

This brings me to the relative danger of the areas that have been so far evacuated. On the Leeward side, Petit Bordel, and on the Windward side, the area south of the Byera Tunnel are the areas least exposed to danger. These areas are protected from the volcano by fairly high ridges of mountains. Chateaubelair itself is protected by low ridges from the immediate path of Glowing Avalanches.

Georgetown is somewhat protected by the topography and is about five miles distant from the crater.

From the Rabacca Dry River, back to Richmond, which of course includes Orange Hill, Tourama, Overland, Sandy Bay, Owia, Fancy, Windsor Forest, are areas either in the direct line of Glowing Avalanches or which can be reached only by crossing very highly exposed areas. I need hardly say more about the precautions that we have to take in regard to these areas in particular.

I have emphasized the serious hazards posed by the Glowing Avalanches to particular areas. This is not to say that lightning, falling stones, and the inhalation of too much ash are not dangerous, and they should be avoided as much as possible.

Obviously, based on the sort of information I have given you, there will come a time when step by step we can bring the evacuation to an end. However, I believe that it would be premature to attempt to state that date at this time. It is evident that I have to confer with the scientists much more; observe the position for a greater period of time and discuss the situation with my Cabinet before taking such a step.

Fellow Vincentians, loss of life and suffering at times like these often do not arise so much from physical disaster but more is told of another country where during the volcanic eruption, about 3,000 people were directly affected but another 20,000 persuaded the Volcanologist to say that their areas were also in danger, so that they too could live in camps and enjoy such 'freeness' as was available. I know that our people are too proud and honest to use this approach. We will not lose our heads about some clothing, nor will we be influenced by the few misguided persons who proclaim that Government is receiving a lot of money for the camps which it is not spending. A little thought will show the folly of remarks such as these. The cost of feeding the evacuees in camps has been conservatively estimated at \$75,000.00 per day. The cost of feeding evacuees outside of camps has been put at \$10,000.00 per day. The cost of operating the public transport involved in the exercise is about \$6,000.00 per day. To this figure must be added such other costs as electricity, telephones, telegrams, erection of toilets and seismographic observation posts among other things. I pass over completely such items as cots, blankets, stoves, medicines and clothing, which so many Governments, private organizations and other persons have generously given to us. I have also not touched on the cost of rehabilitating the economy, particularly the agricultural sector on which we depend so heavily, although we have already commenced negotiations in certain quarters to provide for this eventuality.

We cannot afford to overlook the fact that we must constantly make provision for over 90,000 of our population who have not been

evacuated but whose daily lives have also been disrupted and who must also while helping the evacuees provide food and the general necessities of life for themselves. To this end I am happy to be able to state that the Marketing Corporation will receive 6,000 bags of sugar and 3,000 bags of rice within the next two days. These shipments are not gifts but part of the Corporation's regular purchases in order to facilitate our citizens.

As far as accounting for all money received and spent on the evacuation is concerned, this is being handled under the usual rigorous Government accounting system, and in due course we shall be able to read about it in the report of the Director of Audit. As far as the receipt and disbursement of gifts in kind are concerned, every effort is being made to handle these as efficiently as possible. There are some people who listen to their radios and hear that this Government has received donations. They then say that the Government has collected this or that item but that they have not received any of it. If the Government received say 5,000 items, can it give one each to about 20,000 people? People who think like this are either ignorant or malicious, or playing politics. My Government is however determined to disregard these opportunists and to continue to work steadfastly in the interest of the people of our State. Our aim is to have the evacuation and relocation process run as smoothly as possible and then proceed with the difficult task of rehabilitation which we have already began to plan and negotiate. With God's help, we shall overcome, and once again I would like to record my grateful thanks to all those generous persons who are daily offering to help and are in fact helping in a number of ways in kind, in cash and by general moral support.

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FROM MOMENTS OF MIXED FEELINGS  
TO  
REPATRIATION

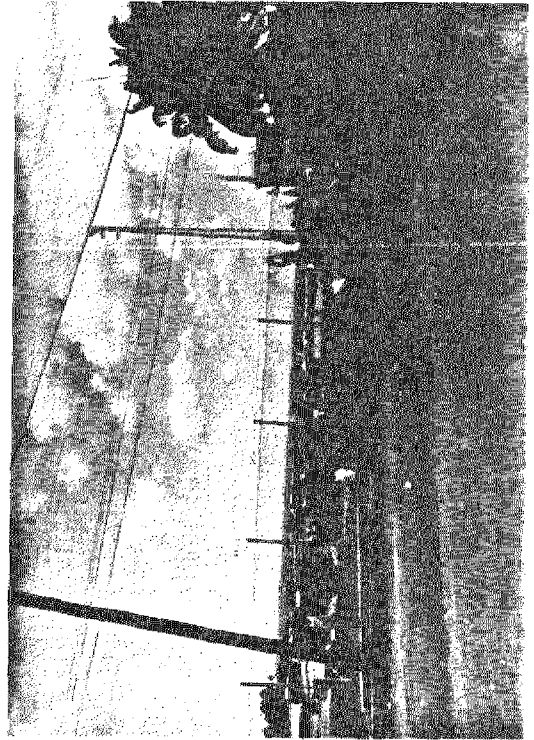
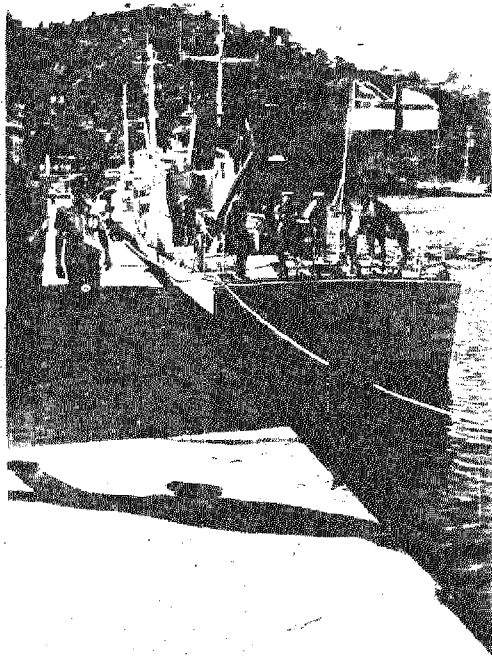
To be, or Not to be? that's the "million dollar" question, as we now enter this phase of our moments of despair, moments of doubts, moments of continued unpredictability.

When will it all end?

La Soufriere still lives and is perhaps just resting; for how long? Only Heavens knows. But we must live with this neighbour, accept its behavioural patterns, and be tolerant with its eventful escapade.

Let us now read "between the lines" of the final stages of activities beginning on the afternoon of May 23, to the day of Repatriation.

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TRINIDAD COAST GUARD RUSHED TO ASSISTANCE



VISIT OF HON. J. M. G. ADAMS PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS RECEIVED FROM BELMONT OBSERVATORY

7.20 p.m. - 23/5/79

The eruption is continuing without change. Seismic activity is very low and the crater has been emitting steam gently throughout the day. Accurate measurements to test for stretching or shrinking of the flanks of the volcano will be made tonight using a laser-powered instrument operated by a scientist from the Martinique Volcano Team who is presently visiting St. Vincent.

Monitoring by numerous different methods is continuing.

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7.45 a.m. - 24/5/79

There has been no change in activity at the volcano. Seismic activity remains very low and steam is still rising gently above the crater rim. Seismic signals were recorded between 1.30 and 3.30 this morning corresponding to mud-flows. These are the result of loose ash being washed by heavy rain off the mountain and down the river valleys. The eruption continues quietly.

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6.55 p.m. - 24/5/79

There has been no significant change in activity at the volcano. Occasional seismic events and gentle steam emission from the crater have continued. One of the observatory scientists accompanied by three British visitors including Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State in the Office of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on a visit today to the mouth of the Roseau River to inspect the glowing avalanche, from the early days of the eruption, and recent mud-flow deposits.

A group of people including several Vincentians who visited the rim, today described activity in the crater similar to that seen by scientists on their last visit two days ago. The eruption continues quietly.

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7.45 a.m. - 25/5/79

There has been no change in activity at the volcano during the night.

A party of scientists left the Observatory at 7.00 a.m. to make measurements at the crater.

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7.25 p.m. - 25/5/79

There has been no change in the activity of the volcano today. A party of scientists visited the crater and carried out measurements from the rim. Two scientists went into the crater to make further measurements of the lava on the crater floor.

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8.10 a.m. - 26/5/79

There has been a very slight increase in seismic activity during the night and steam emission from the crater has also increased slightly. Measurements made at the crater yesterday show that the lava dome is still growing at a very slow rate.

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7.15 p.m. - 26/5/79

Activity at the volcano remained at about the same level today until about 6.30 p.m. At this time a heavy rainstorm began on the volcano and this rain is generating large mud-flows down the Leeward flanks. These mud-flows can be heard from Belmont, but there is no cause for alarm. It would be dangerous for anyone to attempt to climb the volcano until further notice.

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8.10 a.m. - 27/5/79

Mud-flows on the Leeward flanks triggered by heavy rain from 6.30 last night continued until 10.00 p.m.

Since then, the level of the activity at the volcano has been very low.

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6.55 p.m. - 29/5/79

There has been no significant activity at the volcano today. The seismographs have been completely quiet for the past 24 hours and the rate of steam emission from the crater has been very low.

Thunderstorms around the volcano have continued but they have no connection with volcanic activity.

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8.50 a.m. - 30/5/79

There has been no change in activity during the night. Shortly after 6.00 a.m. large mud-flows descended the Roseau and Larikai Valleys

These mud-flows are not caused by new eruptions. They are caused by heavy rains which washed down ash deposited during the explosions of April 13 - 25.

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7.20 p.m. - 2/6/79

There has been a slight increase in seismic activity at the volcano during the past twenty-four (24) hours. Heavy rains during the night and early morning flooded rivers on both the Windward and Leeward sides and made the volcano inaccessible for most of the day. Floods and mud-flows were observed to develop in the river valleys in less than five minutes. The rain and mud-flows have made the slopes of the volcano very treacherous in the Roseau and Larikai Valleys in particular, the ashes deposited during April are still hot and the mud-flows carry hot mud as far as the sea.

We advise that no one should attempt to climb the volcano as long as the present unsettled weather continues.

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8.30 p.m. - 3/6/79

There has been no change in the activity of the crater today.

An inspection visit was made to the crater, but the visibility was so poor that accurate measurements could not be made.

No significant changes had occurred in the crater.

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6.30 p.m. - 4/6/79

There has been no change in activity at the volcano. Weather conditions have improved considerably and an inspection visit will be made to the crater tomorrow morning.

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6.20 p.m. - 5/6/79

The level of seismic activity at the volcano has been very low today. A visit was made to the crater and for the first time since May 28, visibility was good enough for measurements to be made. Since May 28, the width of the dome from North to South has increased about 10% and we now estimate its width to be about 609 metres. Its height has also increased by a small amount. The dome is growing mainly by the extension of ridges to the North and South and it is no longer circular in shape. Strong steam emission is taking place around the edges of the dome particularly to the West and to the South. These observations show that the eruption is continuing very slowly.

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7.50 p.m. - 6/6/79

There has been no change in the activity of the volcano today. Heavy rains have again caused flooding on the Leeward flanks and there have been several thunderstorms close to the volcano this afternoon. These thunderstorms have no connection with the volcano.

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7.45 p.m. - 7/6/79

There has been no change in the activity of the volcano today. An inspection visit will be made to the crater as soon as weather permits.

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7.10 p.m. - 8/6/79

There has been no change in activity at the volcano today. When clouds lifted in the evening, some steam could be seen coming over the crater rim.

An inspection of the crater would be made tomorrow, weather permitting.

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WALLI-BOU RIVER FILLED WITH ASH 15/5/79



WALLI-BOU RIVER FILLED WITH ASH (PARTY GETTING READY TO CLIMB) 15/5/79