

WORLD NEWS

MINISTERS, POLICE UNDER ARREST

Grenada PM toppled in coup

**Opposition Leader
takes over**





Sir Eric Gairy . . . toppled in coup. — AAP-AP satellite picture.

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Wednesday (AAP-Reuter). — A new revolutionary government headed by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Maurice Bishop appeared in full control of Grenada today after a dawn coup toppled the Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy.

Most of the Cabinet Ministers and members of Sir Eric's secret police — known as the Mongoose Gang — are under arrest.

In the capital armed men patrolled the streets last night as a curfew was clamped on the island.

Curtew was clamped on the island. The airport was closed.

Mr Bishop, 35, who has long been an opponent of the Gairy Government, declared himself Prime Minister.

Yesterday's dawn coup, in which the radio station and army barracks were swiftly seized, came only a few hours after Sir Eric flew to New York with his Minister for Education, Dr Wellington Friday, for talks at the United Nations. Sir Eric had led Grenada for 30 years almost without interruption.

It was the first coup in the English-speaking Caribbean. The island gained its independence from Britain five years ago.

Mr Bishop, a British-trained lawyer, leads the New Jewel movement which put forward the first left-wing program for Grenada. But he later moved to a more moderate line.

Diplomatic observers believe he will ultimately be acceptable not only to the Caribbean, but also to the United States and Britain.

In New York, Sir Eric, who dismissed the coup leaders as a small group of communists, asked for help





from the United States, Britain and Canada. But Mr Bishop said that any outside interference would be resisted.

Sir Eric is one of the most controversial political figures in the Caribbean. His opponents on the island — population 100,000 — say he is a dictator and accuse him of using the Mongoose Gang to silence his opponents. Sir Eric has called several times in the past few years for a UN investigation into unidentified flying objects.

First reports of the coup said only one soldier was killed and another

One soldier was killed and another wounded in the seizure of the army barracks.

Mr Bishop, who pledged there would be no reprisals against Sir Eric's supporters, promised also protection for foreigners and their property and early elections. Tourists are still arriving on the holiday island from cruise ships.





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Prime Minister. — AAA-AP satellite pic-
ture.**