from the other countries.

e: The PRG had to increase the variety of its exports. This was done by producing a wider range of export goods, and by so doing was able to reduce its dependence on cocoa, banana and nutmegs.

The PRG had succeeded in many important ways in improving the country's foreign trade situation. This was reflected in the following:-

- (1) the fact that the import bill had been kept down, particularly on those food items which could be produced locally.
- (2) The fact that they had tied up long-term contracts with the Socialist countries for the sale of cocoa and nutmeg.
- (3) The fact that the Government had been able to purchase trucks, tractors, telephone equipment and other equipment from the socialist countries on credit, and at very low and reasonable prices, the fact that they had tremendously expanded the Marketing and National Importing Board.



A shipment of vehicles from the G. D. R. which were obtained at very reasonable prices.

THE MARKETING AND NATIONAL IMPORTING BOARD (MNIB):

IMPORTS:

The MNIB, prior to the Revolution was small, dealing mainly with export trade on a limited basis; exporting only eggplants and lime juice. Two years after the Revolution, the MNIB, which was established in 1973, had expanded tremendously. The MNIB Establishment Act was amended by the PRG, giving the Board, the right to be the sole importer of basic items such as sugar, rice and cement. This meant that:

a: Sugar was no longer a scarce commodity as it was before the Revolution. Grenadians were now paying less for sugar as it was now subsidised by the PRG. Grenadians then paid less than half of what other non-sugar producing Caribbean countries pay.

b: The price of cement also dropped, and in 1981 Grenadian consumers were paying \$12.00 per bag as compared to \$17.00 per bag which consumers in other Caribbean states (eg. Dominica) were paying.

The MNIB, after the Revolution, was no longer an Office and Depot in one. The office was moved from the Depot on the pier to another building in Tanteen. By mid-1980, a warehouse and office were established on the Carenage to store dry goods, (sugar, cement, rice and wheat, donated by the Government of Argentina). By September 1980, the MNIB established another Depot and Office in St. Georges, and yet another in Carriacou and Petit-Martinique where rice, cement, sugar and vegetables were sold at very low prices.

The MNIB began importing eggs and by mid-1981 had imported its first shipment of 26,000 pounds of meat and poultry.

EXPORTS:

By July 1981, the MNIB exported 992 pounds of mangoes to the U.K. and in October began shipping lime juice to the U.K., Barbados and Dominica. It also shipped 279 cartoons of bananas during this period to St. Lucia. In 1981, pumpkins, lettuce and sweet-peppers were exported to Trinidad.

The MNIB increased its sales revenue from \$6.5 million in 1981 to \$12.2 million in 1982, representing an 88% increase over 1981. Commodities which the MNIB exported, were bought locally from state farms, private producers and small farmers. The MNIB also sold goods locally at a reduced cost. To the consumers, this meant more money in their pockets and a longer stretch of the dollar.

In response to recommendations from many working people, the PRG requested the MNIB to start importing whole milk powder. In 1982, 500 metric tonnes (more than one million pounds) of powdered milk was imported and sold at \$2.95 per pound, much cheaper than the same milk in tins, which sells at \$4.50 per pound. This is critically important, because here we saw a concrete response by the Peoples Revolutionary Government to the proposals which came out of mass discussion. Here was another example of mass involvement in the developmental process that was taking place in Grenada.

The MNIB was established to assist the farmers of Grenada in providing guaranteed markets for their products. In 1981, the masses of Grenada urged the MNIB to buy more of the farmers' output, again, we see another positive response to the wishes of the ordinary

working people when we examine the fact that in 1982, MNIB bought one million, three hundred and fifteen thousand, six hundred and one pounds (1,315,601 pounds) of agricultural produce from farmers, which was 75% more than what was purchased in 1981.

The figures indicate that one out of every eight farmers in the country sold to MNIB and they earned together, \$671,043.00 from these sales.

In 1981, at the National Conference on the economy, (where 1000 delegates from mass organisations and trade unions were present) an important proposal was that MNIB seek cheaper sources of imports and buy in bulk so as to reduce the import bill. In response to this proposal, the MNIB fertiliser imports for 1982 amounted to 2270 metric tonnes or five million pounds, and prices per 110 pound bag of fertiliser fell by about \$6.00. The MNIB was able to import this fertiliser and sell it for \$6.00 a bag less than it previously cost.

The MNIB sales of Agro-industrial products and fish, both locally and overseas were \$554,000.00 for 1982; with \$200,000.00 being sold locally and the remainder to foreign markets. It is also instructive to note that the MNIB depots in Carriacou and Petit Martinique sold over one million dollars, indicating the support of the people of the Grenadian islands, for cheaper products through the MNIB.

The MNIB had made significant strides in shipping with the establishment of a shipping division and with the establishment of links with Cuban, Soviet and German (GDR) shipping lines. To compliment the work of the MNIB in this area, that is, Shipping the PRG bought a cargo boat, 'ALBATROS' to transport goods to other Caribbean territories.

The MNIB had also set up an Export Marketing and Fishing Division. The Marketing Division had been specifically set-up to identify markets for non-traditional agricultural products, as well as, SPICE ISLE PRODUCTS.

GRENCRAFT:

Grencraft was the marketing arm of the Grenada National Institute of Handicraft (GNIH). It was established in September 1981. During the first four months of its operations, its sales amounted to \$98,000.00. During 1982, sales amounted to \$326,400.00. Grencraft had been able to market the work of over 200 local craft producers. Prior to this, the craftsmen had little or no opportunity to display their skills, neither were they able to earn a living through these skills as there was no market for their products.

Local patronage had increased tremendously, thus reflecting growing appreciation for the local craft items and providing as a result, increased income for the local craftsmen. At the same time, the range and quality of handicraft items had improved significantly.

BANKING:

The total amount of money in all of Grenada's banks (private and state banks) continued to grow and was estimated to be over the 125 million dollar mark in 1982. This was a reflection of the increasing level of economic activity taking place. In 1982, the local banks all contributed large amounts towards Grenada's development, through loans to the Government.

In 1979, the PRG set up the National Commercial Bank (NCB), the very first State Bank. NCB had enjoyed the confidence of the Grenadian people from its very beginning and in 1982, became the second largest bank in the country. NCB profits had increased

from just over \$120,000.00 in 1980 to over one million dollars in 1982. The bank continued to place priority on lending for productive purposes like Industry and Agriculture and had been active in these virtually important sectors.

The PRG had also bought the former Royal Bank of Canada, and renamed it the Grenada Bank of Commerce (GBC). This bank had been set up as a separate bank from the NCB, in order to encourage maximum efficiency through competition between the two banks.

In 1982 the Grenada Development Bank (GDB) made a record number of loans (234 loans) with a total value of \$1.5 million. This was 43 more loans than in 1981 and more than double the total value of loans (\$740,000.00) granted in 1981. The Bank had reported that the tremendous growth in loans was due to increasing interest by private local investors in developing different types of businesses, especially manufacturing.

Industrial activity (furniture-making, agro-processing) received nearly 60% of GDB's loans, that is \$6.00 out of every \$10.00 of loans went to assist local businesses involved in industrial production. Agricultural loans to farmers engaged in domestic food production accounted for quarter of total loans in 1982; while funds loaned to fishermen for purchasing boats and boat repairs amounted to 12½%; so that industry, agriculture and fisheries, between them, got over 90% of all GDB's loans. In short, out of every \$10.00 lent by the GDB, those three areas (industry, agriculture and fisheries) got \$9.00.

TOURISM:

The major project of the March 13th Revolution was the construction of an international airport, which was to provide the essential basis for the development of the Tourist Industry in Grenada. In 1982, the PRG began to seek funds to put up one or two state-owned hotels as well as hotels owned jointly Government and Private Enterprise. The PRG also held discussions with several private companies and businessmen regarding the building of hotels.

In 1982, a special department of physical planning was set up within the Ministry of Planning. This Department was responsible for preparing a physical plan for Grenada, so that development, including tourism development would not spoil the beauty of the country. This plan would deal with the use of space of different areas for different purposes such as farms, hotels, factories, playgrounds and sports fields, historical monuments, restaurants and entertainment spots, etc.

In late 1982, the Ministry of Tourism was separated from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a Minister of Tourism was appointed. The separation of these two vital areas underlined the PRG's realisation of the necessity to take full advantage of the tourism potential which the international airport will offer Grenada.

Grenada's state-owned hotels - Hibiscus Inn, Apple Inn, Horse Shoe Bay, Seascape Inn, Carifta Cottages and Camp Carriacou are grouped together as one company. Camp Carriacou, a new hotel was opened on July 26th, 1981 in Carriacou. This hotel was built by the PRG as part of its drive to improve the quality of life for the people of Carriacou, by laying the basis for tourism and thus creating more jobs for the people there remembering that before the Revolution, the people of Carriacou and Petit Martinique were seriously neglected.

The Grenada Resorts Co-operation (GRC) achieved 69% of its 1982 plan, producing a total value of \$1.4 million which represented an increase of 7% over the 1981 value of \$1.3

million dollars. It must be noted that the PRG purchased a \$4.1 million airplane to fly the Caribbean route. In 1980, there was a 2.4% increase in the amount of tourists visiting the island as compared to 1979. There was also an increase in the number of cruise ships on Grenadian shores.



The construction of the International Airport was to provide the essential basis for the development of the Island's Tourist Industry.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

A new international Airport had been a long time dream of the Grenadian people. Travel to Grenada was quite difficult, since persons going by air must go through Barbados or Trinidad & Tobago.

The present Pearls Airport with its 5,000 feet runway is without nightlanding facilities, also the airport cannot be extended or expanded because of the mountainous terrain

in which it is located. This meant that air-access both for tourism and agro-industrial, as well as fresh agricultural commodity export through air-cargo was stifled and stagnant.

In fact, the Civil Aeronautical Authorities had debarred night landing in Grenada due to the mountainous terrain of the landing approach at Pearls. As a result, all passengers and tourists are forced to make connections before sunset or spend the night in Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago. Normal commercial and wide-bodied jets which contribute tremendously to increased tourist trade through lower fare package tours cannot now land in Grenada.

In 1979, the new Government of Grenada (PRG) immediately proclaimed its intention to construct an international airport; a project never undertaken and fulfilled by previous governments over the past 30 years. None of the Revolution's accomplishment was greater than the US \$70.0 million International Airport on schedule for completion in March 1984. A most important fact in regard to the importance of this new airport was the reality that Grenada was a major source of migrant workers in the Caribbean, with three or four times its present population outside the country. A migrant population which today still comes and goes to and from their homeland, regularly each time, having to spend a day in Trinidad or Barbados waiting for an air shuttle.

It is important to note that the Government of the United States was the first to be approached by the PRG in its efforts to secure assistance for the construction of the international airport. An approach which was met with the response that "this is not the type of project the US could pay for".

The PRG had diversified its diplomatic and economic relations with other governments, which had resulted in a flow of aid to assist the country's development.

The airport construction began with Cuba's technical and material assistance in late 1979. It was being aided both financially, materially and through soft credits by over 20 different countries and international institutions, including OPEC as a group, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Libya, EEC countries, Finland, the United Kingdom (Export Credit Bank), Mexico, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago with Canada assisting with tourism promotion.

Several private firms had also been involved in the airport construction including:

- 1: Layne Dredging Co. Ltd. of Miami, Florida which received a contract for dredging and land-filling operations.
 - 2: Metex Company of Finland, which had provided \$2.0 million in credit for the lighting systems.
 - 3: Plessy Ltd. of the United Kingdom, which was installing the navigation and communication systems with \$12 million of credit arranged through the consent of the British Government.
- The Venezuelan Government had been assisting with the oil supply needed for paving the runway and also with the fuel for the construction vehicles. The fuel storage tanks, with a total capacity of 1.5 million gallons had been designed by a US firm and was being constructed by Cuban technicians.

The building of the International Airport meant great benefits for the Grenadian people for example:

- 1: More employment (both in the construction and after, gift shops, taxi services, etc.);

- 2: More visitors and greater benefits for the Tourist Industry;
- 3: More investment in hotels, guest houses, restaurants, etc. (more employment);
- 4: More benefits to the Taxi Industry and the Handicraft Industry.

It is very clear that the New Airport was vital for the development of Grenada and was in no way a military base or a threat to the security of the United States. Therefore all



A new International Airport had long time been a dream of the Grenadian people.

allegations to this effect were obviously baseless and were only made to justify aggression against Grenada under the PRG.

The New Jewel International Airport of Grenada* was scheduled to be opened in March 1984 on the 5th Anniversary of the Revolution.

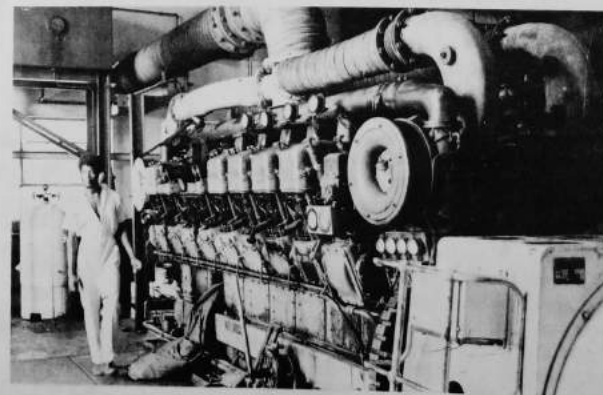
* This was the PPM's name for the Airport. The actual name was to be decided after all suggestions for the name of the new airport had been submitted by the People of Grenada.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

THE GRENADA ELECTRICITY SERVICE (GRENLEC): performed well in 1982. It was able to complete 98% of its plans. It planned to collect \$4,915,000.00 from the sale of electricity, it was able to sell \$4,807,000.00. The sale of electricity in 1982, represented an increase of 11.8% over the sales of 1981 (which was \$4,238,000.00. As a result GRENLEC was able to make a net profit of \$283,250.00.

This achievement must be seen in light of the fact that when the PRG took full control of the enterprise in the latter part of 1981, they found 7 engines in the plant. Of these, 3 were not working. The 4 which were working were all in very poor condition and had not received any general overhaul for a long time.

Normally only five of the seven were in use at any one time. Of the other two engines, one was usually kept as a reserve in case of emergency, while the other one was usually being cleaned and maintained after a long period of work. If all of the five engines were working at any one time, they could produce 4.6 mega watts of electricity. There was however, hardly a time when all of them were working. At peak periods, Grenada needed 4.55



Work being done at the Grenada Electricity Service. The PRG had inherited a badly managed and an almost obsolete Electricity Service.

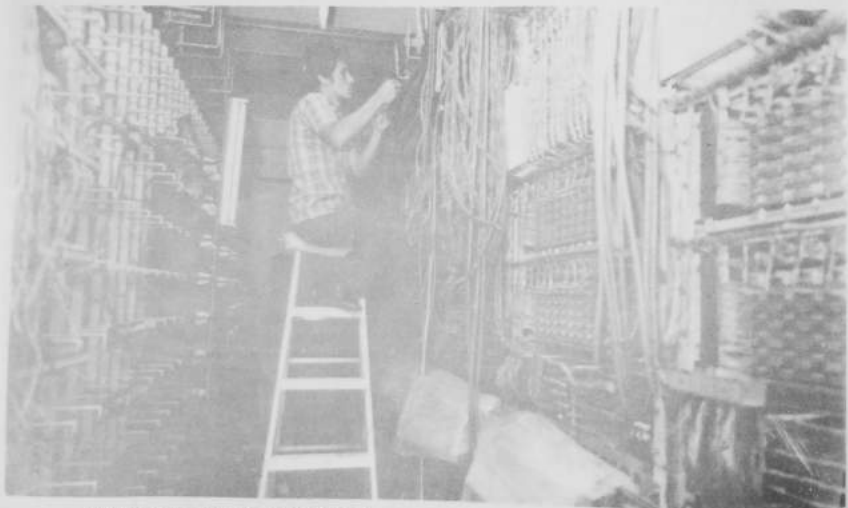
mega watts of electricity. As a result of this situation, GRENLEC was hardly ever able to provide all Grenada's electricity needs at any one time.

In order to solve this problem, the Government had been able to obtain a very soft loan of \$6.2 million from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to buy two new generators that would have provided 1.5 mega watts each. This agreement with the EIB provided for the study into the possibilities for using Grenada's rivers to generate electricity - a hydro-power feasibility study.

The installation of these new generators would have given GRENLEC a total capacity of 7.6 mega watts. This would have allowed the plant to provide the additional electricity which would be needed to supply the new international airport when it came on stream, as well as provide electricity to the new hotels and other enterprises being established. These new generators would have also allowed the GRENLEC to extend its services to supply those areas in the country and to those families which did not then have.

THE GRENADA TELEPHONE COMPANY (GRENTel): in 1982 was able to exceed production target of \$3,091,000.00 by 3%, therefore increasing its collections to \$3,174,000.00. This performance reflected 35.7% increase over 1981's collection of \$2,071,600.00.

As a result of an agreement reached with the German Democratic Republic (GDR), the PRG received a soft loan (credit) from the GDR to expand its telephone service. As a result 3,200 new telephone lines would have been installed in GRENTel. Seventy per cent (70%) of the equipment had already arrived, new buildings had been constructed on the Carenage and True Blue.



Assistance was given from the G.D.R. for expansion of Grenada's Telephone Service.



Under the PRG, two new Water Treatment Plants were opened. At the time of the Revolution 62% of the population had no pipe borne water to their homes.

THE CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION (CWC): had two basic activities:

- 1: The construction of dams and laying of pipes;
- 2: The community service of supplying water to people.

In both these areas the CWC recorded gross production increase in 1982. In fact, the CWC exceeded its plan by 17%.

The gross production in the area of water supply rose from \$1.8 million in 1981 to \$2.9 million in 1982, an increase of 39%. In 1981, the water supply rose from four million to six million gallons per day in St. Georges. In the area of construction, there was a 12.5% increase in gross production in 1982, over 1981, despite the fact that in 1981, the CWC constructed a dam in Penny River, providing seven million gallons of water per month, as well as the restoration of a storage tank at Vendromme and the laying of 15,200 feet of distribution lines.

This increase in gross production in 1982 of the construction, was largely due to the construction of the Mamma Cannes Project. This project started a very important development in the water supply of Grenada. On the completion of this project in early 1984, the CWC would have been able to provide an additional two million gallons of water to several families in the DAVI/PROSPECT areas and other parts of Upper St. Andrews and St. Davids.

Two new Water Treatment Plants were opened, one each in St. Georges and St. Patricks, which had considerably improved the water supply in these areas.

At the time of the Revolution 62% of the population had no pipe-borne water in their homes. Of the 38% with pipes in their homes, many could not obtain water.

THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT SERVICE (NTS): began its operations in March 1982. It was launched at the third festival of the revolution.

The NTS has 26 buses bought with \$1.0 million obtained from the OPEC fund, of



The people demanded them through their organ of popular democracy—the Parish Council and the Revolution delivered them — buses, a fleet of 26, comprising the nucleus of Grenada's first national transport service. This provided an invaluable service to the people of Grenada by keeping down bus fares through competition with private buses.

which 22 are usually on the road and the other 4 are kept in reserve. The buses went on the road at 6.30 a.m. and ran up to 10.30 p.m. The Grande-Anse run went to midnight. The NTS had provided an invaluable service to the people of Grenada. It held down bus fares generally through competition with private buses.

The NTS had as its target to bring in \$720,000.00. It went past its target by bringing in \$978,000.00 in 9½ months of 1982, that it was in operation.

RADIO AND TELEVISION: The National Radio Station had been in operation for 24 years with transmitting power of 1KW. Since the revolution, a 50,000 transmitter for Radio Free Grenada (FRG) was erected.

In 1981, \$1.0 million was allocated for the transmitter and equipment for Television Free Grenada (TFG).

CARRIACOU AND PETIT MARTINIQUE:

Before the March 13th, 1979 Revolution, Grenada's Sister Isles of Carriacou and Petit Martinique were suffering from serious neglect from the Gairy Regime. However, since the revolution these islands had benefitted equally from the collective efforts of the people and government of Grenada.

The people of Carriacou and Petit Martinique for example, then for the first time, had a slice of the National Budget allocated to them for their own capital development programme. These monies had been spent on many such projects such as:

- a: the building of two jetties, (Hillsborough and Harvey Vale);
- b: reconstruction of public roads;
- c: refurbishing of primary schools;
- d: building of recreational facilities (eg. community centres and sporting complexes);
- e: improvements in transportation - public transportation service was launched in Carriacou in 1981, making it less expensive and easier for the people to move around;
- f: improvements in electrification - electricity services had been extended to reach all houses in the island;
- g: restoration of supply (cut-off by Gairy in 1978) and reduction of cost of kerosene. A reduction in the cost of kerosene meant that valuable fruit trees (a cheaper source of fuel) would no longer have to be felled for fuel.

NOTE: These are but a few examples of the tremendous achievements of the revolution which had served to raise the all round living standard of the people of Carriacou and Petit Martinique. No further mention is made of the establishment of the MNIB depots and the "Camp Carriacou" hotel etc. all of which, had been mentioned earlier.



Electricity comes to Petit Martinique — no longer a forgotten island, October 1982.

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

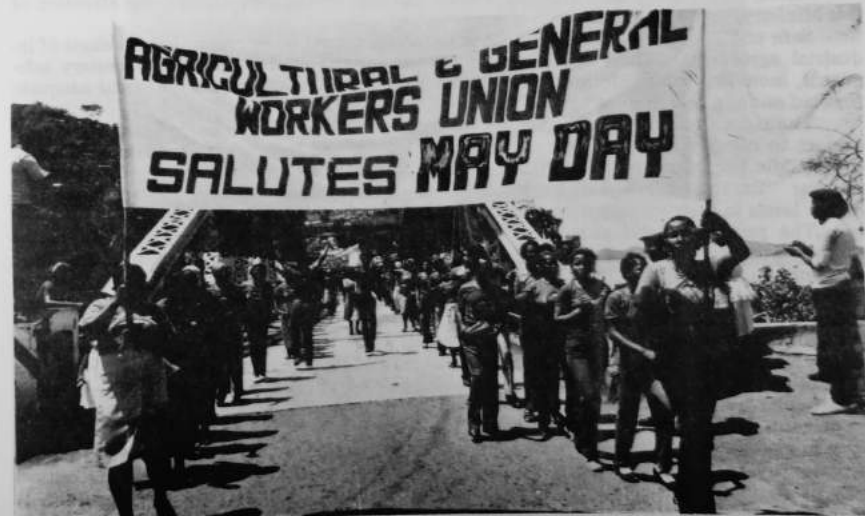
The promotion of the fundamental right to work was neglected in Grenada before March 13th, 1979. Consistent with the development policies pursued by the Gairy Regime, employment creation was not given priority status. Consequently, the PRG inherited a situation where 49% of the labour force was unemployed with the majority of these being women (70%).

Employment creation was a priority of the PRG. In the earliest weeks of the revolution, an employment survey was conducted by regional experts. More recently, in April 1982, the PRG conducted an unemployment census which listed all persons unemployed and their skills. These studies had provided the necessary information to facilitate planning for employment creation.

In 1982, 14.7% of the Grenadian workforce was unemployed. The PRG had consistently stated that a principal objective of its economic planning was to wipe out unemployment in the shortest possible time. In three years the unemployment figure had been reduced by some 35%.

It was projected that by 1985 given the development programmes Grenada would have had a shortage of labour.

Since the revolution the majority of new jobs had been created in construction, housing and infrastructural development, in agriculture, agro-industry and fishing. NACDA had



Since 1979, individual trade unions had become vibrant organisations with a growing record of active participation in international and other labour conferences.

contributed in a major way to the progress achieved in the solution of the unemployment problem.

The right to fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without any distinction, and in particular, guaranteeing conditions of work for women not inferior to those of men, with equal pay for equal work, was formally established by the PRG through executive action shortly after the March 13th Revolution. Since then women were been paid the same wages for similar work as men, and were not discriminated against the type and condition of work.

The Maternity Leave Law, 1980, (No. 83) which was enacted to give legislative recognition, promotion and enforcement of the right to special protection of mothers during a reasonable period before and after child-birth, conferred specific benefits upon pregnant mothers and provided a procedure and penalties for the enforcement of this right.

In circumstances prescribed by the law, an expectant mother was entitled under its provisions to three months maternity leave, from her employment. A monthly paid employee who qualified for the grant of maternity leave was entitled to receive her months' pay from her employer during the period of her leave. Corresponding provisions had been made for employees who were paid fortnightly, weekly and daily. In addition, an employee who was granted maternity leave under the law was entitled to return to her employment on the termination of her leave. All of which was unheard of under the Gairy Regime.

In August 1982, a separate Ministry of Women's Affairs - The first in the Caribbean - was established in Grenada. The promotion and enforcement of the right to maternity benefits, among other issues that affected women directly, would have engaged the attention of this Ministry.

Safe and healthy working conditions were guaranteed by appropriate provisions of industrial agreements. These agreements provided for the establishment of necessary safeguards, including safety clothing and equipment, proper and hygienic facilities and adequate first aid and medical arrangements.

The right to equal opportunity for all workers to earn promotion in his employment, subject to considerations of seniority and competence had been greatly enhanced normally by specific provisions of industrial agreements but also by the introduction of the then popular "Emulation Process" by the PRG. By this process, workers were promoted to higher levels in their employment, based on a system of meritocracy.

The protection and guarantees offered to workers since the revolution contrasted sharply with the bitter experiences of the Trade Union (TU) Movement under the Gairy dictatorship. Prior to March 13th, 1979, workers were not permitted to form and to join Trade Unions of their choice. Attempts at unionisation were actively frustrated by the Gairy Government. Workers were dismissed, refused employment or generally harassed on the grounds of union affiliation. Peoples Law No. 29 of 1979 otherwise known as the Trade Union Recognition Act 1979 had dramatically changed the situation.

In any work place where fifty per cent plus one of the workers elected by secret ballot, a particular union, this became by law, their duly recognised bargaining agent. There could be no refusal to negotiate under the Act.

In essence, the Act had laid the foundation for greater, freer and more productive participation by the worker in the affairs of the work place on the one hand, and in the critical area of national construction through a vibrant trade union movement on the other. It established the basis for advanced industrial relations and guaranteed the fundamental rights of workers.

Since 1979, individual trade unions had become vibrant organisations with a growing

record of active participation in international and other labour conferences held abroad. Every Trade Union functioning in Grenada was a member of the Trade Union Movement and was itself affiliated to a number of regional and international labour organisations including the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Additionally trade unions in Grenada had begun to play a greater role in all areas of national life. They were represented on several important statutory boards, they integrally related to many of the priority programmes of the revolution.

The recognition of the right to function freely had since 1979, a positive effect on the evolution of the Trade Union Movement in Grenada. The Trade Union and Trade Dispute (Amendment) Law (No. 62) of 1979 allowed a Trade Union to purchase, sell, lease, exchange or mortgage land or other property.

This law had greatly assisted the unions in their qualitative development of their membership. Unions had initiated a whole range of programmes covering the industrial, educational, cultural, and recreational fields. These had a very positive impact on increased membership of unions. This was another illustration of the PRG's total support for and recognition of the vital role the Trade Union movement has to play, through its own developments, in the process of national construction.

Workers' right to strike was protected and recognised by law (Peoples Law No. 46 of 1979). This law was in direct contrast to the Essential Services Act of 1976 and other anti-workers laws passed by the Gairy regime.



Trade Unions in Grenada had begun to play a greater role in all areas of national life.

HEALTH:

The Peoples Revolution Government (PRG) of Grenada had made very serious efforts to guarantee the right of the Grenadian People to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; to provide and improve health care for all through a Primary Health care Programme.

The emphasis in this primary health care programme was placed on preventative medicine, focussing attention on the community rather than the hospitals. A vigorous public education programme was being undertaken which stressed the importance of personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness as guarantees against the spread of disease.

Ever since the 1979 revolution, progressive advances had been made. Health care, including dental care was provided free of charge (not including the cost of drugs). The aim of the PRG was health care totally free for all by the year 2000.

The following are some of the achievements in Health which had been made since 1979:-

1: In its efforts towards providing free and high quality health services, the PRG, four months after the revolution obtained the services of 12 Cuban Doctors, inclusive of a Bone Specialist, an Eye Surgeon, three Dentists, three Specialists in the diseases of small children (pediatricians), one X-Ray Technician (childhood diseases, eg. Gastroenteritis was given special attention;



A Cuban Dentist attends a Grenadian patient.

2: The doctor/patient ratio had been reduced from one doctor to every 4,000 people before 1979 to one doctor for every 2,767 persons;

3: The dentist/patient ratio had been reduced from one dentist to every 30,000 persons before 1979 to one dentist to every 18,450 persons;

4: All hospitals had been provided with more and better equipment and supplies; given the fact that before 1979, hospitals and clinics were badly neglected and lacked basic medicines, beds and bandages.

5: Prior to the revolution, there was one dental clinic. By 1981, dental clinics were set up in all seven parishes doing dental extractions as well as fillings, etc.;

6: The establishment of a fully equipped Ophthalmic clinic to serve the people of Grenada, Petit Martinique and Carriacou for all kinds of eye services. There was an average of forty persons treated daily. In 1981, there was a successful repair of a retinal detachment and six corneal eye transplants, being the first such transplants in the Eastern Caribbean, all free of cost;

7: Before the revolution, health care was extremely costly and available only to those who could afford it. Health care facilities were now free in all Government hospitals and Health Centres;

8: The operating theatres in the General Hospital had been trebled from one to three. A new, fully equipped Maternity Unit had been established;

9: A modern X-Ray Department with new machines had been established. In 1981, a 24-hour Casualty Service at the General Hospital was introduced with two doctors living on the premises and always on call;

10: By September 1981, a project financed by (USAID and the CDB) refurbished seven health centres and medical visiting stations at an estimated cost of \$324,000.00.

11: The General Hospital now had on staff, an additional physiotherapist and the only neurologist in the seven OECS states;

12: Two fully trained family nurse practitioners were now supplementing the district medical officers as they were trained to diagnose disease and prescribe medication. They also did basic laboratory tests;

13: Public health nurses had immunized agricultural farm workers against tetanus and other disease (ensured by Peoples Law No. 41 of 1980);

14: The commencement of work to establish an intensive care unit at the General Hospital;

15: Rebuilding and extension of the Accident, Emergency and Outpatient Clinical areas in keeping with improved first and second levels of medical care in the implementation of the Public Health Care System;

16: Provision of new facilities for inpatients on ophthalmic ward and for medical and surgical procedures;

17: Refurbishing and upgrading of maintenance facilities at the General Hospital with direct worker participation;

18: Refurbishing and upgrading kitchen facilities at the Princess Alice Hospital in St. Andrew's.

19: Refurbishing and upgrading of facilities at the Richmond Hill Institutions (these are prison and mental rehabilitation institutions.);

20: Construction of a new health complex at Sauteurs, including a Maternity Unit;

21: Passing of the peoples Law No. 32 of 1980, which brought into being, the establishment of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Council. This Council had a qualified Nutritionist attached to it with a permanent staff. This Council was the only one of its type in the Caribbean.

The Council comprised of representatives from all sectors of the economy with (non-governmental organisations, and trade unions making up the policy making body). The policy making body was responsible for making decisions on matters relating to health, nutrition and community development.

The overall functions of this Council included the developing of food and nutritional planning; the monitoring of food and nutrition programmes; making recommendations for a national food and nutrition policy, its objective being to improve food availability and fulfil nutritional requirements of all the Grenadian people.

The Peoples Revolutionary Government regarded the establishment of the Council as an essential, initial step for the protection of the Grenadian people's right to knowledge of principles of Nutrition. The setting-up of this council was part of the PRG's trust towards providing quality health care through community participation;

22: All schools had benefitted from the School Feeding Programme while before the revolution only 20% of schools benefitted from this programme.

23: The Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) in furtherance of developing its programmes, encouraged communities to get involved in repairing school kitchens. The FNC also embarked on a programme of educating consumers on nutrition and nutrition costs, and the monitoring of prices in order that the people themselves can get involved in health care in their own communities;

24: The Milk Feeding Programme had become widespread. This had been a great step towards solving the problems of childhood under-nutrition and malnutrition.

Milk was provided through this programme free of charge to sections of the population. Seventy-three thousand pounds (73,000 lbs.) reached 50,000 people every month.



73,000lbs of milk was distributed free of charge to 50,000 people every month.

EDUCATION:

The PRG had based its educational strategy on the principle that education is a right of all citizens, that additionally, training is a necessity of all workers; and that education and professionalisation are thrusts of the same process.

This was clearly expressed in the words of the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop,

"Without education no genuine peoples democracy can be built, since democracy assumed the informed conscious and educated participation of the people. Without education, there can be no real participation and productivity, no individual and collective growth, no true dignity, no genuine independence".

The PRG had therefore, embarked on a number of projects to ensure that all Grenadians are afforded the opportunity to attain the highest possible standard of educational achievement.

The following are some of the accomplishments of the Grenadian Revolution since 1979. These, however must be seen from the fact that up to 1979, all school buildings were

in a dilapidated condition. Classrooms were overcrowded, furniture and teaching aids virtually non-existent with two thirds of the teaching staff, untrained.

1: School fees were reduced from \$50.00 per term to \$12.50 in the first two years after the revolution. By September 1981, all Secondary education was free of charge, including university education.

2: In 1978 there were only three Grenadian students abroad on scholarships. This number had increased to 250 by 1981 and was over 300 in 1982.

In the first six months after the revolution, 38 students were sent to Cuba to pursue University studies in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering; Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science;

Scholarships to the USSR, to study co-operative Education Practices to deal with the development of co-operatives, as it relates to the Grenadian situation had also been pursued;



Refurbishing of a primary school.

3: The Bernadette Bailey Secondary School in Happy Hill, St. Georges, was the first Government Secondary School opened in Grenada in 100 years;

4: Ninety-one pre-primary schools were established by 1981. These schools were established to provide children with the best possible atmosphere for the advancement of their education.

By January 1982, free milk and cots were distributed to all the pre-primary schools. In recognising that children were the nation's most important human resource, the PRG, through the Early Childhood Division had a major responsibility to give children the highest quality care and attention;

The first Day Nursery was opened on the 17th of April, 1981 in La Borie. Its hours were from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with a fee of \$6.00 per month.



Adult education in action in Grenada.

5: The Centre For Popular Education (CPE) was established and was the nucleus for the promotion of Adult Education in Grenada. It had three major aspects:

- i: Adult literacy;
- ii: Basic education;
- iii: Technical and Vocational education;

By February 1981, at the end of the first phase of the CPE, some 881 people were made literate. This was done through the help of volunteer teachers. Of the 881 people made literate, 40.6% were in the age group 14-25 years;

9.4% - (26 - 30 yrs.); 26.6% - over 50 yrs. old;

9.8% - (31 - 40 yrs.); 11.4% - (41 - 50 yrs.).



This young comrade helped in reducing Grenada's illiteracy rate through his volunteer teaching at the CPE.

CPE Certificates were recognised certificates in the society and those who got them were able to use them to qualify for certain jobs and promotions;

In 1982, under 10% of all adults were illiterate, compared with 15% in 1979. The PRG, through the Adult Education Programme was aiming to completely eradicate illiteracy by 1980; - For the PRG was fully aware that high illiteracy and educational backwardness perpetuated by the Gairy Regime only served to justify, confuse and dominate the people of Grenada;

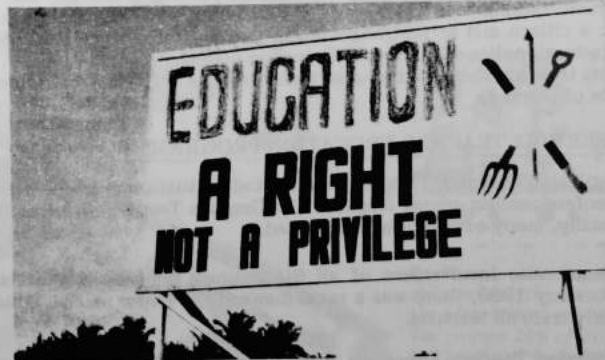
6: In the promotion of the right of the Grenadian people to technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, the PRG had instituted several projects since March 13, 1979, for example:

NATIONAL FISHERIES SCHOOL:

At this school, emphasis was placed on the training of fishermen and women in modern and more efficient methods of fishing. The objective of this programme was to get those who depend on this sector of the economy for their livelihood, to move away from the traditional, inefficient and dangerous methods of fishing. In addition, instructions were also given in the proper use and servicing of fishing craft and the storing of equipment.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES:

Three of these centres had been established, at which youths were trained in modern farming techniques. As an adjunct to the training programme conducted at these Agricultural Training Centres, the recently introduced Youth Employment Programme aimed to train an additional two thousand youths over a two-year period. Each course period was of twelve weeks duration.



A billboard boldly proclaims that education is "a right not a privilege."

Upon graduation from the programme, these youths were encouraged to form co-operatives with the assistance and guidance by the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA). The sum of \$4.0 million had already been spent on various aspects of the Youth Employment Programme.

THE MIRABEAU FARM SCHOOL:

The school had been upgraded and expanded. At this school, specialist training was given to youths in Agricultural science and vegetable production. Specialist tutors were brought in periodically from outside Grenada to conduct classes at the school. The training courses at the school were conducted over a two-year period and on successful completion the students were attached to state operated farms or were assisted in setting up co-operatives among themselves.

THE GRENADA TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE:

This institution provided training for young people and upgrading of skills of older technicians and tradesmen and women in the area of Electronics, electrical and mechanical techniques, culinary arts and secretarial studies.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING:

In 1980, an In-Service Training Unit for the Public Service was established by the Peoples Revolutionary Government as a means of upgrading the management skills of personnel in the Public Sector. The In-Service Unit had already trained scores of Public Sector Workers and State Enterprises personnel in Basic Management and Administration skills.

TRAINING OF POLICEMEN:

Special training for policemen was instituted by the PRG because of the pressing need to train this category of personnel. The PRG had inherited a Police Force which had virtually no public respect and was of low morale. The new approach to training was implemented in 1979 at a new training school, where the atmosphere was designed to make the policeman once more, a citizen and servant of his fellow citizens, rather than an instrument of repression. At this school, police officers were trained in police-citizen relations, in addition to receiving training to equip them to discharge their duties as defenders and enforcers of the rights of the people of Grenada.

THE NATIONAL IN-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

The Grenada Revolution of March 13th, 1979, inherited a situation marked by a severe lack of training and professionalism among teachers. The Grenada Teachers College graduated thirty students annually, many of whom soon migrated.

Following the democratic involvement of all the nation's teachers at the National Teachers Seminar of January 1980, there was a vocal demand for a new teacher education system that could rapidly train all teachers.

The National In-Service Teacher Education Programme (NISTEP) was introduced in October, 1980 and was in the process of training 400 untrained Primary and Junior Second-

ary School teachers throughout Grenada. Training courses extended over a period of three years and included instruction in Language Arts, Education Practice and Theory, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health Education and Agricultural Science. One hundred and twenty teachers were given an Intensive course in physical education.

The fact that the PRG had in 1982 spent 23% of the National Budget (\$17.0 million) on education, underlined the very important role that Education played in the development of the new society in Grenada.

Two People's Laws, The Open Bible Standard Churches of Grenada Incorporation Law (No. 75) of 1979 and the General Assembly Of The Church Of God In Grenada Incorporation Law 1980 (No. 50) illustrated the absence of any restriction on the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions which conformed to State approved minimum educational standards. The aims and objectives of both bodies incorporated by these laws, included providing for the educational needs of the people of Grenada.

Schools established and directed by the Roman Catholic Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Borean Church are a few examples of Educational Institutions directed by individuals and bodies. In addition, there were a number of private institutions offering both primary and secondary education in Grenada.



Pre-Primary schools were established to provide children with the best possible atmosphere for the advancement of their education.

The poorest 25% of all primary school children had benefitted from free books, uniforms and a free hot meal daily in schools.

It must be noted that the poorest twenty-five per cent of all primary school children had benefitted from free school books, free uniforms and a free, hot meal daily in school.

It must be further noted that the PRG had named 1983 as the "Year of Political and Academic Education", and set itself the following tasks:

- i: Worker education in all work places, state and private;
- ii: Total Trade Union involvement in the CPE and worker education;
- iii: CPE for all workers and in all villages;
- iv: More work/study programmes for students;
- v: More seminars and training programmes by the mass organisation;
- vi: More technical seminars for different categories of workers in order to improve their skills.

The emphasis on education in 1983 was for the people to become more educated academically, more skilled in the area of science and technology; and more aware of the deepening crisis of capitalism and how it affected their lives and the struggle of other people throughout the world.



Another billboard proudly expressing one of the PRG's aim at reducing illiteracy in the Island.

HOUSING:

In this area of housing, benefits were delivered to the Grenadian people on two levels. The house repair programme, which commenced in 1980, had made a significant contribution to the poorer sections of the Grenadian society. Under this programme, money was loaned to persons, who qualified for assistance to enable them to buy materials to repair their houses. This loan was available interest free and was repayable over ten years. Some 17,244 families (3 out of every 4 families) had received benefits under this programme.

The National Housing Authority constructed 31 low cost housing units in 1981 and 50 in 1982. The cost of constructing each unit ranged from \$31,575.00 to \$36,617.00. These units had been allocated to persons who qualified under the terms of this programme and the cost of the unit was repayable in 20 years at a rate of interest of 7%.

The Ministry of Housing was in the process of constructing a plant to produce prefabricated houses (Sandino Housing Plant) at greatly reduced cost. Mortgage financing would have been provided to ensure funds were available to potential house owners. This housing plant, when completed would have produced 500 houses per year to meet Grenada's housing needs.

In addition to these developments, a rent control law, to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords was drafted. This law stated that it was compulsory for rented premises, except those excluded by the Government to be assessed and the rental fixed by a Rent Assessment Board.

Landlords were to be responsible for all repairs at no cost to middle and low income tenants; and if the landlord changed the rent as set by the board, the tenant could have taken him/her to Court, where he/she would have had to pay back the money overcharged.



Low cost housing units and the house repair programme made significant contributions to the poorer sections of the Grenadian Society.

STANDARD OF LIVING:

Ever since the revolution, the PRG had provided numerous material benefits in addition to the quantitative and qualitative improvements in education, health and housing. This had resulted in a higher standard of living for Grenadian working people and an increase in the social wage of the Grenadian population.

Not only had the number of unemployed declined from 49% of the workforce in 1978 and early 1979 to 14.7% in 1982, but the general standard of living of the population as a whole had improved. The various social programmes, the fiscal policy of the Government (tax and expenditure policy) the successes scored in the fight against inflation which declined steadily from 19.5% in 1979 to 7% in 1982 and increases in the money wages of workers, all of which combined, had raised the real wages of Grenadian workers, particularly those of the poorest workers.

In 1981, average wages and salaries increased by 17¼% and in 1982, by 10½%. At the same time, prices went up by 10¼% in 1981 and 7% in 1982. Therefore for two successive years real wages of Grenadian working people had increased.

N.B: Old Age Pensions increased by 10¼% in 1982 and a further 12¼% in 1983.

The establishment of the Marketing and National Importing Board and its importation of essential items, together with more effective monitoring and application of price controls, (the number of price control inspectors had doubled within two years of the revolution), meant a greater degree of specialisation and quicker and better service to the public, all of which contributed significantly in the fight against inflation.



Various social programmes were implemented by the P.R.G, e.g., reconstruction of public roads helped to reduce the unemployment level in Grenada.

Investment in health centres, hospitals, schools, community centres, sporting and other recreational facilities, had improved the general material well-being of the people, while special economic programmes directed at particular groups (women, youth, the elderly, the handicapped, etc.) had tended to concentrate funds and efforts on those previously neglected sections of the population.

Finally, it must be noted that as a result of the Income Tax Law, 1980 (no. 20) 30% of the lowest paid workers of Grenada had been exempted from the payment of income tax.

All of this indicated that the overall living standard of the Grenadian people rose continuously under the Peoples Revolutionary Government.

DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION:

Under the Gairy Regime, Grenadians were not permitted to participate directly in the conduct of public affairs at a national level. The system of district boards, which from July 1st, 1933 had entitled Grenadians to participate in the Local Government of the six parishes, into which Grenada was divided, was nullified on the 13th September, 1969, by the Local Government Boards (Dissolution and Interim Commissioner) Act, 1969.

Through its control of the electoral machinery and its manipulation of Parliament, the Gairy Regime ensured that Grenadians did not participate in public affairs even through freely chosen representatives, rigged elections; preparation of incomplete electoral lists; omission of supporters of opposition parties from electoral lists; dual and in some cases, multiple registrations of supporters of Gairy's party, some of whom had died long before the electoral list was prepared; appointment of Gairy's party sympathisers or supporters to be 'impartial' supervisors of election; these are but a few examples of the means which Gairy used to prevent the free and genuine election of representatives by the Grenadian people. Under the Gairy regime, elections were neither free nor fair; they were only periodic.

From its inception as a political party, the New Jewel Movement (NJM) proclaimed its intention to construct a new political culture with the main emphasis on participatory as distinct from representative mechanism. The PRG and the NJM's actions have been totally consistent with the fundamental principles of (a) accountability and (b) involvement of the broadest sections of the population, particularly the youth, women and workers in decision-making.

In the period 1979 to 1982, Grenadian political culture had been characterised by:-

- the phenomenal growth and development of organisations embracing collectively, the vast adult population;
- the expansion and strengthening of existing mass organisations, particularly the Trade Unions;
- the application of the principle of electivity in all the mass organisations within the framework of written, independent constitutions and accountability of their leadership to the membership;

elections to the Executive of all of these mass organisations on the basis of secret ballot;

- the absence of any restrictions whatsoever membership in the National Women's Organisation (NWO) and the National Youth Organisation (NYO). With regards to the Productive Farmers Union (PFU) membership was open to only farmers owning land of under 1000 acres. (There were 40 farmers who owned land in excess of 100 acres.) There were eight separate Trade Unions in Grenada each with their own independent constitutions. All workers throughout the country were free to join the Trade Unions of their choice, exercised by secret ballot of 50% plus one of the workers in each work place. All of this had been made possible by Peoples Law No. 29 of 1979. Between 70 and 80% of all workers in Grenada were now unionised as a consequence.

- The mass organisations (NWO, NYO, MILITIA, PFU, Trade Unions, National Students Councils, Pioneers, Secondary Schools Students Councils) formed a foundation of grassroot democracy, because they organised the people in a manner which allowed for the promotion of the vital interests of the various representative strata. All the executives of each of the many mass organisations were subject to re-election or removal on the basis of annual or bi-annual elections, conducted by secret ballot and provided for in their respective constitutions. These mass organisations wielded increasing influence in the state apparatus.

- All the mass organisations were represented on statutory or state bodies appropriate to the promotion of their specific interest. This guaranteed that statutory bodies responded to and served the interest of the people for which they were organised. Further the main leaders of the mass organisations were represented on the PRG as full members of the PRG. In addition to the mass organisations and their role in directing public life, there were other structures for democratic participation. A system of monthly, zonal and parish council meetings open to all residents of villages within a zone (transportation was provided free to all who wished to attend) provided the opportunity for discussion of problems and issues of concern to the people.



N.W.O. — Women discussing issues and problems which largely affect women.

The people of the various zones possessed the right to summons by which they could demand the presence of any minister of cabinet or public official or head of state corporation or public utilities to discuss, account for or answer questions which they may have. In these Councils, accountability to the people was practiced in a direct manner. The fact that these meetings followed a regular four-week cycle, there was reporting back to the people on issues raised at previous meetings.

Eighty per cent (80%) of the adult population attended zonal and parish council meetings. It was important to note that the entire country was divided into 36 zones of roughly equal population size (equal to 3 to 4 geographic villages per zone). This ensured that virtually every adult in a particular zone could fit into the nearby primary or secondary school assembly hall or community centre as the case may be.

The Zonal and Parish Councils had become popular means for effecting real changes in the social and economic conditions of life for the Grenadian people. From these councils, had come valuable suggestions and calls for the establishment of several programmes of the revolution. All major pieces of legislation passed since March 13th, 1979 had only been effected after the most elaborate process of consultation and discussion with the mass organisations, trade unions and representative bodies. For example, the Investment Code (made law in early 1983) was under discussion for 18 months, involving the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Grenada Hotel Association and other private sector organisations, as well as the trade unions and mass organisations and during this time the draft code underwent several revisions as a result of feedback from these bodies.

Other mechanisms which provided for the participation of the people in Government include:- Workers Parish Councils, Youth General Meetings; Women's Parish Councils, Farmers Zonal Councils and specific national consultations.



Pioneers: Young children demonstrating grassroot democracy and support for their Revolution.

WORKERS PARISH COUNCIL:

These were general meetings of clerical and manual workers in a particular parish held on a monthly basis for the purpose of discussion of issues and resolution of problems which specifically affected workers. They also discussed general national and international issues. All workers within the parish were entitled to attend and participate in these meetings with transportation provided free of charge.

YOUTH GENERAL MEETINGS:

These were similar to Workers Parish Councils, except that the focus was on issues and problems which related specifically to youth. All youths in the particular parish could attend and participate with transportation provided free of charge.

WOMEN'S PARISH COUNCIL:

These were similar to Workers Parish Councils except that the emphasis was on issues and problems largely affecting women. All women in that particular parish were entitled to attend and participate with transportation provided free of charge.



The author Comrade Michael Aberdeen, expressing a point of view at a Zonal Council meeting

FARMERS ZONAL COUNCILS:

These were regular meetings of Farmers in a particular zone attended also by technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, with emphasis on problems faced by farmers but involving discussion of broader national and international issues. All farmers in the Zone were entitled to attend and participate with transportation provided free of charge.

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS:

These were called as the need arose, particularly before implementation of far-reaching changes in a sector, and involved all of those immediately attached or affected in this sector. The most far-reaching of these national consultations had been the 1981 budget plan process in which for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, the people were directly involved in the preparation of the budget plan of their country. (1982/1983 Budget plans were also formulated in like manner).

The process also marked a historic move to link the National Budget to a national plan in a manner which was legally binding and in which the government expenditure was consistent with established goals, objectives and schedules. Over 80% of the adult population actively participated in the formulation of the national budget through the national conference on the economy, zonal and parish councils and general meetings and branch meetings of the trade union movement. The views of all the people in all these sessions, including all those criticisms of the functioning of the Government were fully aired and widely publicised in the local media (radio, television, etc.).



Working people directly involved in the preparation of the budget plan of their country.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL MOBILISATION:

This Ministry, formed in August 1981, was called the "Peoples Ministry" and it was indeed a unique example of democracy in the Caribbean. The Ministry was created because of the need to ensure that the masses had an input in decision-making, and that decisions made, actually benefitted the people of Grenada.

Grenada, like most former British Colonies, inherited a colonial bureaucracy, with colonial-type of government ministries, not really designed to help the people and having a reputation for being out of touch with the very people they claimed to be serving and for piles of red tape that ties down all work until it has become outdated by growing needs.

The Ministry of National Mobilisation was an "Action" Ministry, designed to put pressure on the bureaucracy to make sure it worked and really got things done. It was geared to bridge the artificial gap between the people and their paid public servants. Its main task was to monitor all the ministries plugging and pushing them, unravelling bottlenecks, ironing out delays and generally speeding up programmes. One of the Ministry's task as well, was to go out and explain the different Ministry's projects to the masses, to keep them informed and up to date on progress and to seek constructive feedback.



A cross section of Grenadians attending one of the many rallies which were used by the PRG to keep the people informed of the development of the Revolutionary process.

The Ministry of National Mobilisation also played an Ombudsman role, hearing the people's complaints about delays or inefficiency in implementing programmes or of needs being ignored. On the other hand, its role was to encourage citizens into recognising that they were not spectators in the ongoing social process and that their civic responsibility did not end with paying taxes. To involve the people more, and solicit their ideas and co-operation, the Ministry kept close contact with the Trade Unions, community and mass organisations, etc.

The Ministry spearheaded the work of mass mobilisation around national issues for example, adult literacy campaign, land reform, primary health care, milk-feeding in schools, building and repairing community centres, school and homes, cleaning and beautifying towns and villages, etc. It also mobilised civilians to join the Peoples Revolutionary Militia, to take part in military manoeuvres, to practice defending themselves and their homeland against external aggression and invasion.

MEASURES CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEMOCRATISATION OF NATIONAL LIFE:

The following are some measures (some of which have already been mentioned) which had been implemented since March 13th, 1979 and which had significantly contributed to the democratisation of national life, and geared to satisfy the fundamental human rights of the people of Grenada.

IN EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS:

- Literacy Campaign CPE Phase 1 - carried out by volunteer teachers on an "each one teach one" basis. Approximately 6000 persons participated.
- Adult Education Programme CPE Phase 11 - geared to reach 12,000 sub-educated adults a year or 20% of the adult population.
- Free Secondary education - had benefitted total secondary school population (5,962).
- Free school books and uniforms - had benefitted the poorest 25% of all primary school children.
- Free university education - over 350 students in universities throughout the world.
- School of Art - training classes at various levels for 150 artists a year;
- Compulsory monthly staff meetings in all educational institutions - 80 educational institutions incorporating 1076 teachers in decision-making.
- Formation of student councils in all secondary schools - 19 secondary and high level institutions with student population of 5962.
- National in-service teacher education programme (NISTEP) - in-service training for all pre-primary and primary teachers (500).
- Two national consultations on education, 1979, 1980 - involving all primary level teachers (1,000) and church management.

- Pensionable status for all secondary school teachers - benefitting 227 secondary school teachers employed by different churches.
- Peoples Law No. 47 of 1979 Importation of Publications (Prohibition) Revolution Law - unprecedented sale of newspapers and magazines, including news magazines and Caribbean newspapers which frequently attacked the PRG.
- Formation of the Grenada Union of Writers and Artists - Incorporating 50 writers and artists representing their interests.
- Media Workers Association of Free Grenada - professional association of journalists, media workers and communication personnel.
- Fedon Publishers - publication of local writing, 6 titles with total print run of 75,000 in two years.
- Development of "Sports for All" policy by the establishment of Parish Sports Councils - involving sports clubs, mass organisations, national sports council. As a result, over 100 sports clubs were then in operation.
- Training of physical education tutors in primary schools - 120 teachers given intensive course.
- Organisation of festival of the revolution sports in every village with selective process for national championships - 110 villages involved, 100 sports clubs.
- Support for Union Sports Activity, Inter-Ministry Sporting Competitions - involving all trade unions and all ministries.



Outstanding Grenadian educators pose with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at the Education Emulation ceremony.

IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Caricom health training programme - involving 197 health supervisors.
- Formation of National Primary Health Care Committee - involving Ministry of Health, other ministries, NWO, NYO, Trade Union, Council, NISTEP, Central Water Commission.
- Expansion of operating theatres from 1 to 3 - from serving 2963 patients in 1978 to 3,500 in 1979 to 3,439 in 1980.
- Construction of new maternity unit - between 1981 and 1982 3,031 patients admitted.
- Refurbishing of X-Ray and Laboratory facilities at General Hospital - new lab tests was possible e.g. Histopathology tests was done.
- Refurbishing and upgrading of 4 medical stations and 2 health centres - serving an estimated 40,000 persons.
- Construction of new health complex at Sauteurs (including maternity unit) - serving a population of 11,491.
- School Flouride Mouthrinse Programme - reaching 56 out of 66 primary schools.
- Provision of specialist services at district health clinics - 7,431 persons attended per month on average.
- National Anti-Dengue Clean-up in 1981 - every village cleaned up by voluntary labour, spearheaded by Ministry of Health with support teams from NWO, NYO.
- Peoples Law No. 41 of 1980 Public Health (School Children Immunisation) Law - 12,600 children immunised from 5 infectious diseases.
- Reduction of doctor-population from 1:4864 (1977) to 1:2816 (1982).
- Reduction of dentist-population ratio from 1:53706 (1977) to 1:21,400 (1982).
- Establishment of housing repair programme - 17,244 families benefitted in the period under review.
- Construction of community centres - 12 centres throughout the country.
- National Anti-gastro clean-up campaign (1982) - every village cleaned up by voluntary labour of villages spearheaded by Ministry of Health and Mass Organisations.



Under the PRG all Hospitals had been provided with more and better equipment. Former Prime Minister inspecting new medical equipment at the St. Georges Hospital

IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:

- Establishment of an Inservice Training Unit (ITU) - Training of all public service management at all levels. Also specialised courses for women and farm managers.
- Regular Heads of Department Meetings in all Ministries - Involving all ministries and State Enterprises.
- Cabinet Directive (April 28, 1982) on the management of Public Enterprises with the following main features and -
 - 1: Preparation of quarterly financial statements; with copies being sent to the relevant trade unions.
 - 2: Workers to be kept informed of financial statements and were to be involved in the preparation and evaluation of work plans.
 - 3: Profit sharing to be implemented.
 - 4: At least one workers' representative to be on the Board of Management (elected by secret ballot).

Weekly Workers Education Classes conducted by the Ministry of National Mobilisation including the study of History and Economy - Involving all Ministries and State Enterprises.

IN THE ECONOMY:

- Budget Plan Formulation Process - Involving all Ministries, Parish and Zonal Councils.
- Profit Sharing in all State Enterprises - Involving all State Enterprises and State Farms.
- Establishment of Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) - Had several branches throughout the country and had benefitted farmers by purchasing produce; had found export markets for cash crops and retailed cheaply to consumers.
- Strict price control policy - mass organisations acted as consumer protection agencies. Private sector was also guaranteed a reasonable profit.
- Construction of 47 miles of farm and feeder roads - areas for roads to be constructed selected by the farmers themselves, through the Productive Farmers Union.
- Job creation in all sectors of the economy - in the Ministry of Construction alone, some 3,000 jobs were created between mid 1981 to end 1982 in various projects related to the expansion of the country's infrastructure.



International condemnation of Yankee aggression.

IN CARRIACOU AND PETIT MARTINIQUE:

Before identifying further, some of the measures taken for the democratisation and improvement of life in Carriacou and Petit Martinique it is important to note that historically, Carriacou and Petit Martinique had been neglected "Ward Islands" of Grenada and that during the 25 years of Gairy's rule, these islands suffered particular and deliberate neglect because of their political opposition to Gairyism. The already inadequate infrastructure was allowed to deteriorate, basic services were poor and badly administered, the islands were ignored by the Central Government.

This neglected "Ward Island" status had under the PRG dramatically changed to that of Sister Island, equal partners in the revolutionary and development process. Virtually every programme and project of the Revolution on the mainland had also been instituted in Carriacou and Petit Martinique. In some cases, as in the case of the literacy campaign, Carriacou had been the leading parish.

- Two resident doctors - there were none before the revolution.
- One resident dentist - there was none before the revolution.
- Refurbishing of health clinic in Windward.
- Construction of new health clinic in Petit Martinique.
- Establishment of a dental clinic.
- Electrification of Carriacou and Petit Martinique - the electrification teams were assisted by voluntary community labour.
- Repair of road network in Carriacou and Petit Martinique.
- Establishment of Public Transport System - serving all villages in Carriacou.
- Opening of State Hotel (Camp Carriacou) - the first International Conference ever to be held in Carriacou "Education and Production" was held there in November, 1982.
- Construction of a new jetty in Harvey Vale - ensuring the fishermen's right to a decent living.
- Establishment of two branches of MNIB in Carriacou and Petit Martinique - serving not only Carriacou and Petit Martinique but also customers from the other Grenadines.
- Establishment of a branch of the National Commercial Bank - this meant improved banking services in Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

SUMMARY:

These facts and figures presented in this document are intended to expose the many lies which had been expounded against the Grenada Revolution of March 13th, 1979. For it is abundantly clear to any honest-thinking level-headed person, on examination of these facts, that what had taken place in Grenada under the PRG represented a tremendous revolutionary process; a magnificent achievement of the people of Grenada in laying the bases and actively pursuing a course of development which sought to guarantee that the life of their children and their children's children would be secured in a society whose primary and uncompromising principle was first and foremost the satisfaction of the needs of the people.

This document does not deal with the overwhelmingly warm, hospitable, friendly and co-operative atmosphere which was increasingly saturating every aspect of the Grenadian Society. The people of Grenada under the PRG had regained their dignity, pride and respect for their lovely homeland. Grenada under the PRG stood as an inspiration to all oppressed and peace-loving people of the world, more particularly, the people of the English-speaking Caribbean for having attained and consolidated the first genuine peoples revolution in the English-speaking Caribbean.

It is indeed for this reason and this reason alone that the war mongering imperialist U.S. Government aided by its Caribbean allies invaded Grenada on October 25th 1983. It is because of this same reason that we feel confident that the people of Grenada would in the near future regain their lost freedom, a freedom they enjoyed under the PRG which was so rudely and viscerously taken by the Invading United States Reagan Government.

We, of the Peoples Popular Movement along with all the freedom-loving people of the world stand solidly in support of the Grenadian people in their struggle against the Yankee Invaders who have ruthlessly destroyed all the gains and all the achievements attained by the people of Grenada during their glorious Revolutionary process of March 13th 1979 to October 1983.

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- News Releases - Government Information Service Of Grenada.
- Personal Experiences -



Placards indicate the support for the Revolution, the Peoples' Revolutionary Government (P.R.G) and the peoples's stand against Imperialism

