

GRENADA

Date of Elections: 3 December 1984

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives in the first parliamentary poll since 1976.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Grenada comprises the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate has 13 members, seven of whom are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, three on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and three on the advice of the Prime Minister following consultation of interests which he considers Senators should be selected to represent. The House of Representatives consists of 15 members elected by universal suffrage. All parliamentarians have five-year terms of office.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As a result of the coup d'Etat of March 1979, the bicameral Parliament that had been chosen in December 1976 was dissolved and the 1974 independence Constitution suspended. In November 1983, this same Constitution was reinstated after the overthrow of the People's Revolutionary Government of Mr. Maurice Bishop.

The 1984 election date was announced on 21 September. The 15 Representatives seats were contested by five parties, including the centrist New National Party (NNP) and the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), the latter being the only group that existed prior to 1979. During the three-month campaign, the NNP emphasized the themes of economic development (especially reduction of unemployment) and safeguards against the abuse of power; its manifesto also expressed support for the October 1983 military intervention by USA and Caribbean forces and for the continued presence of foreign military and police contingents. Altogether 52 candidates were in contention.

On polling day, the newly-formed NNP, a coalition of three parties led by Mr. Herbert Blaize, recorded a near-complete victory by obtaining 14 Representatives seats. On 4 December, Mr. Blaize was sworn in as Prime Minister and, five days later, his Cabinet was announced.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered voters	48,100 (approx.)
Voters	85% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained		Number of Seats
New National Party (NNP)	15	23,997	58.4	14
Grenada United Labour Party (GULP).	15	14,798	36.1	1*
Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement	13	2,024	5.0	—
Christian Democratic Labour Party.	5	107	—	—
Grenada Federated Labour Party.		10		
Independents		105		
				15

•Following the elections, the one GULP member resigned and his seat was picked up by the NNP.

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Sex*

	<i>House of Representatives</i>	<i>Senate</i>
Men	14	12
Women	2	1
	16*	13

•Including the Prime Minister, who is an *ex-officio* member.