

S. L. M. P.

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Anti-Govt plot in Barbados

Bridgetown, Nov 2.

The Prime Minister of Barbados Mr J. M. G. "Tom" Adams, said last night he had uncovered a plot to overthrow the Government and might seek special powers to combat subversion.

He said the plot was led by a "notorious" Barbadian and involved two Americans and two members of the Democratic Labour Party Government he defeated in general elections two months ago.

Mr Adams' announcement in a 10-minute broadcast ended almost two weeks of speculation about an anti-Government conspiracy. The rumours, which the local media ignored, culminated in the arrest of two men on Friday in a yacht off the French Caribbean island of Martinique.

Police in Martinique said the yacht was loaded with arms. They identified one of the men as Sydney Brunett Alleyne, a self-admitted gun-runner and former guerilla.

Mr Adams did not name the suspected coup leader, but described him as a man who was "notorious rather than just well known."

He said the man had told Martinique police under questioning that he led the DLP's Action Branch.

Alleyne, one of the most colourful characters in the Caribbean, has frequently told in press interviews of how he led guerillas into Barbados and smuggled arms in the Middle East and Africa.

Mr Adams said he had known of the conspiracy since early last month. He said two Americans, one of whom was carrying a list of arms, were arrested and later deported to the United States.

Mr Adams said investigations would not end with the uncovering of the plot. It might be necessary to bring in legislation to increase the Government's powers to deal with subversion, he said.

He appealed to the DLP opposition to support him in ensuring that the stability of Barbados was not destroyed by a collection of dangerous crackpots and power-hungry paranoids.

Mr Adams did not explain what extra powers he might seek, but observers thought he would stop short of declaring a state of emergency in Barbados, a traditionally peaceful island.

They noted that the tourist trade in Jamaica, where a state of emergency has been in force since June, had fallen off drastically.

— Reuter.