

# A BLOODY TUESDAY IN OUR HISTORY: *29<sup>th</sup> May 1979*



Prepared by, and with photos mostly by  
***Arlington James***  
April 2015

**INTRODUCTION:** A collection of photographs from “Bloody Tuesday” and the aftermaths, i.e. from Tue. 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979 through 16<sup>th</sup> June 1979; **supplemented by photos of clippings from Barbadian newspapers over period May – July 1979 [slides #34 through #45] and two images, copied from the Internet,** of newspaper clippings of May 29<sup>th</sup> photos taken by another photographer, shooting - with camera, that is - from a veranda on Upper Hillsborough Street (Slides #9 and #10).

**Excerpts from a recent account of the happenings of May 29<sup>th</sup> which was posted on an Online newspaper on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (Slide #3), as well as information excerpted from the Commission of Inquiry Report (Slides #18 and #19) are included for interest.**



# May 29, 1979: The Day That Changed Dominica

*By The TDN Wire Staff  
May 29, 2012 7:30 A.M.*

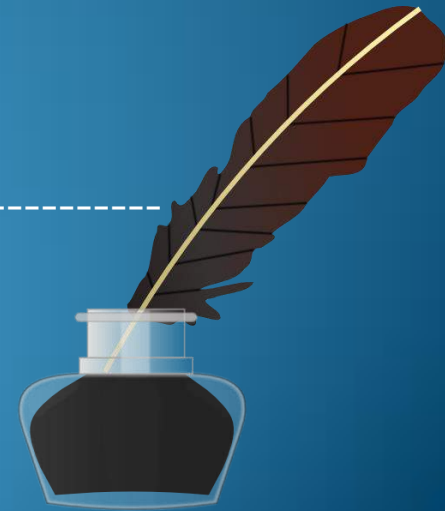
**Roseau, Dominica (TDN)** -- Thirty-three years ago on the morning of May 29, 1979 over ten thousand demonstrators gathered around the Government Headquarters in Roseau, Dominica to protest passage of two controversial bills. In just hours one young man 23 year old Phillip Timothy lay dead on the streets and 9 were sent to hospital nursing bullet wounds...

Mayhem ensued on that day after members of the Dominica Defense Force opened fire on the protestors who were adamant that John withdraw the bills, which were aimed at curbing the influence of Trade Unions on the island...

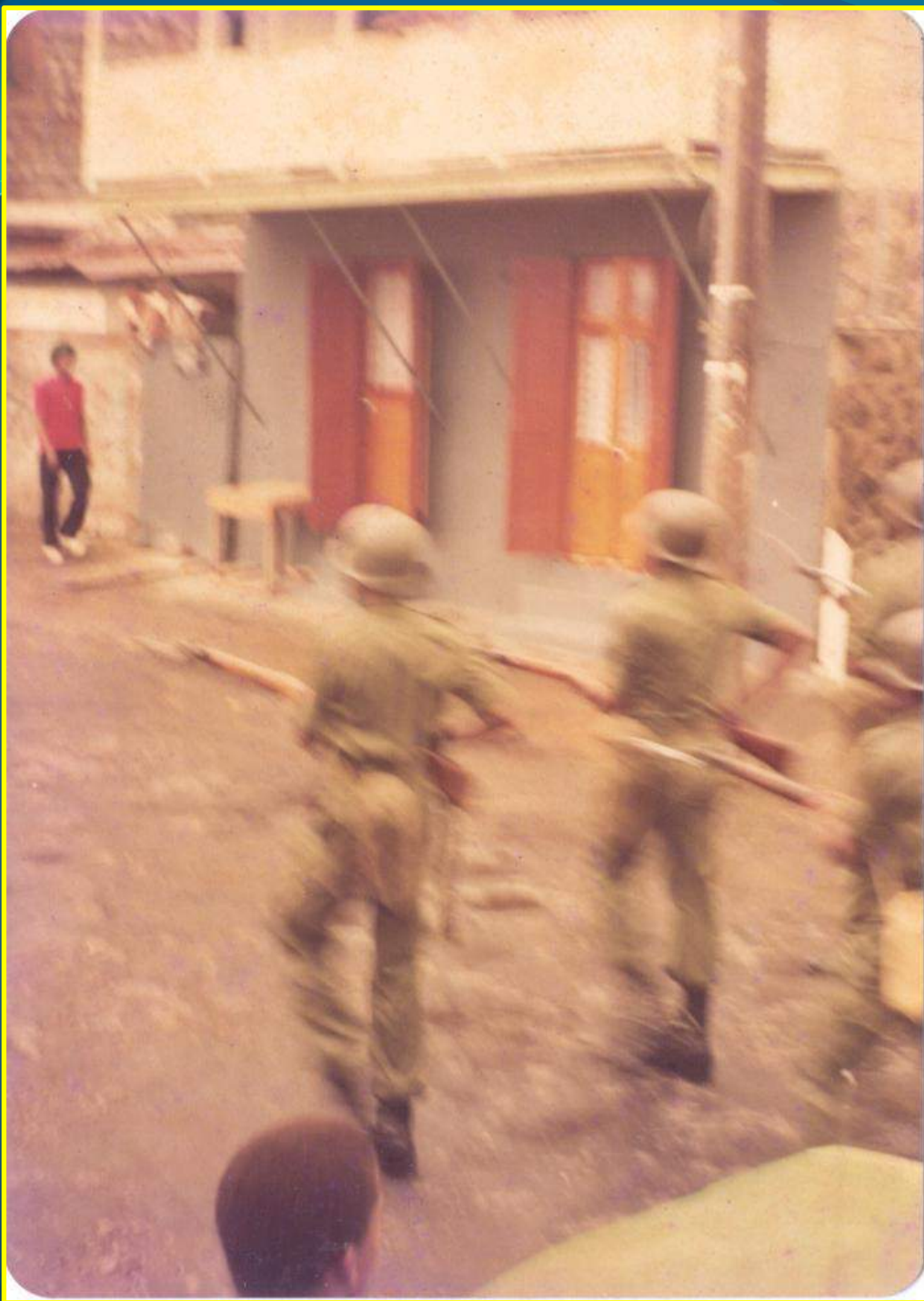
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*Excerpted from The Dominican.Net of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012*

*(N.B. Timothy was 19; also, 10 other persons were injured)  
(Also, not all of the injured were nursing bullet wounds.)*







The morning of "**Bloody Tuesday**" 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1979. The Dominica Defence Force platoon has just arrived on Kennedy Avenue; about to be ordered to *Halt!* Note the bayonets mounted on their 303 Rifles.

The house in the photo is now a single level building, and serves as a bar and snackette.



Defence Forcers begin to don their tear-gas masks, after giving order, "***Disperse, or We Smoke***". While some are masking up, others are providing cover. Look at the lady with her 'brolly, taking off... Getting out of harm's way?





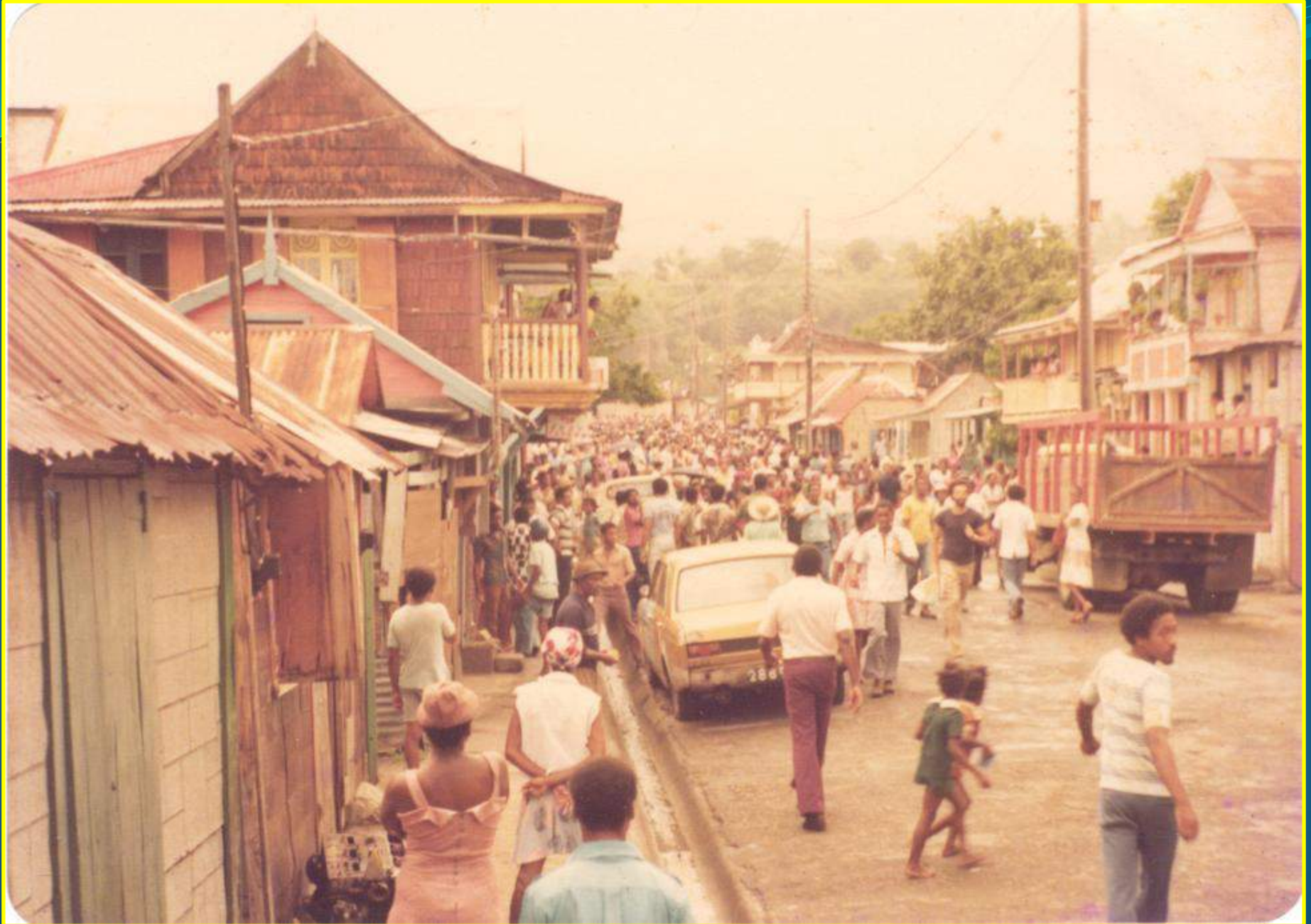
Defence Forcers putting on their tear-gas masks, after giving order, **“Disperse... or We Smoke!”**

Note the canvas side-bags (possibly containing the tear gas canisters and other appropriate paraphernalia.)

Look at the little boy looking at the DDFers putting on their masks.

Wonder what the soldier near top right has written on that paper he is holding.

*And what with the tight-fitting uniforms!!*



The crowd on Upper Kennedy Ave. has heard warning, ***Disperse or We Smoke*** (given 3 times) and are seeing the DDF getting ready to march up and smoke!!



# FROM THE NEWSPAPERS, WHEN THEY RETURNED IN CIRCULATION

May 29th scene



Photo of newspaper clipping showing **part of large crowd** of protesting Dominicans gathered around Government Headquarters, Upper Hillsborough Street and Bath Road, on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Photo possibly taken by Dr. Emanuel Joseph, from the then residence of Alwyn Bully on Upper Hillsborough Street. Note part of crowd standing behind Roseau Girls School's wall along Bath Rd.

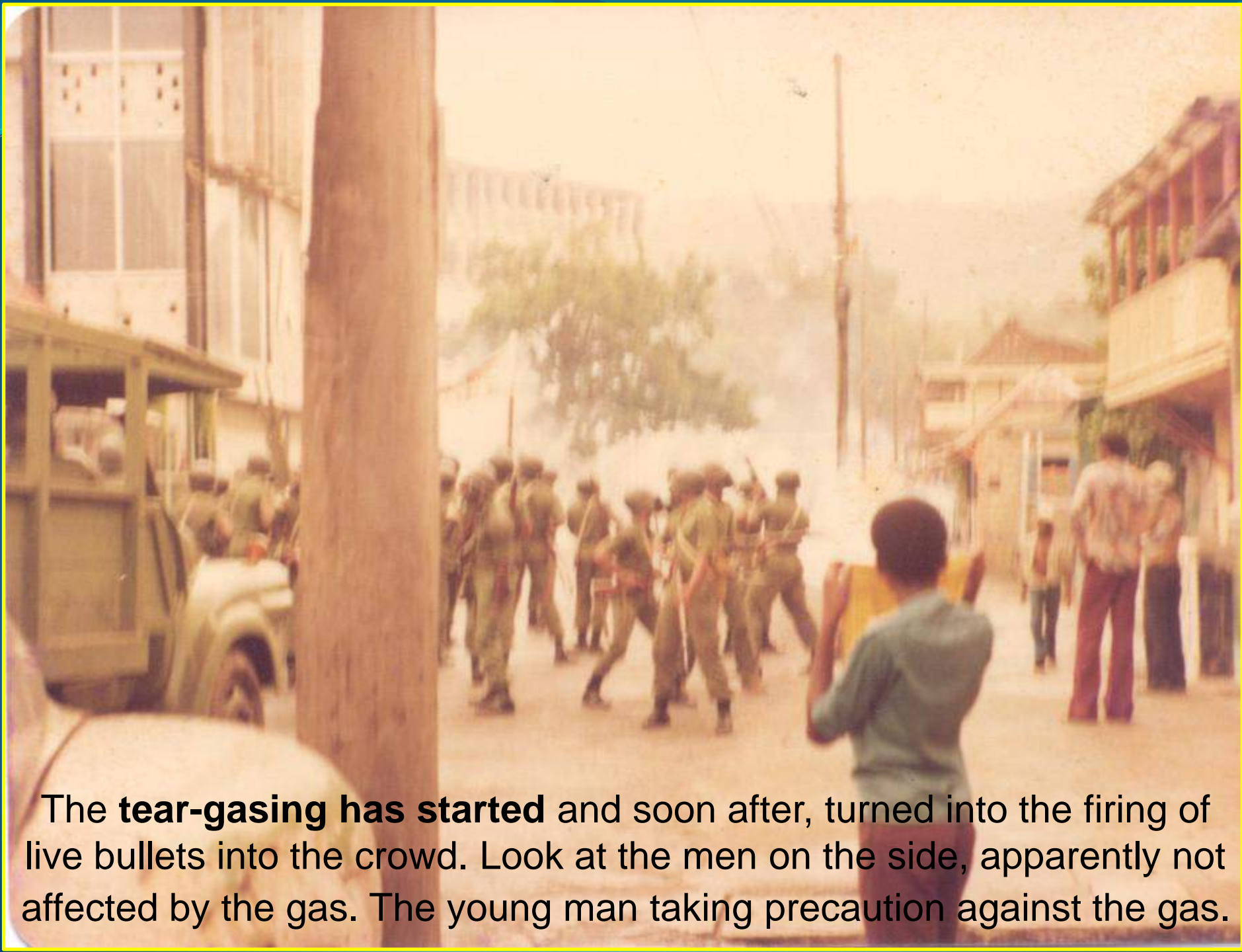


May 29th scene

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS, WHEN THEY RETURNED

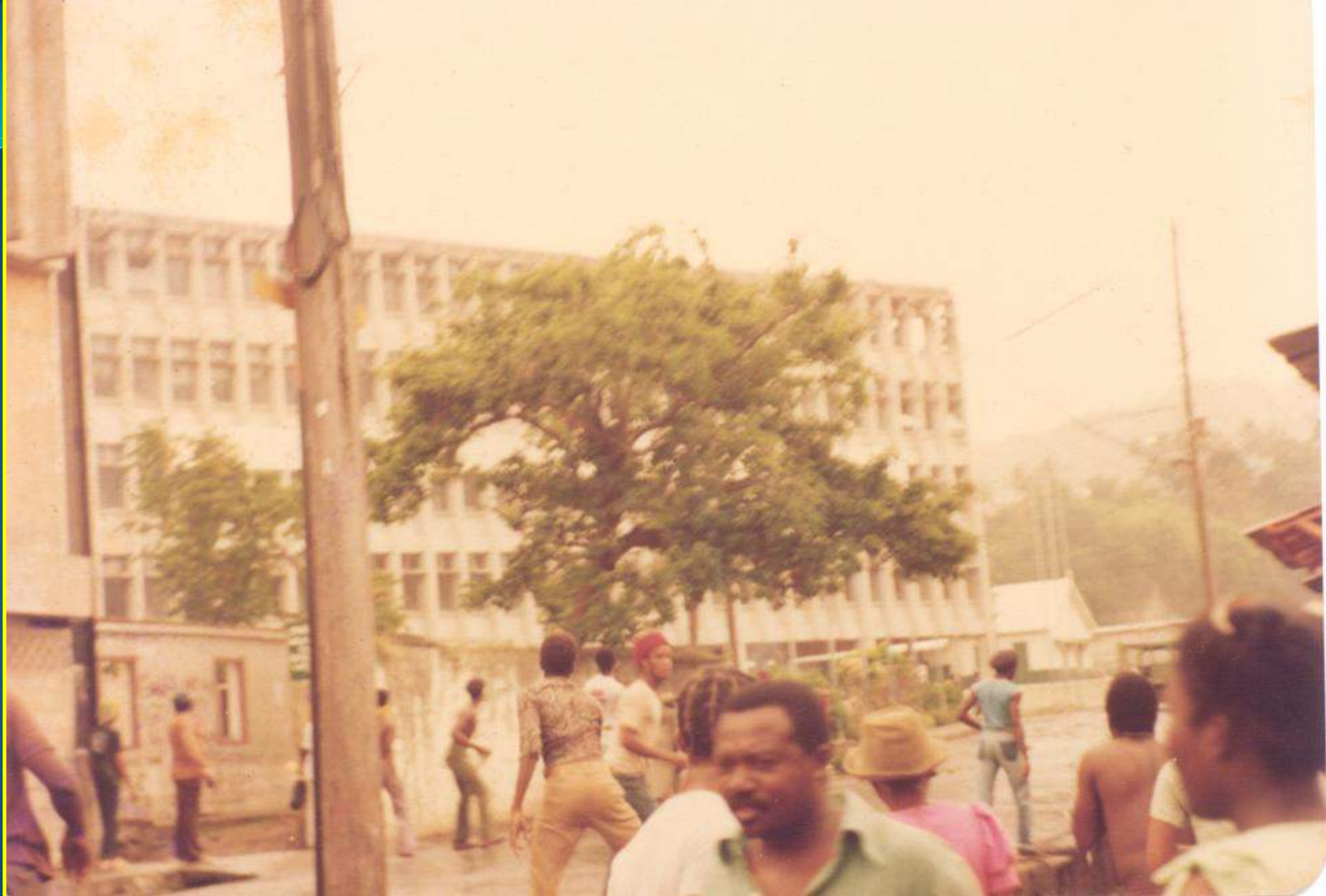
OSEAU REVOLT

Photo of newspaper clipping showing **tear-gas cloud from canister**, possibly on Hillsborough Street, on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Photo possibly taken by Dr. Emanuel Joseph, from then residence of Alwyn Bully on Upper Hillsborough Street



The **tear-gasing has started** and soon after, turned into the firing of live bullets into the crowd. Look at the men on the side, apparently not affected by the gas. The young man taking precaution against the gas.





The Defence Forcers are downstairs of Government Headquarters. Part of the *Koul-wòch Brigade* in action, Upper Kennedy Ave. Some curious onlookers.



**A HEAVY SHOWER CAME!!!** Things have quietened and cooled down. The DDF teargasing and shooting, and the *Koul-Woch* Brigade have ceased. Shirtless, *Kasé-Kòt* has removed his shoes, possibly after his efforts. Note the folks near Roseau Girls School... and the *koul-wòch* on the wet street. 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979





The afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979. The **harsh reality** has set in. **One 19-yr-old man dead! 10 other civilians injured!** Contingent of Police keeping guard after DDF retreated to their Quarters. Note curious onlookers, stone-littered street, a lone goat “grazing” (??), and even the old-time stand-pipe on Upper Kennedy Avenue.



**Spent 303 bullet** that passed right through a lady's wooden house and hit into a wall at the back of the house on Hillsborough Street. The bullet almost *wazé* the lady's little black & white TV. Lady's hand holding the evidence. *29<sup>th</sup> May 1979*

Note the curvature of the lead, caused as a result of the projectile's collision with the concrete wall.



Hole created by a 303 rifle  
projectile/bullet as it hit into  
this wall of a building on  
Upper Hillsborough Street

*29<sup>th</sup> May 1979*





The north face of the north wing of Government Headquarters on the afternoon of May 29<sup>th</sup>. Can you count the number of glass windows in the building which were left intact after the ***Koul-Wòch Brigade*** opened then withdrew their fire?



# CIVILIANS INJURED ON 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 1979

1. **\*ALGERNON PHILBERT** (Fisheries Super.): Bullet passed through left thigh.
2. **\*EDWARD ROBINSON**: Sustained bullet wound in left hip.
3. **\*EMANUEL AYMER** (13 year-old school boy): Large wound to left part of his face. Bullet entered under left ear and emerged through tip of his nose.
4. **\*MARGARET ETIENNE** (13 year-old school girl): Hit by shrapnel in chest and neck; caused small puncture wounds.
5. **\*GEORGE NELSON** (Teacher): Grievously wounded in right arm by bullet.
6. **\*ROBERT JACKSON**: Received 2 bullet wounds – left calf and left thigh.
7. **\*MATTHIAS DOVER**: Received 2 bullet wounds – thorax and left arm

# CIVILIANS INJURED ON 29<sup>th</sup> MAY (Ctd)

8. **\*VIVIAN ROCQUE** (Port Worker): Possibly left foot injury.

9. **\*BRO. EGBERT GERMAINE** (Principal, St. Mary's Academy): While lying on his back, a Defence Forcer jumped on his chest, while he was kicked by others while still on the ground.

10. **\*ADAMS JEAN-PIERRE** (Male Nurse, PMH): Struck by boulder hurled by a Defence Forcer; lost consciousness.

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*Source: REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE EVENTS OF MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 1979*

N.B. According to the Inquiry Report:-

\*\* **A total of 88 rounds (bullets) were fired** by the DDF during their assault on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

\*\* The **Autopsy** on the body of **Phillip Timothy** – killed by a DDF bullet was conducted on the **afternoon of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1979**, from about 2:35 p.m.. Thus, **Timothy's funeral and burial** would have taken place on the afternoon of **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May**.







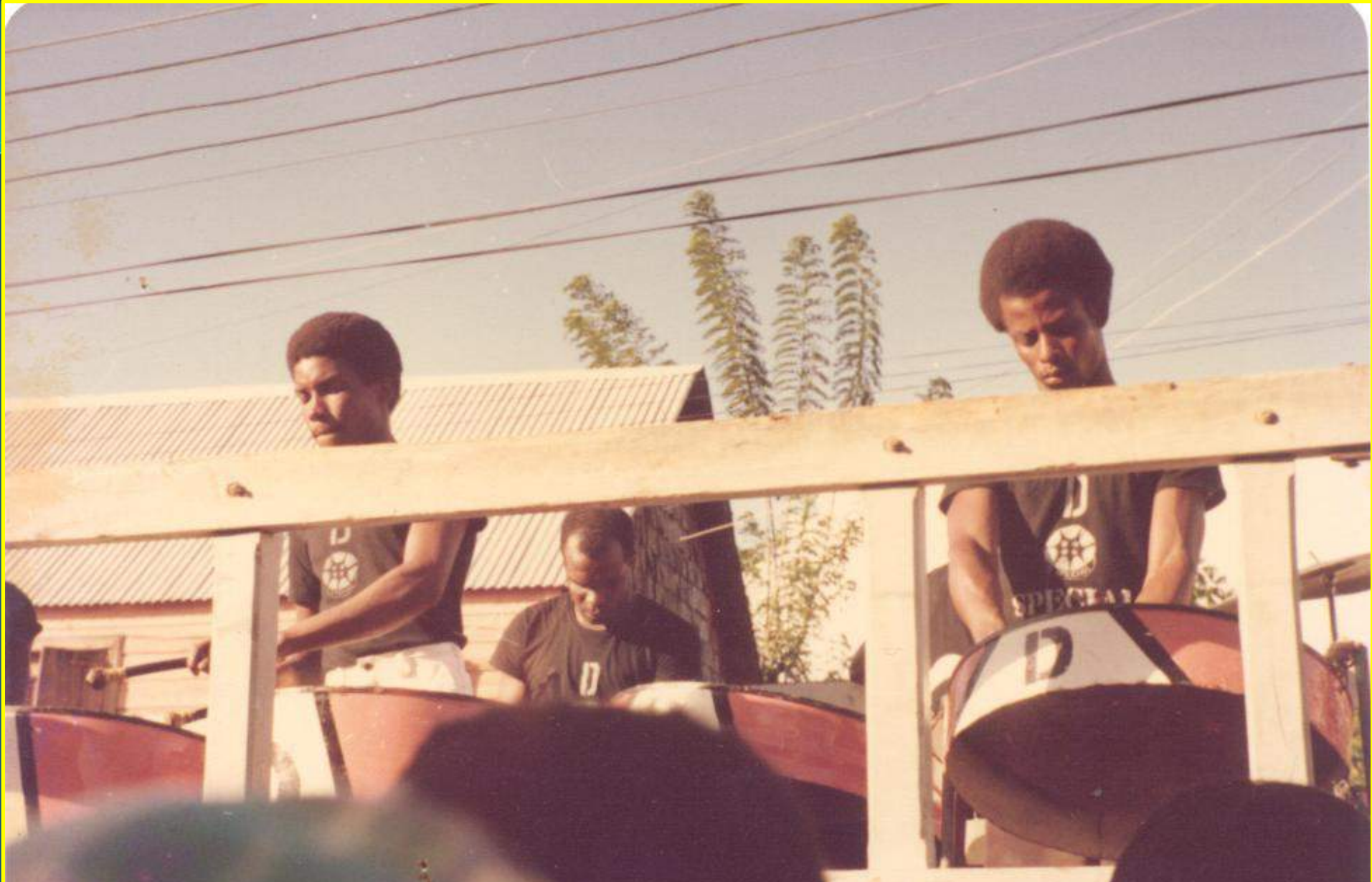
Curious onlookers (men, women, children) and mourners near the Bath Road – Boyd's Avenue junction, as funeral procession for Philip Timothy continues around his home on Boyd's Avenue. Who is this shirtless *youf*? 31<sup>st</sup> May 1979





***D-Special Steel Orchestra* provided musical accompaniment for the funeral procession to the R.C. Cathedral for their fallen member, Phillip Timothy**





***D-Special Steel Orchestra*** – of which Philip Timothy was a member - **providing musical accompaniment** for the massive funeral procession to the Cathedral.

Pictured: (L) Robert Thomas, (C) ??, (R) Gerry “Peps” Active. 31May1979





**Funeral procession** on the way; continuing from Boyd's Avenue. 6 members of *D-Special Steel Orchestra* serve as pall bearers. Note mourners, onlookers and lots of wreaths. Also Afros, shirt-jack, men's hats, tams.. and a blond-haired person?





Funeral procession on the way, going past Police Headquarters on Bath Road. Is that Roosie Douglas, Jeffrey Lawrence, Dr. Gabriel "Gabou" Christian, and the legendary Grammacks Jeff-Jo in the big circle? Gordon Mondesire in black circle?



Funeral procession on Queen Mary Street (now Independence Street), approaching the intersection with King George V Street, and about to come up “Constitution Hill”. Funeral procession *en route* to the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Note the number of persons walking in front of the truck carrying the steel-band. Note also, Roseau’s tallest mango tree at left.

Apart from the thousands of mourners and followers, hundreds of onlookers lined the procession route to the Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

31<sup>st</sup> May 1979







**Philip Timothy's coffin is being carried into the Roseau Cathedral by 6 members of his steelband, *D-Special Steel Orchestra*, for the funeral mass. Who's the man with the long neck-tie and hat?**

Note folks neatly lined up on both sides of walkway, allowing procession to continue into the church. Note also, the lady in the yellow dress, maybe grief-stricken, being consoled possibly by close friends or family members.

*31<sup>st</sup> May 1979*





Roseau Cathedral packed with mourners and others at Funeral Mass for fallen Phillip Timothy, killed by a DDF bullet on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979. Is that (then) Fr. Eustace Thomas - with the big Afro (L) - concelebrating with Fr. Werner?





Union Folks intercept visitors from a yacht who attempted to come ashore, not knowing a **Total SHUT DOWN** was taking place. *See d crane! And d Old Jetty!!!*

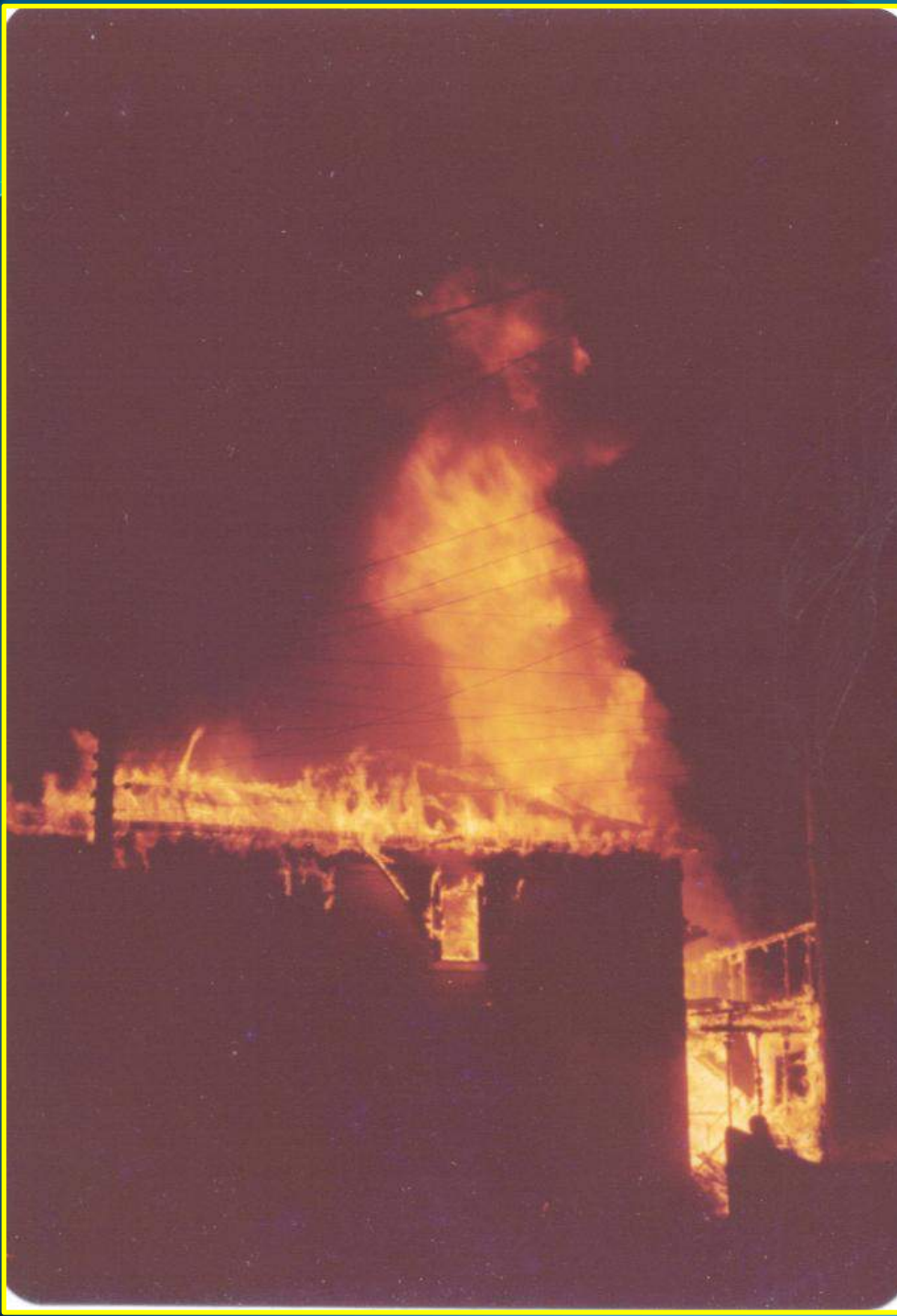
Sign of **attempted arson** on  
**Emens Nassief store** in  
downtown Roseau, several  
days following 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Seems like the fire-bomb /  
Molotov-cocktail / *bouzay*  
was placed on it side at the  
top of the front step

*June 1979*







The Registry and High Court Building, across the street from DBS Radio, ablaze and lighting up the night sky; is burnt to the ground by... an **act of arson??**

*16<sup>th</sup> June 1979*



The Registry and High Court Building ablaze, 16<sup>th</sup> June 1979. **Arson???**

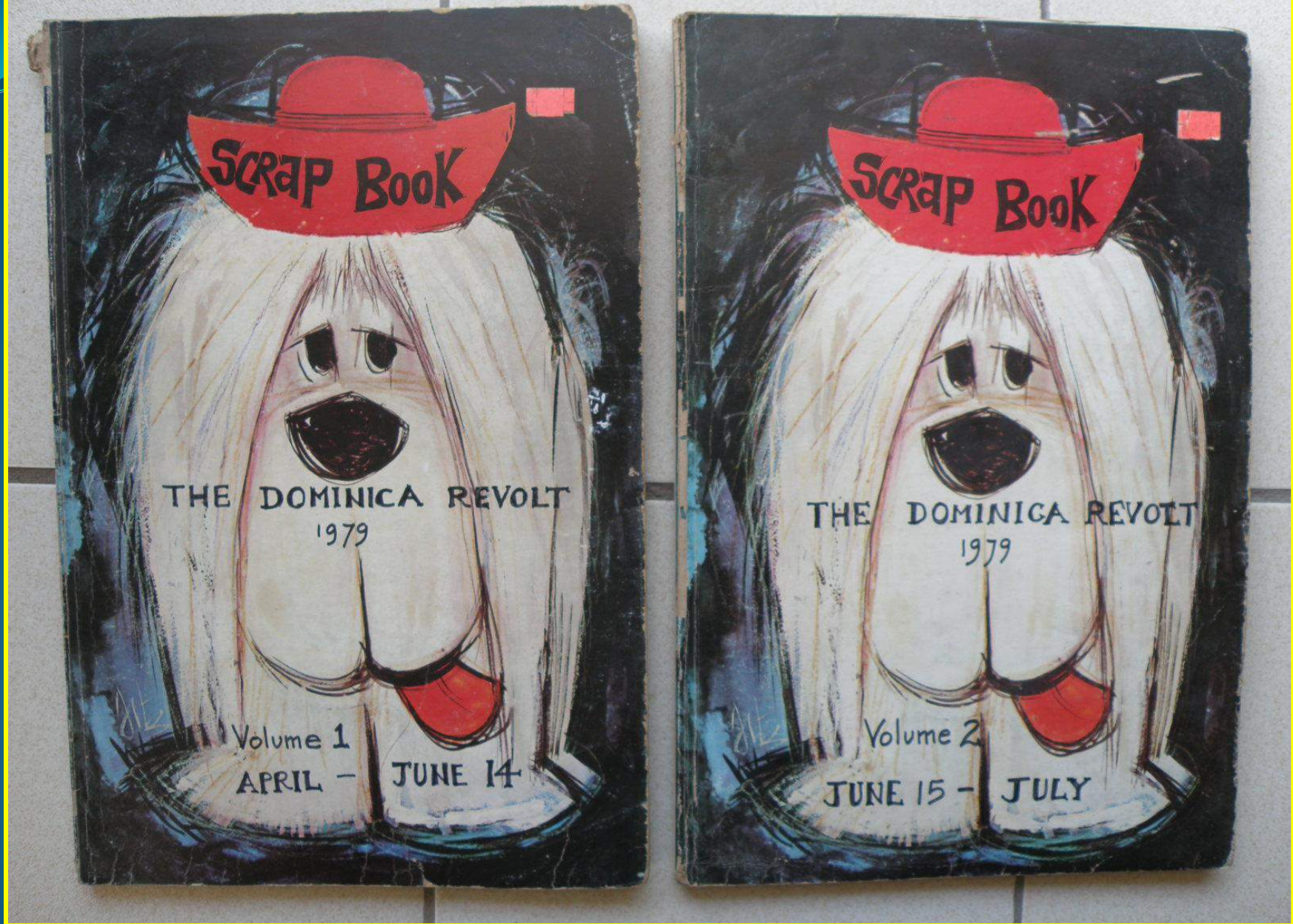


*AND*  
*REPORT*  
*OF*  
*COMMISSION OF INQUIRY*  
*INTO THE EVENTS*  
*OF MAY 29TH, 1979*

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS  
ROSEAU  
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

00008-DM





**PHOTOS OF SELECTED CLIPPINGS FROM TWO SCRAPBOOKS  
KEPT BY DR. LENNOX HONYCHURCH**



Wednesday  
May 30

● **Protests over controversial Bills**

# Man shot dead in Dominica clash

By **ELSWORTH CARTER**

**ROSEAU, Dominica, Tuesday, (CANA)** — Prime Minister Patrick John faced a major crisis tonight after a big demonstration against two controversial Bills resulted in the death of one man, injury to nine people and union demands for the Government to resign.

Five of the island's main unions, representing some 18 000 workers vowed to strike until the Dominican Government stepped down, today, soon after Defence Force members and demonstrators clashed violently outside the House of Assembly.

That clash left 23-year-old port worker, Philip Anthony dead, felled by a bullet that went right through his lower abdomen from side to side.



● **MR. PATRICK JOHN**

Nine other people were shot and are in the Princess Margaret Hospital. Three of them, including a man and a 13-year-old school boy were categorised by hospital sources as serious.

A detachment from the 83-strong Defence Force resorted to live bullets after

blanks and tear-gas failed to completely subdue the demonstrators who hurled stones and jeered some Government Parliamentarians as they entered the government headquarters building to attend a session of Parliament.

The government was reported tonight to have passed the amendments to the Industrial Relations Act and the Libel and Slander Ordinances — changes which critics said would emasculate trade unions and muzzle the Press.

Debate on the Bills continued in the absence of the opposition who walked out when government defeated their motion for an adjournment because of the troubles outside.

Prime Minister John's Labour Government holds 15 seats in the House of Assembly.

The new Labour amendment sought to prevent strikes in the Civil Service and essential

services such as telecommunications, water, electricity customs and airport. But all except electricity and water were affected today by the unions' protest action.

Melville Hall Airport and the seaport were closed and Cable and Wireless closed their telecommunications section three hours early.

Labour unions are also objecting to a clause providing for an arbitration tribunal. They say it is only an industrial court — to which they had earlier objected — in a new guise.

Politicians also demed as objectionable a new requirement that newspaper editors disclose the identities of anonymous writers who refrain from publishing articles critical of a person in his professional or official capacity.

The relevant clause read: "An editor of a newspaper shall not publish in his newspaper any article which directly or indirectly refers to his pro-



# Dominicans out of <sup>June 1</sup> hospital

Two Dominicans shot and injured by Defence Force troops on the streets of Roseau on Tuesday were released from hospital yesterday, but eight others are still patients, with two reported to be critically ill.

Informed sources in the Dominica capital said during a telephone link that 13-year-old Emmanuel Aymer, shot in the head, and 32-year-old Robert Jackson, shot in the thigh, were on the critical list.

The sources said the correct name of the man killed was Philip Timothy, 22. The name had earlier been given as Philip Anthoney.

A six-month-old baby reportedly suffocated due to tear-gas fired on demonstrators by the Defence Force troops.

—(CANA)

**Update on the Injured “May 29<sup>th</sup> civilians” published in the Barbados press**

Note the age given for Timothy; Phillip was 19 y-o (not 22)

Note also the last paragraph, about the **baby**. No report about any baby suffocating from tear gas was included in the official May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1979 Commission of Inquiry Report



June 1

# Thousands attend youth's funeral

ROSEAU, Dominica, Thursday, (CANA) — Solemn pan music filtered through the hushed atmosphere as a steelband in which Philip Timothy once played led his funeral procession in the Dominica capital yesterday.

The 22-year-old youth was shot dead by Defence Force bullets during demonstrations on Tuesday by unions and supporters against controversial labour and libel legislation which was passed the same day.

In the funeral, arranged by members of the opposition Freedom Party and striking trade unions, the body was taken from the mortuary of the Princess Margaret Hospital in procession to the Goodwill

Parish Hall where thousands of striking workers joined the marches to the home of the dead youth.

After the cortege left the house the steelband led the procession to the sombre strains of the hymn, "Abide with Me" to the Roseau Roman Catholic Cathedral for the funeral service. It was conducted by the Rev. Father Wherner.

The cathedral was packed with mourners and many people had to remain outside

The service was attended by union leaders and opposition parliamentarians and lasted for about an hour and a half before the body was taken to the Roman Catholic cemetery for burial.

June 1

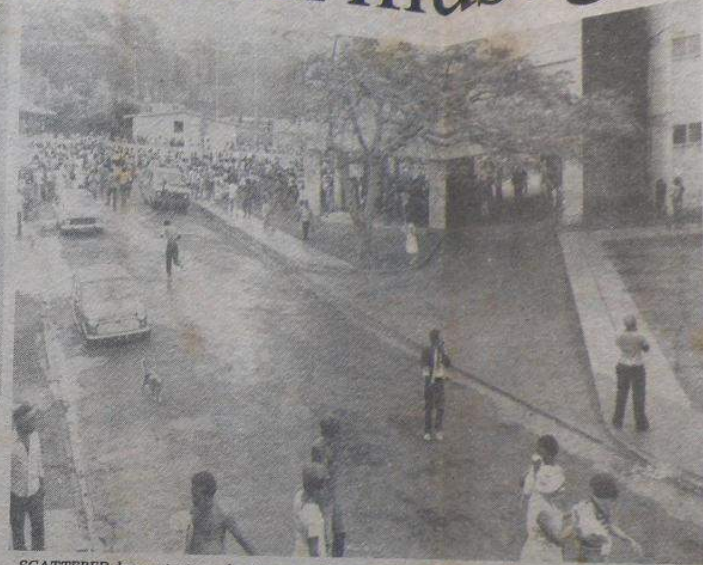
The caption says it all! Did not even realise that Timothy's funeral procession had started from PMH mortuary... to Parish Hall, before coming to his home. (He was 19, not 22)



# Now Jaycees say John must go



SOLDIERS being pelted with stones during May 29 demonstrations.



SCATTERED demonstrators after troops used tear gas outside Roseau's government headquarters.

## THE ARMY VS THE PEOPLE

CHARLES Savarin, president of the Dominica Civil Service Association [CSA] has warned of a confrontation between the army and people on that island.

Savarin said in a NATION interview that the police in Dominica had been "rendered virtually inactive", with the army taking over its functions and with members of the defence force being sworn in as special constables.



SOLDIERS equipped and ready.

Civil service union boss says it's an unsafe situation



"This is an unsafe and unstable situation," he warned, adding that the Patrick... have to...

The demands from the unions, triggered by the government, have been snowballed and linked together. The CSA has, meanwhile, agreed to meet John to discuss the situation but has a venue would clear he would not attend if troops were sent to both sides.

dominica and charges of political leaders and...

Savarin suggested police headquarters in downtown Roseau, but made it clear he would not attend if troops were sent to both sides.



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and libel laws.



THE unfortunate John Fabian, civilian shot during the May 29 Dominican demonstrations.

# WANT TO S

TRADE unions in Dominica, trying to force the Patrick John government out of office, are calling on Barbados to throw its weight behind their cause.

The six unions, representing about 20 000 workers in all sectors of the island, is cabling Prime Minister Tom Adams to ask him to sever all

ART

UNION

Pix of John Fabien (now deceased) appearing in the Barbados Press as one of the persons shot on 29<sup>th</sup> May. However, he was not on the *Injured List* in the Inquiry Report



# Tribulation of John

AFTER the March 13 Grenada coup d'état, many people began wondering which country was next. And one of the early names on the list was that of Prime Minister Patrick John's Dominica.

The street violence yesterday, which left one man dead, was not a coup, but a culmination of growing unpopularity of John's administration.

"One or two people are doing everything for themselves."

John's dealings with shadowy figures such as Sydney Burnett-Alleyne, confessed Barbadian soldier of fortune, and American investors known mostly to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), have earned him few friends at home and abroad.

Political observers in and out of Dominica have attributed the prime minister's own survival and that of his party, chiefly to a weak conservative opposition which has lost its "masse" touch.

But two pieces of legislation evoked yesterday's troubles: One banning strikes by civil servants and workers in essential services

and forbidding the provision of financial aid to strikers, and the other, among other things, forcing editors to disclose the sources of anonymous articles.

The government, apparently sensing trouble from its increasingly militant unions led by Charles Savarin, banned mobilised, and they defied the government ban.

It was another classic demonstration of the strength of the workers in Dominica.

In 1977, government work was brought to a virtual halt when thousands of civil servants went on strike for 37 days demanding several million dollars in backpay — a demand to which the government later yielded.

Between then and now, the island has been plagued by industrial troubles from several quarters — the teachers, garbage collectors, and nurses among others.

# ROSEAU REVOLT

VIOLENCE erupted in the streets of Dominica's capital, Roseau, yesterday -- and when the smoke cleared and the dust settled, one man was dead and nine other people injured, three of them critical.

Among the critical is a 13-year-old schoolboy.

The dead man has been named as Philip Anthony, said to be in his early 20s and, according to reliable sources in Roseau, the son of Prime Minister Patrick John's gardener.

Anthony was one of several thousands demonstrators, estimated at between 10,000 and 13,000 by witnesses, who defied a government ban, and gathered outside the Administration Building in Roseau to protest planned legislation which critics said would curb Press freedom and erode workers' rights.

NATION sources reporting from Roseau said the demonstrators, mobilised by the island's trade unions, milled around the Administration Building, joining government MPs and cheering opposition parliamentarians as they entered the building for the parliamentary meeting to debate the bills.

Troops were called out and they swiftly used tear gas to break up the crowd, which apparently came prepared. No sooner had the first tear gas canisters crashed among them, than they shipped out wet towels and handkerchiefs to protect their eyes, noses and mouths.

The Dominica defence force troops, in full battle gear, were then greeted by a volley of

stones from the demonstrators and they responded with bullets.

The shooting, witnesses said, could be heard in several parts of this small run-down town built along the Roseau River and dotted with slums within which many of the demonstrators found some refuge from the army teargas and bullets.

One highly reliable source, speaking from Roseau by telephone to THE NATION, said that the police had pulled out of the scene as soon as the army began using the teargas, and left the entire operation to the army.

Source said that a state of emergency was expected to be proclaimed if tensions continued and a general strike called to protest the two bills.

was expected to have even greater impact today.

"The people are in a rage, because they have had enough of all this," one source declared.

An exact casualty count is still not available, but sources confirmed the one death — that of a ten-year-old boy shot in the head — have not been confirmed.

Reports said a young boy and a middle-aged man were those critically injured in the shooting.

The trouble began shortly after 10 a.m. yesterday and lasted several hours. Even after the shooting outside Administration Building, angry youths roamed the streets of Roseau.



JOHN

## Teachers disturbed

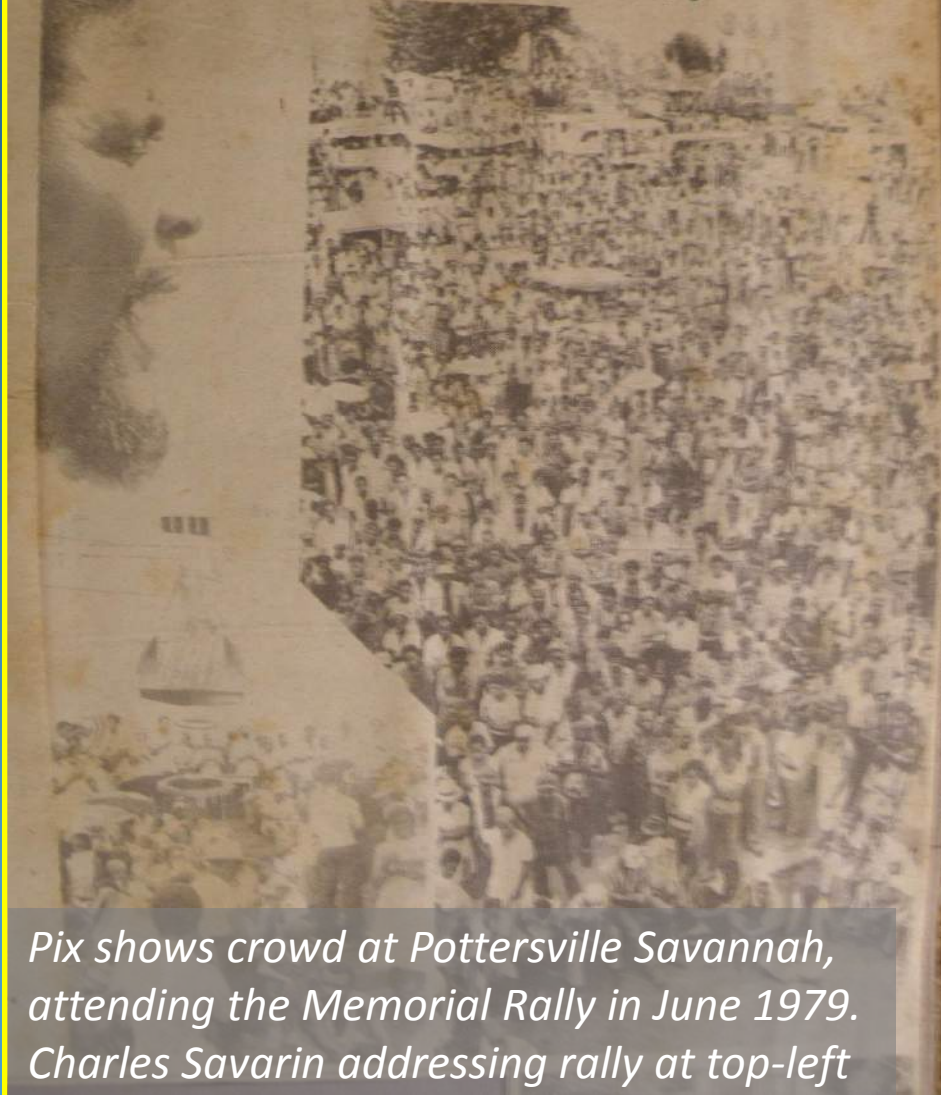
THERE has been swift reaction from the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) to violence in Dominica.

The BUT last night expressed concern at the situation, and deplored the loss of life.

BUT president, Mrs. Margaret Marshall, declared: "The Barbados Union of Teachers is disturbed by what appears to be a recent tendency in some parts of the Caribbean to limit public opinion and freedom of expression by attempting to muzzle the media."

"It appears as if we in the Caribbean are moving toward a new phase in our history, now threatened by increasing attempts by some governments to curtail the free press," Mrs. Marshall added.

# DOMINICANS SPEAK!



Pix shows crowd at Pottersville Savannah, attending the Memorial Rally in June 1979. Charles Savarin addressing rally at top-left

The "Bajan" Press (*The Nation, Sunday Sun, The Advocate News, Caribbean Contact*) provided regular updates, from weeks leading up to May 29<sup>th</sup> into July 1979



Timothy Memorial Rally Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1979, Pottersville savannah



Crowd of 12,000 or more on savannah. Photos Lennox Honychurch



Louis Benoit, 'Zaboka', WAWU, getting applause.



Eugenia speaking, Brian Alleyne walking up steps



Eugenia Charles speaking



Crowd in front of St Alphonsus church. Poster printed by Lennox



Collage of photos from the **TIMOTHY MEMORIAL RALLY** held at the Pottersville Savannah on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1979, i.e. two weeks after Timothy was shot to death by DDF on 29<sup>th</sup> May; attended by thousands of striking workers and sympathizers

Page from scrapbook kept by Dr. Lennox Honychurch, 1979



● Acting President, Deputy P.M. resign

# Roseau Registry goes up in smoke



● SIR LOUIS COOMBS-LARTIGUE

ROSEAU, Dominica, Saturday, (CAN) — A BIG FIRE, apparently deliberately set, was blazing out of control near the Government headquarters in Roseau tonight.

The building burning housed the Registry and courthouse, and it was in close proximity to the radio station, the income tax office, the Water Authority, Parliament, and the President's official residence. Hundreds of excited Dominicans

now looked on as the fire blazed away, engulfing the building, for there were no firemen to fight it. . . they are all on a general strike which began May 29 with the aim of forcing Prime Minister Patrick John out of office.

Eyewitnesses said they saw a figure running from the Registry building just before the flames broke out. As the fire ate its way through the structure, the electricity in this crisis-ridden capital was cut off, and only the orange glow of the roaring flames pierced the gloom in the city centre.

No officials were immediately available to say whether the blackout was a purposeful act by the Electricity Services, or the result of sabotage.

In an earlier, much smaller, fire today, a car belonging to the family of Sir Louis Coombs-Lartigue was burned in front of their home, and there too no firemen turned up to douse it.

Tonight's fire capped a dramatic day which brought the resignation of Sir Louis as Acting President, after only a day in office, and that also of deputy Prime Minister Henckell Christian.

But while Mr. John, who stubbornly refuses to step down, hangs on to power by a mere constitutional thread, the opposition forces aligned against him differed on strategy and whether violence was the answer.

Dominica's Deputy Prime Minister, Henckell Christian, resigned from the government of Prime Minister Patrick John today, he said in a statement here tonight.

"I hope my action will bring peace to this beautiful island of Dominica," Mr. Christian said.

It was the second big blow today to the Prime Minister's bid to hold on to power in the face of determined opposition efforts to throw him out.

Just a few hours earlier, Acting President Sir Louis Coombs-Lartigue quit the post he had held only 24 hours, declaring that the administration had failed to provide himself and family with protection when they came under attack from demonstrators last night and this morning.

Sir Louis also canceled two proclamations announced yesterday and proroguing Parliament with immediate effect and the other ordering its dissolution on September 1.

Mr. Christian's departure is about the most telling blow so far to Mr. John, for the deputy had been counted as among the foremost of his hardcore supporters.

The first to go was Agriculture Minister Oliver Seraphine, the man identified by a National Salvations Committee to be Prime Minister in a proposed interim government.

Then Leo Arstin, Attorney General and External Affairs Minister, was forced out on the basis of mounting evidence that he had had contact with South

African officials aiming to work out a deal between the racist republic and Dominica. Speaker Pershu Waldron also resigned, and this was followed by the unannounced departure last Monday by President Fred Degazon.

Former Governor Sir Louis was put in his place yesterday, but bowed out today, following stealing of his home, attempts to burn it, the sickening of the family business and burning of their car in front of the home.

Sir Louis, the island's governor before it became independent last November, sent his resignation to Prime Minister Patrick John, who is battling opposition efforts to wrest power from him.

In his letter, Sir Louis said that the resignation was merely "for security protection", he charged that neither he nor his family was afforded any protection during a wave of demonstrations last night and early this morning. In protest over what the demonstrators said was "his illegal appointment."

## Fire in Roseau, no one to put it out . . .

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John Hanes On - Back Page

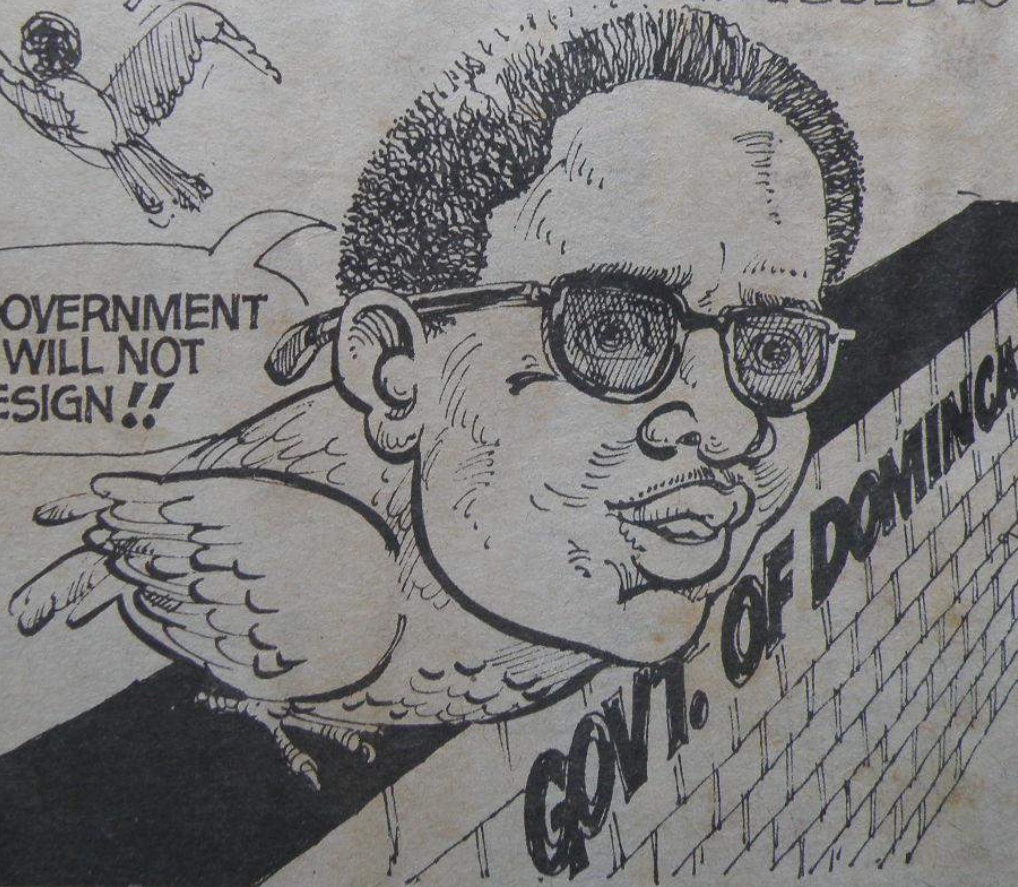
Two other stories about the goings-on in Dominica following May 29<sup>th</sup>, that made the Barbados newspapers in 1979



A FEW LIL BIRDIES SITTING ON A WALL...  
ONE NAMED AUSTIN — ONE NAMED JOHN.  
FLY AWAY SERAPHIN, AUSTIN AND DEGAZON.  
FLY AWAY, JOHN !!!.....JOHN REFUSES TO MOVE ON...



MY GOVERNMENT  
AND I WILL NOT  
RESIGN !!



MAYBE IF HE WUZ LIKE  
HUMPTY DUMPTY, DE  
FALL WUD BE MUCH  
HARDER !!

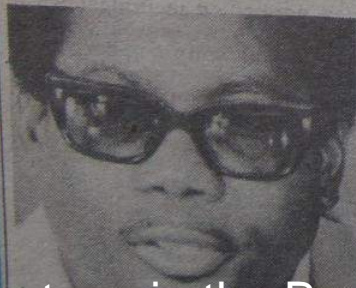
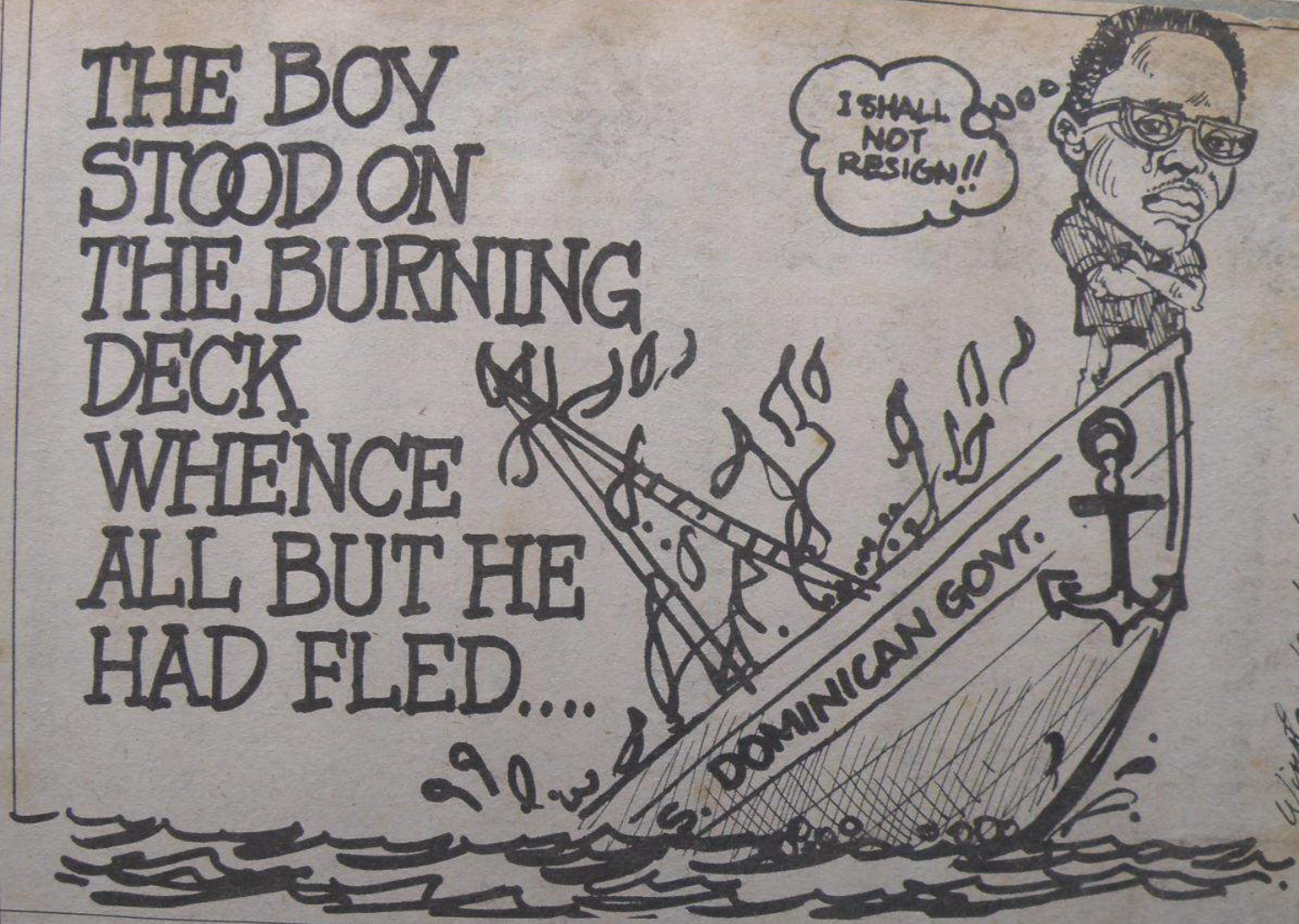


Wintory Jordan '99 ©

One of cartoons in the Barbados Press, about the post-May 29<sup>th</sup> situation in Dominica



THE BOY  
STOOD ON  
THE BURNING  
DECK  
WHENCE  
ALL BUT HE  
HAD FLED....



# Who destroyed Patrick John?

"It may be the lot of a courageous man to fall if he is in a..."

Another cartoon in the Barbados Press, about the post-May 29<sup>th</sup> situation in Dominica



# THE "GREAT" CON-ARTIST

FAMOUS  
1976  
CHEQUES  
USED  
AGAINST  
THE D.L.P.

1976  
PLANNED  
OVERTHROW  
OF THE  
BARBADOS  
GOVT.

1978  
PLANNED  
OVERTHROW  
OF THE  
BARBADOS  
GOVT.

ORGANISED  
AID DEALS  
WITH DOMINICA  
AND THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
GOVT.

WHAT  
WILL BE HIS  
MASTERPIECE...

I NOTICE DAT  
DESE  
FRAME-UPS  
GETTIN'  
BIGGER AN'  
BIGGER  
ALL DE TIME!

Winston Jordan '79



Cartoon that appeared in the Barbados Press about the infamous Sydney Burnett-Alleyne and his attempts to overthrow the Barbados Government and his organised aid deals with the governments of South Africa and Dominica. Artwork: Winston Jordan '79



July

# AFTER DOMINICA'S 'PALACE COUP'...

*By Our Staff Political Correspondent*

THE Commonwealth of Dominica's interim coalition government of Prime Minister Oliver Seraphin, has begun the process of house cleaning to get



**BYE BYE PATRICK...** This flashback photograph shows Colonel Prime Minister, Patrick John, with Sir Louis Cools-Lartigue (then Governor-General). Under political pressure last month both President Fred Degazon and Sir Louis (as Acting President) deserted John as he faced a Parliament without a Speaker, an unwilling Deputy Speaker, a dwindling Cabinet and finally the loss of power.

rid of the obnoxious smell of corruption and the repressive legislative measures inherited from Patrick Roland John's Labour Party Government—which was toppled last month by a combination of factors, including a split in Labour's parliamentary ranks and a crippling national strike.

The coalition resulted from what's seen as a palace revolt when four elected MPs joined with Mr. Seraphin in deserting the Labour Party Administration, thereby effectively ending its majority in Parliament.

In separate telephone interviews with Prime Minister Seraphin, Attorney General Brian Alleyne and Education and Health Minister Charles Maynard, CONTACT was informed about some of the plans by the new government which has a minimum of six and a maximum of nine months in office before facing fresh general elections:

### **COST OF STRIKE AND PAY RISE ISSUE**

An assessment is already being made of the cost to the national economy of the general strike by the unions

**Cleaning up operations begin... Laws to be scrapped; probes into corruption, etc.**

which coincided with the violent attacks by the Dominica Defence Force on demonstrators in Roseau on May 29. At a minimum, in terms of losses suffered by the vital banana industry—still recovering from the damaging leaf spot disease—and general customs revenue, ECS6 million has been quoted as a conservative estimate.

The Civil Service Association, whose General Secretary, Mr. Charles Savarin, emerged as quite an influential figure during the industrial-political crisis that finally led to the downfall of the John Administration, unconditionally called off its pay rise strike with the for-



Interim Prime Minister Seraphin.

mation of the coalition government.

The John Government had made it clear that the country simply could not afford the pay hike demands, ranging up to 136 percent, since this would cost the national treasury some ECS16 million.

While pledging to cooperate with the new government, the CSA has indicated that it would be happy if it were possible to resolve the pay rise dispute before new general elections. Some observers, however, feel that this may be unlikely.

### **ELECTIONS:**

Arrangements will shortly

● Continued on Back Page





Section of Kennedy Avenue where some of the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979 action occurred, almost 36 years ago. Compare with slides #4-8.... Pix: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015



# Acknowledgements

\*Thanks to **Greg Linton**, then of the Division of Agriculture in 2004, for scanning the 24 personal (AJ) photos from 1979.

\*Thanks to **Algernon Philbert** – May 29<sup>th</sup> victim - for confirming burial date for Phillip Timothy, in non-existence at the Roseau Presbytery of official records of Phillip's burial (his death, however, is recorded). Thanks also to the folks at the **Presbytery** for their efforts to locate the burial date among their records.

Thanks to **Dr. Lennox Honychurch** for loaning his ***The Dominica Revolt, 1979*** scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings (including the 3 cartoons by Winston Jordan) from the Barbados Press, extending from April to July 1979.

\*Thanks to the **National Documentation Centre** for loaning the copy of the *Report on the Commission of Inquiry into the Events of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1979* and the **Government Printery** for their donation of a copy of the said Report.

\*The images on Pgs 9 & 10, of the newspaper clippings of the May 29<sup>th</sup> “action” around Government Headquarters, were copied from **Google Images**. (Photos may have been taken by Dr. Emanuel Joseph).

Thanks to **Ian G. Balthazar** for bringing back the wayward slide to the PDF

The written account of the May 29<sup>th</sup> happenings on Slide #3 was excerpted in part from ***The Dominican.Net***. The names of the injured and number of rounds discharged were sourced from the **Commission of Inquiry Report (1981)**.



DIOCESE OF ROSEAU

*Certificate of Death*

Church of Our Lady of Fair Haven  
Roseau Commonwealth of Dominica

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

THAT

Name: Phillip Timothy (19 years)

Died On: 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1979

Was buried on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1979

In the cemetery of Roseau

in accordance with the Roman Catholic Burial Rites.

as appears from the Register of Deaths of this Church

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2015



Isaac  
For Parish Priest

THE END...

THANK  
YOU

N.B. Burial date was 31<sup>st</sup> May, not the 30<sup>th</sup>