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REPORT OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD IN GRENADA - 2003

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions and has been presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

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17th and Constitution Ave., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

SG/DDPA-839/04 November 11, 2004

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to request your kind assistance in having distributed to the members of the Permanent Council the attached report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Grenada. The report reflects the activities undertaken by the Mission during the observation of the general elections in Grenada, held on November 27, 2003.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

William Berenson
General Counsel
Department of Legal Affairs and Services
In charge of the General Secretariat

His Excellency
Ambassador Arístides Royo
Permanent Representative of Panama
Chairman of Permanent Council of the
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REPORT OF THE OAS

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
GENERAL ELECTIONS
GRENADA 2003

Department of Democratic and Political Affairs
Office for the Promotion of Democracy

CONTENTS

*Please note the following:
The OAS General Secretariat is undergoing a period of transition and reorganization. The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) recently has been consolidated under the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs (DDPA). The UPD is now called the Office for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD).

APPENDICES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) thanks the Government of Grenada, the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the OAS, and the Supervisor of Elections for their cooperation and assistance in the operation of the Mission. Special appreciation is extended to the Permanent Representative of Grenada, Ambassador Denis Antoine.

In addition, the Electoral Observation Mission expresses its appreciation to the Office of the General Secretariat in Guyana, and to Mr. Francis McBarnette, Director, and Mrs. Andrea Foster, Administrative Technician. Finally, the Mission expresses its appreciation to the people of Grenada for their cooperation at every stage of its operations.

Thanks also are extended to the governments of Brazil and the United States for providing the necessary external funding for the Mission.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 20, 2003, the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Honorable Dr. Keith C. Mitchell, wrote to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Dr. Cesar Gaviria, inviting him to send a mission to observe that country's general elections to be held on November 27, 2003. Among other matters, the Prime Minister stated, "all political parties in the country will welcome the participation of an Observer Mission which is staffed by individuals familiar with the Caribbean political environment and with a leadership at the highest level" (see Appendix A).

The Secretary General accepted the invitation, appointing Ambassador Corinne A. McKnight, who, prior to her retirement, had served as the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS and as ambassador to other member states, to serve as the Chief of Mission. The Secretary General also indicated that he would send observers following the receipt of sufficient specific, or external, funds, as required by OAS policy. The length of time required to request and receive funds delayed the deployment of observers until just a few days before the election.

Following the receipt of funds, a small, technical mission was deployed. Its technical emphasis was based on the fact that the OAS had observed the 1999 elections and had made a number of suggestions to overcome some of the challenges that had been noticed at that time. For many years, the OAS, at the invitation of the Government of Grenada, had worked with Grenadian institutions to provide an active program of technical assistance.

The governments of Brazil and the United States provided funds for the Electoral Observation Mission in Grenada. As is the norm, the Secretary General assigned the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) to organize the Mission from OAS headquarters.

Although the Mission could only be deployed for a few days, November 24-29, 2003, observers were present at 105 of 124 polling stations on the island of Grenada itself. Because of the short time in the country, the Mission was unable to observe most of the preparatory steps for the election. However, it used as its background the experience of OAS observers in 1999, recommendations in the final report on that observation, and the UPD's extensive program of technical assistance, undertaken at the invitation of the Government of Grenada between 1999 and 2003.

Following the election, the government maintained a one-vote majority in the 15 parliamentary constituencies, a dramatic shift from the results of the 1999 elections. A number of constituencies were closely contested, but the closest outcome was in the Constituency of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, islands located off the northwestern coast of Grenada. There, the margin was only seven votes in favor of the ruling party.

Mission observers applied their technical expertise in the administration of elections in the Caribbean member states of the OAS, as well as electoral law and information technology, to their tasks.

This report describes their observations and concerns, especially about the immense size of the list of eligible voters, as compared to the population of Grenada. It also makes suggestions and recommendations, which would have the objective of further strengthening electoral institutions, electoral transparency, accessibility to voting, and increasing overall confidence in the electoral process.

On November 10, 2003, the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, replied to the invitation in his capacity as Acting Secretary General. The Assistant Secretary General's letter noted the decision of the Secretary General to "send a team of observers to the upcoming elections," but stated that the Mission's deployment would be "contingent upon receiving external resources," as is always the case. The letter was presented to the Permanent Representative of Grenada, Ambassador Denis Antoine, during a meeting in the Office of the Assistant Secretary General (see Appendix B).

A Technical Mission. Ideally, an OAS electoral observation mission is in a position to review and monitor many of the major aspects of the pre-electoral period, including the preparation of the list of eligible voters, hiring and training polling station officials, the accomplishments of the electoral administration body, the qualification of political parties and candidates, and the election campaigns.

Very little of this was possible in Grenada in 2003 because of the short deployment of observers.

However, the experience of the OAS in observing the 1999 elections, and an extensive project to provide technical assistance to the Parliamentary Elections Office and the General Registry during 1999-2003, provided the Organization with a solid base of knowledge and information on electoral administration and, in general, election preparations. As a result, it was decided that the OAS should send a small mission, consisting almost entirely of election-administration experts from the CARICOM member states, with a specifically technical emphasis. As a practical matter, such technical missions can focus more on the conduct of the elections itself and can be deployed for shorter periods of time and at lower cost.

Technical missions may also make it possible for the OAS to deploy missions in countries where it has observed previous elections or provided extensive technical assistance, especially when it is anticipated that significant amounts of external funding may not be made available. In addition to those with skills in electoral administration, among the observers were an eminent legal scholar and an information technology expert with 20 years of computer programming and systems design experience, including an extensive background working with the electoral and civil registries of the Caribbean member states.

As is the case in all OAS electoral observations, the framework of the observation is based on the application of national law and an examination of practices. The technical expertise of the OAS team in Grenada eliminated the need for extensive training. This was a practical necessity, in view of the short deployment of the team.

Funding. As election day approached, some unease was expressed by the Government of Grenada regarding the date on which the OAS team would arrive. The deployment date for OAS observers depended on the ability to obtain sufficient external funds, as had been explained in the letter from the Assistant Secretary General to the Prime Minister.

The observer team in no way wishes to suggest that the two governments that provided funds caused a delay. On the contrary, once the official requests for funding were sent to those governments with a history of interest in contributing to electoral observation missions, the governments acted expeditiously.

Further discussion regarding the matter of the organization and funding of electoral observation missions may be found elsewhere in this report (see chapter 1).

Unlike other international organizations that observe elections, OAS resolutions and regulations prohibit the use of monies from the Regular Fund, which is made up of funds provided as “dues” or, in OAS parlance, “quotas” for these purposes.

The UPD must seek sufficient external funds on behalf of the Secretary General before it can send observers or conduct electoral observations. In certain cases, funds may be also be provided from the Permanent Specific Fund to Finance Activities Related to OAS Electoral Observation Missions, which was adopted by the OAS General Assembly on June 7, 1999 AG/RES. 1637(XXIX-O/97).

In the case of this Mission, the use of funds from that account, provided and authorized by the Government of Brazil, permitted the observation to begin. The Brazilian funds also served as an incentive for other contributions. The Government of the United States provided the majority of the funds. Commitments were received from both governments on November 21, but the UPD was not able to access the funds for expenditure until November 25; two days before the election.

Even then, dedicated UPD personnel remained in their offices at OAS headquarters until 2 a.m. in order to create and approve the necessary financial actions that made the funds available for expenditure. Special appreciation must be given to Caroline Murfitt-Eller, Coordinator of the Information and Dialogue area of the UPD, and Lynn Swenson, Administrative Officer in the UPD’s Financial Office, for making the Mission possible. In addition, Dora Donayre, Administrative Assistant with Information and Dialogue, receives the Mission’s gratitude for working efficiently to ensure that a number of administrative and personnel actions were completed.

That the OAS/UPD does not have a specifically designated group to manage and support electoral observations from headquarters means that the many regular functions and activities of this very busy unit compete for the time of staff that plan and carry out electoral missions in addition to their regular responsibilities. The extraordinary level of complexity and detail required planning and mounting an electoral mission of any size and duration significantly detracts from the heavy, regular workload of UPD personnel so assigned. Staff who must take on this additional burden of work should be recognized and appreciated for their extraordinary and extremely demanding efforts, which are made in addition to the activities for which they are regularly responsible.

CHAPTER I. PRE-ELECTION PHASE

A. THE MISSION'S PLAN OF ACTION

The planning of all OAS electoral observation missions benefits from timely assessments of conditions in the host country. In many countries, much of this information can be obtained from newspapers and from the electoral administration body. Many times, political parties and civil society also contribute to the base of information that is used to plan a mission.

In the case of Grenada in 2003, the OAS was severely hampered by the small amount of relevant information about the elections and the electoral climate that was made available to it prior to deployment. This was made more difficult because the newspapers of Grenada are printed weekly and because it was difficult to find substantial information on the election on the Internet.

As a result, the Chief of Mission and others had to rely on what they could glean from the public record about the election and from conversations while they were in the country. Based on the information that was available, the Mission's plan of action was based on the following assumptions:

- The election appeared to be "normal." No specific or pressing issues seemed to be operating that might affect the level of voter participation, the electoral climate, or the outcome of the election. Mission planners were aware that some Grenadians were not in favor of returning the party of government to power for a third time, but there did not seem to be a particular focus of discontent or of action.

- Observers were told that preparation for the elections were, likewise, "normal." Between 1999 and 2003, the UPD had gone to extraordinary lengths to design and install userfriendly database management systems, as well as to upgrade, modernize, and strengthen the Parliamentary Elections Office. The OAS was aware of concern about the voter list (see Chapter IV, Conclusions and Recommendations) and was able to obtain external funding to fulfill requests of the Government of Grenada to provide personal computers and related hardware, as well as technical assistance in the form of user-friendly software to manage the existing list. The Supervisor of Elections had requested and received from the UPD the capacity to copy the list to "read-only" CD-ROMs for record keeping and for distribution to all political parties. No significant questions regarding the preparation of the voter list were brought to the attention of the OAS prior to the deployment of the Mission. However, the size of the list of potential voters still remained very large compared to the population of Grenada.

- Preparations for elections and the information the OAS could glean about the political climate in the run-up to elections seemed to confirm progress towards the consolidation of Grenada's electoral system.

These matters contributed to the assessment by Mission planners prior to the election that it was unlikely that great surprises would result from the elections on November 27, 2003. Mission planners responded with speed once the commitment of funds arrived on Friday afternoon, November 21. It must be noted, however, that by the time that the commitments arrived, the offices of the General Secretariat in the member states from which the observers would be traveling to

Grenada were closed for that weekend or very nearly so. One elections expert who had said that she would be able to participate announced by e-mail sent that Friday afternoon that she would no longer be able to go because she had not been able to tell her employers that the OAS had firm funding.

For most observers, it was not possible to make travel reservations until Monday morning, November 24, three days before the elections. Because of her physical proximity to Grenada and owing to the urgency to begin deployment, the Chief of Mission arrived on Monday afternoon. However, the other observers traveled on Tuesday, and the first meeting of observers did not take place until very late that night.

On Wednesday, during a 7 a.m. meeting, the observers met with the Supervisor of Elections and, basing their plan of action on the information then available, spent much of the rest of the day traveling around Grenada to plan their circuit of polling station visits on election day. The goal on election day was to have observers present in as many polling stations as possible, with a special focus on the conduct of the polling station and activities of the returning officers.

1. The matter of Carriacou

At no time prior to election day did the OAS Mission receive solid information that the Constituency of Carriacou and Petite Martinique would be especially important to observe. On its arrival, the Mission was told that a large mobile political rally had been held on the island of Grenada itself on the weekend and that it might be influencing the decision of a number of voters as the campaign was ending, but nothing in the discussions held with the government, electoral authorities, political parties, or civil society groups identified Carriacou as a constituency on which the OAS team should especially focus.

If such information had been available, an observer might have been able to be assigned to Carriacou. This would have required the arrangement for positioning the observer no later than Wednesday, so that the observer could be present when the polling stations opened on election day as well as for inter-island travel during the period.

Anecdotal and other information came to the Mission to the effect that transportation from Grenada to Carriacou had suddenly become difficult from the morning before the elections. During the Wednesday morning meeting, the Supervisor of Elections noted to the observation team that election officials taking supplies to that constituency had experienced difficulty in obtaining their flight to Carriacou that morning. Other stories reached the team that sea transportation was overbooked. In short, travel to Carriacou suddenly became unusually difficult.

With hindsight, it is impossible to be certain that the ability to deploy a single expert OAS observer to the Constituency of Carriacou and Petite Martinique would have made a substantive difference in a constituency with 11 polling stations that was won by a margin of seven votes. Further, had the Chief of Mission received strong indications of a very close race for the seat or other noteworthy signs, chartering a light aircraft at the last minute would have been the only available alternative. She was informed that this would have been both difficult. It was also beyond the available resources of the Mission.

2. OAS/UPD technical assistance

References are made throughout this report to the extensive and exhaustive activities of the UPD to strengthen and modernize the Parliamentary Elections Office and to assist in the preparation of draft legislation to provide for the continuous registration of voters. Both activities emanated from recommendations contained in the report made by the 1999 OAS Electoral Observation Mission to Grenada. In both cases, the UPD responded to direct invitations of the Government of Grenada.

The UPD purchased a sufficient number of personal computers for the use of the Parliamentary Elections Office to manage the electoral database and, over 2002-2003, the UPD provided more modern, user-friendly database management computer programs for the voters' list, as well as a server with greater capacity and a printer to replace one that had broken and could not be replaced. More importantly, the UPD provided the services of a highly qualified and experienced computer expert to work with officials of the Parliamentary Elections Office to design systems and programs that served the needs of Grenada. It must be noted that the Government did not provide a qualified and experienced local counterpart to work with the OAS technical expert in the design of the systems and writing of the programs or to maintain the system in the absence of the OAS consultant.

In 2002, the UPD provided a contract to a Grenadian legal expert to draft legislation that would institute a system of continuous voter registration. This legislation would be one of the steps necessary to update the list of eligible voters. Existing election laws in Grenada permit persons to register to vote only during specified periods of time each year. One result of this practice is that persons who reach the age of 18 or who wish to register are only able to register during the period specified by law.

In essence, continuous registration legislation would permit persons to register throughout the year; subject only to restrictions that might be placed for the efficient management of electoral lists.

Under the leadership of the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Victor Ashby, and the Director of the Office of the OAS General Secretariat in Grenada, Mr. Francis McBarnette, a lengthy process was undertaken that focused on refinement of the draft. This latter process, according to the Director, included close and frequent consultation with political parties and interested organizations.

3. The observer team

The OAS was privileged to have had the benefit of an excellent observer team for the Mission to Grenada in 2003.

As previously mentioned, Ambassador Corinne A. McKnight, whose career in the Foreign Service of Trinidad and Tobago and civic leadership is exceptional, headed the team as Chief of Mission.

Two retired election administrators from Barbados and Dominica, Mersada Elcock and Rita Seraphin, with decades of experience supervising the organization and management of elections, added their keen powers of observation to the team's efforts.

Professor Albert K. Fiadjoe, of the Faculty of Law at the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill campus, Barbados), is an eminent and universally respected authority who, in the case of the OAS.

Mission to Grenada, contributed unparalleled insights into the application of the law to the elections.

A computer programmer, systems analyst, and systems designer with some 20 years experience, and of Guyanese ancestry, Roger Bart, gave the team a detailed understanding of the structure and management of the electoral data base used by Grenada's Parliamentary Elections Office. His extensive and unique background with electoral and civil registries added a great deal to the effectiveness of the team.

As is the custom, the UPD had one representative on the team, Dr. Bruce Rickerson, a former election administrator. In the case of Grenada, the late and short deployment meant that, in addition to serving as the main planner of the Mission at OAS headquarters, he also served as the point of contact between the observers in the field and the Mission's small headquarters at their hotel.

The word "team" describes this group with precision. Immediately upon meeting, the professionalism and technical expertise of the group, as well as inspired leadership from the Chief of Mission, encouraged the Mission members to contribute their strengths and to work as a totally dedicated unit.

It must be noted that the Mission only had very limited funds to contract persons of such vast expertise. In the case of future technical missions, the acquisition of resources commensurate with the quality of such experts should be a top priority.

4. Legal agreements

The host member state and the OAS customarily sign two legal agreements before observations can commence. These agreements provide privileges and immunities to the observers and guarantee access by them to all aspects of the electoral process.

Unlike many other organizations, OAS observers have a different legal character in that they are provided with specific privileges and immunities during their term of service. The second agreement, often signed with the electoral administration body, ensures that OAS observers will have full access to all aspects of the electoral process, guaranteed by the electoral body or the government itself. These two agreements were signed on November 25 by Grenadian representatives and the Director of the OAS Office in Grenada, using a specific delegation of authority from the Secretary General.

According to OAS custom and legal advice, it is impossible for observers to begin their substantive work until the agreements have been signed (see Appendices C and D).

B. PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

The Chief of Mission arrived in Grenada on Monday, November 24, and held an initial meeting with Mr. Victor Ashby, Supervisor of Elections, that evening.

On the following day, after paying a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, the Honorable Dr. Keith Mitchell, the Chief of Mission met with officials of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), The Peoples' Labour Movement (PLM), and the Inter-Agency Development Organization (IADGO).

Both of these political parties expressed grave concern about the voters' list. They complained about its "exaggerated size" and of the manner in which the Supervisor of Elections handled their objections. It was explained to them that because the OAS Mission had not been present to monitor the compilation of the list, the team would not be in a position to pronounce upon its compilation.

However, when asked specifically whether they had participated in the exercise aimed at introducing a system of continuous registration, they were unspecific and criticized the Government for not giving priority to examining the draft legislation that the exercise had produced in Parliament.

The PLM drew attention to the party of government, New National Party (NNP), report of a bomb attack on the Prime Minister and expressed a concern that the incident could be used as a pretext for inciting violence.

The civil society organization, IADGO, informed the Chief of Mission that they had repeated the initiative which they had started in 1999, to produce an enhanced code of conduct for the election, which included a new watchdog committee to receive information on abuses committed by candidates. This group's focus was on the quality of the campaign, the need to debate the development issues of national importance, and civic education for the population. They, too, were dissatisfied with the voters' list and expressed a total lack of awareness of the existence of draft legislation on continuous registration.

As noted, the Supervisor of Elections met with the full Mission team on Wednesday morning. He gave assurances that, in addition to having everything in place as required by the relevant legislation, the Parliamentary Elections Office had taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 1999 OAS Observer Mission in its preparations for the elections.

For example, he said that special arrangements had been made to facilitate physically challenged voters, where these were known to be located. Further, he stated that efforts had been made to cater to the comfort of all voters, including the provision of tents, bottled water, and rest stations, as well as ramps and rails. He reported to the observers that communications equipment was being placed at every polling station and presiding officers were being issued cell phones to facilitate contact with national electoral officials.

In response to a direct question, the Supervisor of Elections informed Mission observers that several training sessions had been held for persons involved in the electoral process and that authorization had been approved, where requested, for party agents (scrutineers) and election officials to cast their votes at the polling stations where they would be working on election day.

When informed about the general apprehension concerning the voters' list, the he insisted that, in its compilation, scrupulous attention had been paid to the existing legislation and regulations. He stated that, in this context, he did not consider a list of voters of 82,270 to be excessive for Grenada.

Furthermore, the Supervisor of Elections asserted that he had personally ensured that all objections raised by the political parties were properly accommodated.

CHAPTER II. ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS

A. OPENING OF POLLING STATIONS

Observers arrived at their assigned polling stations in time for the preparation and opening at 6 a.m., then visited the other stations in their prescribed circuit and returned to the first station to observe the counting and transmission of the ballots to the returning officers.

At each polling station visited, the observers interacted with presiding officers, poll clerks, and party agents, as well as voters. A total of 105 of the 124 stations on the island of Grenada were visited.

Although some polling stations reported receiving their ballot boxes and supplies "very late the night before," none admitted to opening late. The stations at which observers were present all opened by 6:10 a.m.

At some polling stations visited, the package accompanying the ballot boxes did not contain certain supplies; e.g., labeled envelopes for spoilt and rejected ballots.

B. VOTER ACCESS TO POLLING STATIONS

In many polling stations, access presented a problem for the aged, infirm, and physically challenged. Steep flights of stairs and uncovered drains close to the entrances were inconveniences most regularly reported by persons presenting themselves to vote and by OAS observers. Fortunately, in the absence of special provisions for those voters, police officers and able-bodied voters were always eager to assist.

At quite a few polling stations, observers encountered or were informed of persons having difficulty in being able to vote. Where names were not on the list of voters at the particular location, many were redirected to the correct polling stations, although some expressed their frustration by refusing to move.

Grenada does not follow the practice of requiring voters to cast their ballots at polling stations near their residences. One result is that persons who may not have lived in a certain location for many years present themselves to vote. Observers were told that this practice results, at times, in persons presenting themselves at polling stations where they are no longer personally known to polling station officials.

Some stations had no access to the "master list" of eligible voters, and there were instances where persons with what appeared to be valid identification cards could not be located on the "master list."

At least one "duplicate entry" was discovered, in which the voter's details appeared on the list of registrants at two polling districts in the same constituency.

One poll clerk reported the instance of a couple residing continuously at the same address for a lengthy period of time being required to vote in two different constituencies. Their names were on different lists. It was unclear why these people were assigned to different polling stations and constituencies, how that decision had been taken, or by whom.

C. PARTY AGENTS AND PROCEDURES

Representatives of political parties who are stationed at polling stations are known as party agents in Grenada (in other CARICOM countries they may be known as "scrutineers"). They have the responsibility to oversee voter procedure and often inform party officials of the names of the persons who are participating in the election at a particular polling station.

For most of election day there were as many as three or four party agents present at many polling stations. However, some agents were forced to abandon their positions in order to cast their own ballots in the constituencies where they were registered. They had not received the authorization to vote at their post, which many claimed to have requested. This contributed to frustration in some locations and, of course, deprived the polling station of the services of the party agents for some period of time.

The party agents were generally very cooperative, assisting in the efficient processing of voters by identifying their numbers from the copy of the final voter list at the polling station and directing them in voting procedures.

Observers reported that the demeanor of most of the presiding officers and poll clerks demonstrated that there had been training in the execution of the procedures prescribed in the instruction booklet that was prepared by the Parliamentary Elections Office. However, there was sufficient evidence of variable interpretations of the main themes to suggest that more effective training might have produced greater uniformity in performance.

D. MATERIALS AND BALLOT SECRECY

Some of the packages of election materials accompanying the ballot boxes were incomplete. Many complaints were received that the indelible pencils used to mark the ballots broke frequently.

Requests for replacements were sometimes not handled in an expeditious manner.
At times, communications presented a serious problem since, at some polling stations, neither hard-wire telephones nor cellular phones were available.

Generally, the polling stations were arranged to provide ample secrecy for marking the ballot. It was noted that the placement of the ballot boxes in a few locations was not ideal and, in two stations, the voter was not in full view of either the presiding officer or poll clerk at the time of marking the ballot.

E. SECURITY

The police presence and conduct was highly commended by all Mission observers. Every aspect of their performance—control of queues, policing of the hundred-yard “no congregation” zone, security of the station during the count, and escorting of the ballot boxes—was executed with the greatest professionalism.

F. CLOSING OF POLLING STATIONS

Polling stations where the observer team was assigned all closed on time, at 5 p.m., and observers watched the count and procedures for recording the results and the sealing of the ballot boxes. Grenada uses paper ballots exclusively. The counting process at the polling stations can take many hours.

However, it must be noted that, as is the case with most CARICOM countries, unofficial results are available late in the evening and are announced to the populace by the media. In general, these unofficial results establish a trend as to which party is likely to have a majority in parliament. As a result, there has been little interest in additional electoral technology that might permit a more rapid announcement of unofficial results. In many cases, the existing technology is adequate and appropriate for the task and for the available budgetary and human resources.

G. CLOSE OUTCOME IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

Few countries would be prepared fully for an exceptionally close outcome in the allocations of seats, by political party, in the parliament. In the case of Grenada, broadcast reports generally indicated a return to government of the ruling party, the NNP. There could have been a number of causes why early, unofficial reports did not fully portray the closeness of the results, both in the aggregate (an 8-7 majority) and in the closeness of the vote in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

CHAPTER III. POST ELECTION PHASE

A. THE FINAL COUNT

Grenada's electoral laws provide for a "final count," a public process on the day following the election, during which ballots from all of the polling stations in a particular constituency are tabulated at the office of the returning officer. In many other Caribbean member states of the OAS, this count occurs very late on election night. This is not a recount, as is used in some countries when elections are very close or disputed, but rather a regularized process which occurs in the early morning following election day.

The Grenadian practice of tabulation on the morning after the election appears to be more for the sake of convenience than almost anything else. Polling station officials frequently must leave their homes at 4 or 5 a.m. on election day, in order to be present when the stations open at 6 a.m. Observers have found that, in many countries, the official tabulation at the office of the returning officer can end at 2 or 3 a.m., and sometimes even later. Grenada's practice of tabulating on the morning after makes considerable practical sense.

In the case of the 2003 elections, however, the closeness of the overall outcome and the suspense of several constituencies with close results could have contributed to anxiety among voters during the period after the polling stations closed until the votes were tabulated by the returning officers for transmission to the Parliamentary Elections Office, often 24 or more hours later.

Unfortunately for the observers, information on this provision of election law and procedure was not made available in advance, so no arrangements were in place for observers to be present at the final count. Ground transportation had only been contracted for election day. As a result, transportation had to be arranged hastily on the morning after election day.

It was not until early on Friday morning that the team learned of a number of apparent very close outcomes, based on unofficial reports from election night. The press was reporting that seven votes, in one case, and eleven, in another, had decided two constituencies. Inasmuch as the seven-vote margin was in Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the Mission decided to go to the other constituency that was reported to be very close: St. Patrick, West. The observers had considerable difficulty in obtaining rapid, accurate information on the preliminary results from the constituencies.

Because of the need to arrange transportation and travel two hours to the office of the returning officer in St. Patrick West, observers requested that the Supervisor of Elections delay the beginning of the count (which had been scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.) to accommodate the team's arrival. All of the

observers traveled together, because additional time would have been lost if multiple transportation arrangements had had to be made. The count at the office of the Returning Officer began at approximately 11:15 a.m. and finished about 8 p.m. As is the case at polling stations, party agents were also present. The final count resulted in increasing the margin of victory of the NNP in the constituency from that which the media had informally reported on election night.

It was noted that on election day and following the election, not a single political party or civil society group contacted the OAS observer team with their concerns and complaints. If such issues were raised elsewhere, they were not brought to the attention of the OAS observers. Electoral observation missions are never in a position to anticipate complaints about elections; missions must either investigate what they have observed or matters brought to their attention by others. In view of the shifting political tide and the close outcomes of a number of races, the lack of communication seemed puzzling. This was particularly true in view of the desire of some Grenadians to ensure the earliest possible deployment of international observers. It remains unclear why individuals and parties did not communicate any concerns to the OAS. To be in the best position to receive such information, the observer team maintained a small office at its headquarters hotel and also had reliable cellular telephones.

B. THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE CHARTS

The observation team must note that, given the size of the list of eligible voters and the legal requirements for its compilation, it is virtually impossible to know with any certainty the number of eligible voters who were in the country on election day and prepared to vote.

Following the departure of the OAS observer team, the Mission made a special request of the Parliamentary Elections Office for official information on the election, so as to describe the election in statistical terms. The Mission felt that such information was likely to be the most accurate and current and, therefore, to present the clearest picture of the election.

At the Mission's request, the Parliamentary Elections Office provided two charts with the number of registered voters per constituency, the number of votes cast, and the percentage of voter participation. First, the Supervisor of Elections provided a summary of the results for the winners of each constituency (see Appendix E).

Next, a chart was provided called "How the Constituencies Voted," which appeared to contain the total number of voters participating in a given constituency, the number of registered voters per constituency, and the percentage of turnout. Certain arithmetical errors are found in the chart, which would affect its accuracy (see Appendix G).

In an attempt to clarify matters this report sought to present, in tabular form, a combination of a lengthy document from the Parliamentary Elections Office called "Final Results," and a summary table that appeared on a website called www.spiceisle.com, which purported to contain the final results as well.

Appendix H presents the votes by candidate and constituency and found arithmetical errors in three constituencies that represented differences from the results obtained from the Parliamentary Elections Office.

For the sake of this report, the Mission accepts the list of winning candidates, but the charts may not answer all of the questions that might be posed by a student of the election.

C. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS

1. Size of constituencies

There is a considerable disparity in the number of registered voters who are allocated to different constituencies. The observer team realizes that there may be many reasons for the size of the constituencies to vary. For example, Carriacou and Petite Martinique logically remain as a constituency because they are islands, therefore physically separated from the island of Grenada. According to the registration figures supplied by the Parliamentary Elections Office, the winner of the Constituency of Saint David represents an estimated 8,946 persons, while only an estimated 3,558 and 3,896 are represented in Saint Mark and Saint Patrick, East, respectively. According to the same source, an estimated 5,417 voters participated in Saint David and elected a member of Parliament, while an estimated 2,146 were sufficient in Saint Mark.

There is no ideal size of a constituency and OAS member states have the right to determine constituency boundaries, but the disparity in size must be mentioned.

More importantly, since the list of eligible voters is so large, it is virtually impossible to know how many people actually live in any constituency or are able to vote at any polling station. This situation is complicated by the ability of persons to vote where they no longer live. Some parliamentarians represent some number of people who no longer reside in the constituencies.

2. Voting where you live

Like many OAS member states, Grenada does not require voters to register where they reside. On election day, this results in a considerable number of people traveling from a part of Grenada where they currently live to another where they used to live, simply to vote. Over time, housing and employment patterns change and people move accordingly. It may be speculated that some number of persons presenting themselves to vote at some polling stations may not have lived in the constituency for a considerable period of time. To the extent that this is the case, it may be difficult for officials at a polling station or party agents correctly to identify persons seeking to vote in places where they have not resided for a long time.

CHAPTER IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The OAS political bodies have made it clear that the observation of elections is only one component of a partnership among the Organization, the Secretariat, election observers themselves and the people and institutions of the member states. It is, therefore, relevant that this report list the recommendations made by the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in its Final Report in 1999 (CP/doc.3173.99) and review the actions taken on each of the subjects between that election and 2003.

In the first paragraph of the section “Conclusions and Recommendations,” the 1999 Report notes that “**the actual [voter] participation rate was probably greater due to the high number of names on the voter registry**.”

The Chief of Mission, Ambassador McKnight, discussed many of these questions in her final statement (see Appendix I).

Prior to its suggestions and recommendations, the 1999 Report notes, "the OAS, through its Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, offers its good offices if so requested on any of the topics mentioned below or in any other way deemed appropriate." This statement explicitly repeats one of the key elements of the partnership between member states and the OAS, the provision of advisory and technical services.

The following suggestions and recommendations (in italic) were offered in the 1999 Report. Following each of the statements are the 2003 Mission comments on activities that had been undertaken in Grenada in reference to them.

1. The Government of Grenada and the Parliamentary Elections Office should consider a system of continuous registration to ensure that the voter registry is up-to-date and accurate

Because of the short deployment of observers and the inability of the OAS team to observe the confection of the voter list, the 2003 observer Mission is unable to comment on whether the registry of eligible voters may be "up-to-date and accurate." It can say with certainty, however, that the list grew during 1999-2003. It can also add that great numbers of citizens and politically active persons have raised questions as to the size of the list. Observers saw little evidence that the Government or the Parliamentary Elections Office acted to make the list more "up-to-date and accurate." To put it more precisely, the size of the list did not seem to reflect efforts to update and pare it down to a more reasonable size, as noted elsewhere in this report. The observer team does not question the accuracy of the list, but merely that the enormity of the list seems to have given a number of Grenadians the impression that names appeared on the list of people who might no longer be in Grenada and available to cast ballots.

Continuous registration, by itself, would not ensure that the list is more current and realistic. In fact, unless the process begins with a house-to-house or other electoral census that begins at zero and adds those people residing in Grenada who are eligible to vote, continuous registration might actually further increase the list of voters.

Between 1999-2003, at the Parliamentary Elections Office, the success of the modernization and strengthening project required inputs from both the OAS and that Office.

Despite numerous meetings and discussions, neither the Government nor the Parliamentary Elections Office ever provided the services of a qualified, experienced local counterpart computer person to work with the OAS consultant while the program was being written and to maintain the system after he left. As a result, no sustainable capacity exists in the Parliamentary Elections Office.

It is difficult to imagine the creation of an "up-to-date and accurate" voter list without the technical ability to manage it, within the confines of the state-of-the-art database management computer program provided to Grenada by the OAS.

2. While time did not permit the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to conduct an analysis of the media during the elections, it believes, however, that a systematized allocation of media time positively contributes to the electoral process

This appears to have been a general statement by the 1999 observers, since it states that it was not based on direct observation. The Mission would tend to empathize with this statement. The television

coverage seen on the three nights immediately preceding election day was almost completely dominated by one party, which happened to be the ruling party.

3. Civil society should plan a proactive role in supporting the campaign process

Once again, the 1999 Report does not point to any particular concerns. This Mission agrees and notes that the Chief of Mission made this suggestion to the representatives of civil society during their meeting.

4. Political and civil society leaders should address the issue of campaign financing

Only the representatives of civil society raised this matter.

5. In order to consolidate democracy and contribute to good governance, there is need to strengthen civic education programs at all levels of the school system

The 2003 observers are unable to comment on the state of civic education during the run-up to the election.

6. There is need to standardize the physical layout of voting stations in order to expedite the voting process

The 2003 observers saw many indications that standardization did not take place.

7. Special consideration should be given to the needs of the elderly and disabled voters

As reported by the observers, there did not appear to be significant improvement in providing accessibility to the polling places.

Statement: After a third 20-hour day in a row, the Chief of Mission issued the statement attached as Appendix I. Such a statement is customarily issued at the closing of an electoral mission. However, its themes are echoed and expanded upon in the following section of this report.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions and recommendations are common in reports of international election observers and this report continues that trend. Observers are partners with the people and governments of the OAS member states requesting observation. Especially in the case of a technical mission, comments based on the experience of the observers are intended as signposts, which, if attended to, may strengthen the consolidation of democratic elections and procedures. In addition, the recommendations can serve as a way to assess whether matters of concern to observers were addressed in future elections.

The Mission makes the following conclusions and recommendations:

The Mission commends the people of Grenada very highly for their participation in the election process. The queues of voters at the polling stations were not only orderly and respectful of the process and personnel administering it, but extremely courteous, cooperative, and helpful to their peers who required assistance. The participation of the security forces was exemplary.

Among the recommendations are:

1. The Government of Grenada and the Parliamentary Elections Office should consider satisfying the expressed desire of a number of citizens for a new system of continuous registration, which would include a mechanism for periodic review and sanitization of the voters' list.

The Mission is of the view that the hard-won advances achieved by Grenada in promoting democracy can only be eroded by the perpetuation of a situation that challenges the credibility of one of the key elements in the electoral process: the electoral register or list of eligible voters.

Serious efforts should be considered to rationalize the list. Although continuous registration would be helpful, by itself it would not resolve the problem. In fact, easing registration might only result in increasing the number of names on the list, unless prior to the institution of continuous registration, a new electoral census or house-to-house enumeration of eligible voters is conducted.

Especially in the current allocation of parliamentary seats, the Mission respectfully suggests that any registration system or electoral census be planned with complete transparency, including the involvement of representatives of all parties and civil society.

Observers also noted that the system carried out by the General Registry, the registry of vital statistics or civil registry, for the collection and notification of the names of deceased persons is not functioning well. The result in terms of elections is that the names of the deceased are reported slowly and sporadically to the Parliamentary Elections Office, making it difficult to remove those names in a timely manner from the list of eligible voters. It is important that the management systems and operations at the civil registry also be strengthened, so that full use of the computer hardware and software provided by the OAS can be made.

2. It is imperative that a qualified, experienced systems administrator be appointed to run and maintain the computer systems at the Parliamentary Elections Office, which have been installed by the OAS/UPD. It should be noted that in many CARICOM countries the same person performs similar duties at the civil registry, maintaining its computerized database and systems, producing reports, and responding to the need of citizens for accurate, up-todate information.

3. It may also be useful to rationalize the distribution of polling stations, with a view to eliminating locations servicing very small populations, especially where these exist in close proximity to larger stations.

4. The Government of Grenada and the Parliamentary Elections Office might consider reviewing/amending existing legislation and supporting regulations governing the electoral process to include:

- Advance/special voting opportunities for essential personnel required to be on duty away from their assigned polling stations on election day

- Campaign financing

- Equitable access to the media for all candidates

- Assignment of responsibility, with serious sanctions, for defacing public property/space with party slogans/advertisements

5. The Supervisor of Elections should establish minimum standards for:

    - The physical location and layout of polling stations, particularly with a view to facilitating access for the elderly, infirm, and physically challenged

    - The external identification of polling stations and any sub-stations thereof

    - The design and placement of posters bearing voting instructions

6. The Parliamentary Elections Office should consider including among its regular activities a sustained public-education campaign on the laws, regulations, and responsibilities of the citizenry. In this education thrust, every effort should be made to involve civil society.

7. In order to ensure that the activities of the Parliamentary Elections Office are properly monitored and consistently managed, the Government should appoint a permanent, fulltime officer to the post of Supervisor of Elections.

CHAPTER V. FINANCIAL REPORT

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES
Electoral Observation Mission Grenada 2003

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
(preliminary)
From Award Inception (November 24, 2003) to September 30, 2004

Increases		
Contribution		$ 18,000
Decreases		
Expenditures and Obligations		
Travel	$ 5,290	
Equipment, Supplies and Maintenance	805	
Performance Contracts	5,453	
Other Expenses	2,100	
Total Decreases		13,648
Net change during period		4,352
Fund balance at end of period		$ 4,352

Certified by: Alfonso Munevar, Director
Office of Financial and Budgetary Services

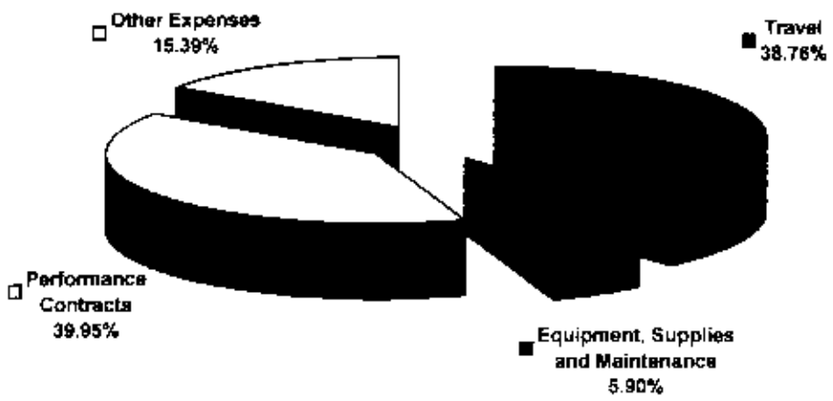
Project UPD-EOM/025
Award USDEP03/12

CHAPTER V. FINANCIAL REPORT

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES
Electoral Observation Mission Grenada 2003
From Award Inception (November 24, 2003) to September 30, 2004

Expenditure Composition by Object of Expense



DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

National and International Travel - This category includes expenditures related to travel and per diem expenses for international supervision, control administration, as well as local travel and contracted personnel for internal program administration.

Equipment, Supplies and Maintenance - This category includes: a) fuel lubricant, insurance, and vehicle maintenance; b) helicopter services related costs; c) field equipment, and supplies.

Performance Contracts - This category includes: a) local contracts for administrative, security, drivers personnel, and translation services; b) international contracts in the field and at headquarters-OAS: c) life and health insurance for both international and national personnel.

Other Expenses - Shipping costs, customs fees, petty cash, advances, exchange rate difference and miscellaneous expenses.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL
Electoral Observation Mission Grenada 2003

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
From Award Inception (November 19, 2003) to September 30, 2004

Increases		
Contribution		$ 4,875
Decreases		
Expenditures and Obligations		
Travel	3,372	
Performance Contracts	1,503	
Total Decreases		4,875
Fund balance at end of period		$ -

Certified by: Alfonso Munévar, Director
Office of Financial and Budgetary Services

Project UPD-EOM/025
Award BRAZL99/02

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL
Electoral Observation Mission Grenada 2003
From Award Inception (November 19, 2003) to September 30, 2004

Expenditure Composition by Object of Expense

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

National and International Travel - This category includes expenditures related to travel and per diem expenses for international supervision, control administration, as well as local travel and contracted personnel for internal program administration.

Performance Contracts - This category includes: a) local contracts for administrative, security, drivers personnel, and translation services; b) international contracts in the field and at headquarters-OAS; c) life and health insurance for both international and national personnel.

APPENDIX A

INVITATION FROM DR. THE HONOURABLE KEITH MITCHELL, PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA, TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, REQUESTING AN ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION, OCTOBER 20, 2003

PRIME MINISTER

GRENADA

MINISTERIAL COMPLEX
BOTANICAL GARDENS
TANTEEN
ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA

20th October, 2003

His Excellency Cesar Gaviria
Secretary-General
Organization of American States
17th Street and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
U.S.A.

Your Excellency,

I wish to begin by thanking you personally and the Organization of American States (OAS), which you lead with distinction, for the continued support to the Government and People of Grenada.

It is my pleasure to write to you to inform you that the Parliament will be dissolved on Wednesday, 22nd October, 2003, in accordance with the Constitution of Grenada, and that General Election will be held on November 27th, 2003.

Excellency, you will recall that in January 1999 the OAS, on the invitation of my Government, monitored the General Election and certified the results of the entire process. In keeping with that initiative and the goal of my Government for open and transparent elections, I am writing to request that the OAS send an Observation Mission to Grenada with the mandate to monitor and certify the General Election.

I have followed your personal involvement in ensuring that democracy is maintained throughout the Hemisphere and wish to applaud you for your hard work and commitment to the Region. Given the importance my Government is placing on assuring our people that the Elections are free and fair, I will be much obliged if you can personally be part of the Mission.

The 1999 Mission was led by the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS Ambassador Christopher Thomas, with the support of Ambassador Joseph Edmunds as Chief of Mission.

His Excellency Cesar Gaviria
Page two

20th October, 2003

I am of the view that all political parties in the country will welcome the participation of an Observation Mission which is staffed by individuals familiar with the Caribbean political environment and with a leadership at the highest level.

I wish to use this opportunity to again thank the Organization of American States for its continued support and I look forward to a favourable consideration of my request.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Keith C. Mitchell
PRIME MINISTER

APPENDIX B

REPLY TO THE INVITATION FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI R. EINAUDI, IN CHARGE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT, NOVEMBER 10, 2003

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

November 10, 2003

Honourable Prime Minister:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 20, 2003, requesting the presence of an Organization of American States (OAS) Electoral Observation Mission for the General Election which will be conducted on November 27, 2003.

It is my pleasure to advise that, contingent upon receiving sufficient external resources, the OAS will send a team of observers to the upcoming elections. The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) will plan and organize the specific details, taking careful account of all the matters raised in your letter of invitation. Prior to the deployment of observers, the OAS will suggest for review by the Government and, if appropriate, the Parliamentary Elections Commission, the legal agreements required for all such electoral observation missions. Consistent with the policies and procedures of the OAS, the mission will observe the electoral process, producing such reports as may be necessary or required and the appropriate authorities in Grenada will certify the results of the elections. As was the case in 1999, the mission will also make recommendations, based on its observation, for the further strengthening of the electoral process in Grenada.

I very much appreciate, Prime Minister, your kind words regarding the continuing interest of the Secretary General and of the undersigned in the consolidation of democracy in Grenada. I regret that previous commitments will prevent us from participating personally in the electoral observation mission.

Please be assured that as decisions regarding the composition of the mission are taken, you will be fully consulted.

Please accept Honourable Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Luigi R. Einaudi
In charge of the General Secretariat

To the Honourable Keith C. Mitchell
Prime Minister
Government of Grenada
St. George's, Grenada, W.I.

APPENDIX C

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE OF GRENADA ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS, SIGNED NOVEMBER 25, 2003

DRAFT: November _19, 2003

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

AND

THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE OF GRENADA

ON

THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE OF GRENADA ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

The Parties to the this Agreement, the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE OF GRENADA and the GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 20th_ day of October, 2003, the Prime Minister Keith C. Mitchell of the Government of GRENADA (hereinafter "The GOVERNMENT") invited the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "GENERAL SECRETARIAT") to send an Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "MISSION") to GRENADA for the purpose of observing the national elections to be held on November 27, 2003;

THAT the Secretary General of the OAS (hereinafter the "SECRETARY GENERAL") welcomed The GOVERNMENT's invitation, and arranged for sending the MISSION to GRENADA with the objective of observing the elections of November 27, 2003; and

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89) the OAS General Assembly reiterated to the SECRETARY GENERAL the recommendation that, "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;"

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE and THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
Guarantees

1.1 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE guarantees the MISSION access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections on

November 27, 2003 in GRENADA, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of GRENADA and the terms of this Agreement.

1.2 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE guarantees the MISSION access to all polling stations and other subordinate electoral bodies from the beginning of the day of the elections until the official count is tabulated nationally.

1.3 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE guarantees the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of casting and tabulating votes takes place and access to all other aspects of the electoral process, before, during and following the elections on November 27, 2003.

ARTICLE II
Information

2.1 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall furnish the MISSION with all information relating to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral processes and procedures. The MISSION may request of THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE such additional information as may be necessary for the exercise of the MISSION's functions, and The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall provide that information.

2.2 The MISSION shall inform The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE of any irregularities and/or interference that it observes and/or that are reported to the MISSION. Similarly, the MISSION may request The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE to provide the MISSION with any information regarding the measures that The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE will take in relation to such irregularities, and the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall provide that information.

2.3 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall provide the MISSION with all information related to the electoral list(s) and to all other electoral data, computerized or otherwise, relating to the electoral process. Similarly, The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall provide to the MISSION all other information relative to the computer systems used on election day and shall provide demonstrations of the systems' operation.

2.4 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE guarantees the MISSION access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE shall permit the MISSION to conduct any evaluations that the MISSION deems necessary with respect to the voting system and of the means of communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE guarantees the MISSION complete access to the complaints process and to the quality controls that are put into place before and after the process and that are of interest to the MISSION.

2.5 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE further guarantees the MISSION access to all polling stations and all other election-related entities, bodies, and commissions, etc. throughout the national territory of GRENADA.

ARTICLE III
General Provisions

3.1 The SECRETARY GENERAL has designated Ambassador Corinne A. McKnight, of Trinidad and Tobago, as Chief of Mission, who will represent the MISSION and its members before the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE and before the GOVERNMENT.

3.1.1 In the event that a new Chief of Mission subsequently is designated by the SECRETARY GENERAL, the GOVERNMENT will be duly informed in writing.

3.2 THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT will communicate to the leadership of the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE the names of the persons who will comprise the Group of Observers.

3.3. The MISSION will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate.

3.4 The SECRETARY GENERAL will send to the GOVERNMENT's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission.

3.5 The PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

ARTICLE IV
Privileges and Immunities

4.1 Nothing expressly stated or implied in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the privileges and immunities that the OAS, the GENERAL SECRETARIAT, their organs, officers, employees, and agents may enjoy under the Charter of the OAS, the October 6, 1978 Agreement between the GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA and the GENERAL SECRETARIAT on the Functioning of the Office of the GENERAL SECRETARIAT in Grenada, and/or the Agreement between the GENERAL SECRETARIAT and the GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA in relation to the privileges and immunities of the observers of the election process in GRENADA signed by the

GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT on the ____ day of November, 2003, or under international law.

ARTICLE V
Resolution of Disputes

5.1 The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If these negotiations do not result in a resolution, the matter shall be submitted to a means of dispute resolution in accordance with a procedure agreed to by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, in the city of St. George's, GRENADA, this_____day of November in the year two thousand (and three).

FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE OF GRENADA

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

APPENDIX D

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN GRENADA, SIGNED NOVEMBER 25, 2003

DRAFT November 19, 2003

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

AND

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ON

THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IN GRENADA

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IN GRENADA

WHEREAS:

In a letter dated October 20, 2003, the Government of Grenada (hereafter the "GOVERNMENT") invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "SECRETARY GENERAL") to support the democratic process in Grenada, in the framework of national elections to be held on the 27th day of November, 2003;

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (in his capacity as acting Secretary General), in a letter dated November 10, 2003, informed the GOVERNMENT that he accepted the GOVERNMENT'S invitation to establish a Group of Observers to conduct an Organization of American States Observer Mission in Grenada (hereinafter the "GROUP OF OBSERVERS") for these elections, subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the Mission;

The GROUP OF OBSERVERS is comprised of officials of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter the "GS/OAS") and other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Observer Mission in Grenada;

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and GS/OAS' staff and contractees in Grenada are set out in Article 133 of the Charter of the OAS and in the October 6, 1978 Agreement between the GOVERNMENT and the GS/OAS on the Functioning of the Office of the GS/OAS in Grenada;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Government of Grenada and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States hereby agree as follows:

CHAPTER I:
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE I

1.1 The privileges and immunities of the GROUP OF OBSERVERS shall be those accorded to the OAS, the GS/OAS, their organs, and their staff members.

ARTICLE II

2.1 The property and effects of the GROUP OF OBSERVERS, in any part and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding, save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the SECRETARY GENERAL.

2.1.1 However, it is understood and agreed that any such waiver of immunity shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

3.1 The premises occupied by the GROUP OF OBSERVERS shall be inviolable.

3.1.1 Moreover, their property and effects, in any part of the national territory of Grenada and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

ARTICLE IV

4.1 The files of the GROUP OF OBSERVERS and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in its possession shall be inviolable wheresoever they are located.

ARTICLE V

5.1 The GROUP OF OBSERVERS shall be:

a) exempt from any internal taxation;

b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is

understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may only be sold within the country in accordance with the conditions agreed upon by the GOVERNMENT;

c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

CHAPTER II
MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF OBSERVERS

ARTICLE VI

6.1 The members of the GROUP OF OBSERVERS (hereinafter the "OBSERVERS") shall be those who, with the consent of the GOVERNMENT, have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the Grenadian authorities.

ARTICLE VII

7.1 For the period during which the OBSERVERS exercise their functions, and also during their trips to and from Grenada, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements, be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;

b) The inviolability of any papers or documents;

c) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, computer, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages and pouches;

d) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;

e) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in Grenada;

f) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;

g) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and

h) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

ARTICLE VIII

8.1 The provisions contained in the preceding Article do not apply to nationals of Grenada working as local contract staff in the GROUP OF OBSERVERS, save in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions

ARTICLE IX

9.1 The GROUP OF OBSERVERS may establish and operate in the territory of Grenada an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link between the OBSERVERS and the vehicles used by the OBSERVERS with its offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in St. George's and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C. The GOVERNMENT shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

CHAPTER III
COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

ARTICLE X

10.1 The OBSERVERS shall cooperate with the relevant Grenadian authorities to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the Observers.

ARTICLE XI

11.1 Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the OBSERVERS shall respect the laws and regulations existing in Grenada.

ARTICLE XII

12.1 The GOVERNMENT and the GS/OAS shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law; and

b) Any disputes to which OBSERVERS may be party in respect of matters in which they enjoy immunity.

CHAPTER IV
NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE XIII

13.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the OBSERVERS in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the national election process in Grenada and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of Grenada.

13.1.1 Therefore, the GS/OAS shall waive the privileges and immunities of any of the individual observers in the event that in the judgment of the SECRETARY GENERAL, the exercise of those privileges and immunities obstruct the course of justice.

CHAPTER V
IDENTIFICATION

ARTICLE XIV

14.1 The GS/OAS shall supply each one of the OBSERVERS, as well as local contract staff, an identification document, which shall show the individual's complete name, date of birth, and position with the GS/OAS.

14.2 The OBSERVERS, as well as local contract staff, shall not be obliged to relinquish that identification document, but rather to present it when the Grenadian authorities so require.

CHAPTER VI
GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XV

15.1 The GOVERNMENT recognizes the "Official Travel Document" issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of the OBSERVERS' travel.

ARTICLE XVI

16.1 This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of GS/OAS and the GOVERNMENT.

ARTICLE XVII

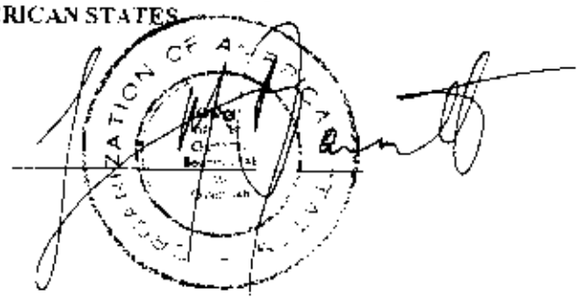
17.1 This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the Observers have completed their mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the GOVERNMENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, in the city of St. George's, Grenada on this 25th day of the month of November in the year two thousand (and three).

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF OF GRENADA

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



APPENDIX E

SAMPLE BALLOT, NOVEMBER 27, 2003

№ 4780

CONSTITUENCY OF

SAINT DAVID

POLLING DIVISION

NO _____

№ 4780

GRENADA
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
ACT, 1993

BALLOT PAPER

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2003

Constituency of Saint David

Polling Division No. _____ ____ ___ __

Voter's Number on Roll ___ _____ ___ ___

Constituency of Saint David

Polling Division No. _____ _____

POLLING DAY: 27TH NOVEMBER, 2003

Space for Initials of Presiding Officer

DO NOT FOLD BEYOND THIS LINE

1. **JONES, Bernard M.**
La Pastora
Economist

2. **LETT, Michael D.**
Petite Esperance
Land Surveyor

3. **ROMAIN, Jerome**
Windsor Forest
Journalist

4. **WHITEMAN, Joslyn R.**
Morne Jaloux
Politician

APPENDIX F

LIST OF WINNING CANDIDATES AND PARTIES, SIGNED BY MR. VICTOR ASHBY, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS (UNDATED)

CONSTITUENCIES	CANDIDATES	PARTIES	NO. OF VOTES RECEIVED
Carriacou & Petite Martinique	Elvin G. Nimrod	NNP	1,431
Saint Andrew South East	Kenrick Fullerton	NDC	1,313
Saint Andrew South West	Yolande Bain-Joseph	NNP	1,251
Saint Andrew North East	Roland Bhola	NNP	1,370
Saint Andrew North West	Alleyne Walker	NDC	1,600
Saint David	Michael Lett	NDC	2,892
Town of Saint George	Peter C. David	NDC	1,280
Saint George North East	V. Nazim Burke	NDC	2,234
Saint George North West	Keith C. Mitchell	NNP	2,295
Saint George South East	Gregory Bowen	NNP	1,459
Saint George South	Glynis Roberts	NDC	2,093
Saint John	Claris C. Charles	NNP	1,855
Saint Mark	Clarice Modeste-Curwen	NNP	1,419
Saint Patrick East	Tillman Thomas	NDC	1,113
Saint Patrick West	Anthony Boatswain	NNP	1,369

Victor Ashby,
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

APPENDIX G

"HOW THE CONSTITUENCIES VOTED," PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE (UNDATED)

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OFFICE

HOW THE CONSTITUENCIES VOTED

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2003

CONSTITUENCIES	VOTED	REGISTERED VOTERS	PERCENT
Carriacou & Petite Martinique	2,870	4,380	65.5
Saint Andrew South East	3,277	4,435	58.7
Saint Andrew South West	3,277	5,841	56.1
Saint Andrew North East	2,802	5,079	55.1
Saint Andrew North West	2,874	4,546	63.2
Saint David	5,417	8,946	60.5
Town of Saint George	2,500	4,768	52.4
Saint George North East	3,946	7,207	54.7
St. George North West	2,789	4,793	58.1
Saint George South East	3,054	5,251	58.1
Saint George South	5,259	7,966	66.0
Saint John	3,814	6,513	5805
Saint Mark	2,146	3,558	55.0
Saint Patrick East	2,325	3,896	59.6
Saint Patrick West	2,929	5,099	57.4
TOTAL	**48,609**	**82,270**	

Overall - 59%

APPENDIX H

ELECTION RESULTS BY CANDIDATE AND CONSTITUENCY, COMPILATION

Appendix II Election Results by Candidate and Constituency

Constituency	Candidate	Party	Votes by Candidate	Total Votes by Constituency
CARRIACOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE	ELVIN G. NIMROD	NNP	1431	
	DONALD S. CHARLES	PLM	5	
	GEORGE W. PRIME	NDC	1424	
(Rejected Ballots)			10	2,870
ST ANDREW NORTHEAST	KEITH BRAVEBOY	GULP	116	
	INGRID RUSH	NDC	1196	
	ROLAND BHOLA	NNP	1370	
	HARFORD FLANDERS	PLM	60	
	JOAN WILLIAMS	IND	24/*22	
(Rejected Ballots)			18	2,764/**2,782
ST ANDREW NORTHWEST	RODNEY A. MARK	PLM	18	
	LAURINA A. WALDRON	NNP	1082/*1190	
	CLIFFORD ROBERTSON	GULP	53	
	ALLEYNE WALKER	NDC	1599/*1600	
(Rejected Ballots)			13	2,765/**2,874
ST ANDREW SOUTHEAST	CLARENCE I. RAPIER	GULP	136	
	CUTHBERT B. MC QUEEN	NNP	1144	
	PAUL K. MITCHELL	PLM	5	
	KENRICK O. FULLERTON	NDC	1313	
(Rejected Ballots)			9	2,607
ST ANDREW SOUTHWEST	YOLANDE BAIN-JOSEPH	NNP	1251	
	MICHAEL BAPTISTE	GULP	792	
	DENIS GILBERT	PLM	9	
	OSBERT A. CHARLES	NDC	1203	
(Rejected Ballots)			22	3,277
ST DAVID	JEROME ROMAIN	GULP	202	
	MICHAEL D. LETT	NDC	2829	
	JOSLYN R. WHITEMAN	NNP	2345	
	BERNARD JONES	PLM	21	
(Rejected Ballots)			20	5,417
ST GEORGE NORTHEAST	WASHINGTON EDWARDS	GRP	6	
	AUGUSTINE JOHN	NNP	1545	
	DENNIS C. JOSEPH	GULP	106	
	NAZIM V. BURKE	NDC	2234	
	TERRANCE MARRYSHOW	PLM	47	
(Rejected Ballots)			8	3,946
ST GEORGE NORTHWEST	KEITH C. MITCHELL	NNP	2295	
	CECIL E. HARRIS	GULP	41	
	JOAN M. PURCELL	NDC	434	
	GILLIAN B. LEWIS	PLM	7	
(Rejected Ballots)			12	2,789

Constituency	Candidate	Party	Votes by Candidate	Total Votes by Constituency
ST GEORGE SOUTH	GLORIA PAYNE-BANFIELD	GULP	294	
	EUNICE T. BELFON	GOD	5	
	GLYNIS ROBERTS	NDC	2093	
	ANN DAVID-ANTOINE	NNP	1795/**1798	
	DORSET CHARLES	PLM	37	
	FRANK CAESAR	IND	12	
(Rejected Ballots)			20	4,256/**4,259
ST GEORGE SOUTHEAST	GREGORY C. BOWEN	NNP	1459	
	FRANCIS R. ALEXIS	PLM	543	
	NORMAN J. DE SOUZA	GULP	70	
	DAVID LAMBERT	NDC	958	
(Rejected Ballots)			24	3,054
ST JOHN	MICHAEL A. CHURCH	NDC	1796	
	HERBERT J. PREUDHOMME	GULP	119	
	CLARIS C. T. CHARLES	NNP	1855	
	OSBERT DE COTEAU	PLM	14	
(Rejected Ballots)			30	3,814
ST MARK	GORDON BOLAH	GULP	39	
	CLARICE MODESTE-CURWEN	NNP	1419	
	WAYNE FRANCIS	PLM	21	
	OSBORNE JAMES	NDC	659	
(Rejected Ballots)			8	2,146
ST PATRICK EAST	ADRIAN F. MITCHELL	NNP	1068	
	GORDON P. JOHN	PLM	16	
	TILLMAN THOMAS	NDC	1113	
	REYNOLD C. BENJAMIN	GULP	113	
(Rejected Ballots)			15	2,325
ST PATRICK WEST	JUSTIN F. MC BURNIE	GOD	5	
	LENNOX MC LEISH	GULP	118	
	JOSEPH GILBERT	NDC	1314	
	ANTHONY BOATSWAIN	NNP	1369	
	KENNY LALSINGH	PLM	100	
(Rejected Ballots)			23	2,929
TOWN OF ST GEORGE	PETER C. DAVID	NDC	1280	
	RAPHAEL O. FLETCHER	PLM	30	
	WILFRED A. HAYES	GULP	44	
	BRENDA A. HOOD	NNP	1138	
(Rejected Ballots)			8	2,500

Notes: Disparities in three constituencies. In St. Andrew North East, the Parliamentary Elections Office (PEO) lists candidate Joan Williams as receiving 22 votes, and the PEO "Final Results" indicate that the total number of votes cast was 2,782. In St. Andrew North West, candidates Waldron and Walker receive 1,190 and 1,600 votes respectively, according to the PEO. The PEO total votes cast is 2,874. In St. George South, the PEO lists candidate Antoine as receiving 1,798 votes and a total vote cast of 4,259. In all cases, the errors occur on the website.

Sources: Parliamentary Elections Office, "Final Results, Grenada General Elections – November 27, 2003 and www.spiceisle.com, "**Detailed Summary of 2003 Election Results** Last Updated : **14-Dec-2003 00:47:25**"

APPENDIX I

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR CORINNE MCKNIGHT, CHIEF OF MISSION, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO GRENADA

Statement of Ambassador Corinne McKnight, Chief of Mission

The Organisation of American States (OAS) has been conducting an observation of Grenada's general elections for the past few days and wishes to report a few of its findings and observations to the people of Grenada.

On behalf of my team, I wish to express our deep appreciation for the timely and generous assistance of the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Victor Ashby, without whose willingness to accommodate our requests for information, documentation and briefings, it would have been absolutely impossible to perform our tasks in the abbreviated timeframe allotted to us. His cooperation was invaluable.

During the past few days, the observation team has been able to visit over 90 percent of the polling stations in your beautiful country. We have appreciated the hospitality and openness of the people

As is the case with all of the 80 electoral observations conducted by the OAS, our team was here to represent the Secretary General and the entire Organisation. Our mission consists of electoral and legal experts, primarily from the CARICOM member states of the OAS. This technical emphasis has intended to observe the electoral process the practices, policies and procedures within the context of the laws of Grenada. My statement today begins a report to the people and Government of Grenada. A more complete report will be prepared for the Secretary General and presented to the OAS Permanent Council. This is the same procedure that was followed after the OAS electoral observation in 1999

I think that it is important to begin with some thoughts on the human element in democracy. Some people think of democratic governance in terms of what a government does and the decisions that it takes But really, every democratic system demands and requires the active participation of its citizens, and not just during the election season. This report discusses a few things that the observers have seen and heard during their stay in Grenada. On each of them, I would ask you to consider what the people of Grenada have done to contribute to the respect for the sanctity of voting and the smooth operation of the electoral process.

The mission commends the people of Grenada very highly for their participation in Thursday's election. Despite island-wide rain, participation appeared to be good People voted in large numbers and the atmosphere at polling stations was respectful and orderly

Now I turn to the most frequently mentioned issue during our stay here.

The very large list of eligible voters makes it appear that the turnout of the voters was low "Why," people ask, "has something not been done?" The OAS team was officially informed that there is no legal authority for election officials to remove names from the list, except in the case of death. The observers were informed that a system exists to notify the Parliamentary Elections Office of deaths in the country in a timely way, so that names can be stricken.

While the team recognized the official list as the basic electoral document, it noted two important facts. First, the current list is larger than the 1999 list, on which the report of that OAS electoral mission commented, with respect to the impact its size had on the process Additionally, in spite of OAS assistance, the activity aimed at resolving this problem has not been completed

The key to the people's trust in elections is public acceptance of the voters list.

The observers were also alerted to a second issue. Eligible voters who move from one place to another should request a transfer of their registration to their new location The observers saw in several polling stations that some number of voters appeared to have been transferred without making such a request. The observers cannot say why this was the case, but the result at a minimum – was great inconvenience to those voters. Some voters became discouraged and did not vote at all, especially those who were unable to arrange transport to the other location

About the polling stations themselves, the observers feel constrained to make several points. First, in a constituency like Town of St. George, the allocation of polling stations is puzzling. Since there appears to be a maximum number of registered voters assigned to each polling station, it was not clear why polling stations are created to service very small populations.

The observers also wish to draw attention to some of the locations selected for polling stations. Some polling stations were located in structures that appeared to have been abandoned for years, with leaking roofs or in buildings with unsafe steps and insecure flooring. Not all polling stations had a telephone or access to a fax machine.

The observers were very disappointed at the arrangements for aged and physically challenged persons at the polling stations. It should have been possible for election officials to anticipate that many of these persons would vote. Observers saw family, friends and sympathetic voters struggling to carry or help aged and infirm voters, where perilous stairs and other architectural challenges presented themselves.

While the majority of polling station officials appeared to be very efficient, quite a number were not adequately trained. As a result, observers reported that procedures were not uniform from polling station to polling station.

In summary, the OAS observed an election that permitted most Grenadians to cast their votes freely. No election – or other human endeavour – is perfect and an election that dramatically

changed the membership in parliament without incident must be highly commended. However, the goal of the people, government, and especially administrators of elections must be to be seen to be acting, hence, these comments.

For its part, the OAS continues to offer its solidarity and assistance to address the technical assistance issues relating to the electoral process in Grenada.