

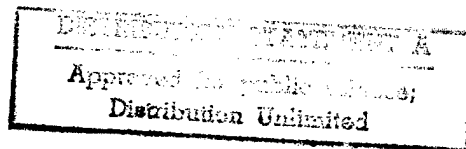
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Latin America Report

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8 November 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2761

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VENEZUELAN ACTION MEANS HIGHER OIL BILL FOR JAMAICA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Sep 83 pp 1, 15

[Text]

Venezuela's increase of its heavy and extra heavy crude oils by an average of US\$1 and US\$1.25 per barrel, respectively, means that Jamaica will have to pay US\$3½ million more for oil purchases, a source from the Ministry of Mining and Energy said yesterday.

A **CANA-Reuter** report on Wednesday said that the increases, scheduled to take effect October 2, were announced by Venezuela's Energy and Mines Minister, Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon.

Heavy crudes are not subject to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price guidelines and Venezuela has not altered prices for its medium and light oils which are tied to the 29 dollars per barrel OPEC benchmark, the report said.

The source at the Ministry said that heavy crude oil was one of the several crudes mixed to make Jamaica's petroleum requirements, adding that the increase on an annual basis would be US\$3½ million based on information from the refinery.

Venezuela's increased price impact locally would depend on the schedule of crude "lifting" for the year. The new price would not hit Jamaica if the Oil Refinery had made all its crude purchases for the year; however,

if purchases were to be made for the rest of the year, it would cost the country some US\$1 million.

The Ministry source could not say if the additional cost for oil purchase would be passed on to the consumer, noting that the Prime Minister had promised that there would be no increases for the rest of the year.

Turning to the renewal of the Venezuela-Mexico Oil Facility whereby since 1980 a 30 per cent credit arrangement was put in place for Jamaica and other Caribbean and Latin American states, the source said that this credit had been lowered to 20 per cent.

This means in effect as of August this year Jamaica has been forced to find some US\$21 million more in foreign exchange to buy oil. The country's total oil bill is US\$250 million, of which US\$200 million are used to purchase oil from Venezuela and Mexico.

Following the renewal of what is known as the San José Accord last August, both countries explained that they were going through a specially difficult economic situation as a result of internal problems as well as from consequences of an adverse economic situation.

COS: 3298/074

CARICOM FINANCE MINISTERS MEET, DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES

Jacelon Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

LOCAL industry has found itself facing dwindling sales in the Caricom region according to Senator Anthony Jacelon Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. There has also been dwindling sales on the domestic market owing to increased imports from Caricom.

Senator Jacelon explained this yesterday at the formal opening of the special meeting of Caricom Finance Ministers at Riverside Plaza.

Mr Jacelon said in part:

"Our deliberations today take place on the eve of the opening of the Conference of Finance Ministers of Commonwealth. As such our own conference has been overshadowed by this important event. Nevertheless, I think it is important that we keep in clear focus the objectives which as a Caricom Group we hope to achieve.

DETERIORATION

"The Commonwealth, by virtue of the multiplicity of nations which it encompasses with their varied traditions, life styles, standard of economic development, etc., is in fact the world in miniature and the solutions to the problems of its members necessarily have to be tackled on a global basis.

"In respect of the Caricom Group our problems are more familiar to us and we have in the recent past been attempting to address them.

"Focusing on the Caribbean, it will be recalled that at the informal meeting of Heads of Government and Ministers in Barbados in May, and subsequently the July Heads of Government Meeting, the Ministers noted that every Caricom country was experiencing severe and unsustainable Balance of Payments problems, and the Trinidad and Tobago position in particular had undergone serious deterioration.

"The situation imposed the need for careful monitoring of imports as well as the active promotion of exports.

"It would be noted that the Ministers reached agreement on the need to take all possible steps to maintain the free flow of Intra-Caricom Trade and specifically that:

"(I) when import licences were imposed for Caricom goods, these would be used only for monitoring purposes;

"(II) that licences where maintained, would be granted within seven (7) days of application;

"(III) that there will be strict adherence to the area of origin criteria; and

"(IV) that there will be full reciprocity in the issuance of licences to those countries adhering to these conditions.

"I have selected only a few of the points on which the Barbados Heads of Agreement was hinged to indicate, and the record will so show, that, in Trinidad and Tobago's view, the terms of this document signed in May, 1983 have not been fully honoured.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has scrupulously attempted to adhere to the Agreement, but

has found that the reciprocity it has been seeking has not always been forthcoming.

NO HEED

"Moreover, while notice had been served as recently as the last Council of Ministers meeting that Trinidad would take firm action against any goods found to be in error of the Rules of Origin, these warnings seem not to have been heeded.

"We continue to see breaches of the Rules and attempts to ship goods of dubious origin into our markets as though they were products of a Caricom country.

"Moreover, not content with attempting to pass off non-regional goods as though they originated within the region, we have now been faced with the unique request that we pay for such goods in non-regional currencies.

"Trinidad and Tobago is being requested not only to take most of Caricom's production; it must also take non-Caricom production and moreover find non-regional currency to pay for it.

COMBINED ASSAULT

"The effect of this combined assault on the Trinidad and Tobago market by our Caricom colleagues is that local industry finds itself facing dwindling sales in the Caricom region and dwindling sales on the domestic market owing to increased imports from Caricom. To this is added the phenomenon of the shifting of capital resources to the Caribbean countries where our industrialists are encouraged to set up plants in other Caricom countries, the production of which

plants would find its way to the Trinidad and Tobago market.

"The effect of all this is that we have seen a catastrophic drop in Trinidad and Tobago's export earnings in the region and a dramatic rise in the value of imports going into this market from Caricom countries."

Our rising unemployment statistics indicate the extent to which the Caricom pressure has been felt in these markets, as several industries which catered to the local Caricom markets have had to close their doors.

"In spite of all the evidence, and the mounting pressure of local trade unions, Trinidad and Tobago has so far been reluctant to resort to the umbrella of the Caricom Agreement, which has specific safeguard provisions for dealing with the kinds of problems we now face."

MOST CRITICAL

"We wish to assure delegates that our restraint in resorting to these provisions has so far been motivated by the highest consideration for the problems of our Caricom brethren, but the time

may well be approaching when we may be unable to respond as effectively to our neighbours' problems.

"If I have dwelt extensively on the issue of the Trade and Payments problems of the region, it is only because we consider that these are by and large the most critical issues facing the future of the integrated movement.

"As far as we are concerned, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago stands committed to a Caribbean Community in which there is an equitable distribution of obligations and benefits."

Adams Address

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21, 22 Sep 83

[21 Sep 83 p 11]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Tom Adams said yesterday that the facts of the rules of origin of goods which enter Caricom must be examined.

Speaking at the opening of the Caricom Finance Ministers meeting at Riverside Plaza, Mr Adams said he was sure that "we must establish ways and means of putting to an end arguments about the rules of origin."

His comments were made after Trinidad and Tobago's Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Senator Anthony Jacelon had welcomed the delegates and drew attention to the situation in Caricom relating to trading and Trinidad and Tobago's position Mr Adams stated.

PLEASURE

Mr. Secretary General, Prime Ministers, Ministers and colleagues; ladies and gentlemen; it gives me very great pleasure to be in Port-of-Spain for the reconvening of this meeting which was first called in May in Bridgetown at the initiative of the Prime

Minister of St. Lucia to deal with the problems which then appeared threatening to Caricom.

At that time, we considered that we had come to solutions based on an understanding of the difficulties of some of our members. Solutions which we realised could not be firm, but could last no longer than a few months until the situation was more clearly revealed.

The situation now calls to be reviewed at this meeting on the eve of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference and, as Senator Jacelon has said, to some extent our own conference is going to be overshadowed by the larger conference due to open tomorrow.

GLOBAL

But I venture to suggest that nothing that can possibly happen at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting can be of much importance to the countries of the Caribbean as this meeting which we are holding here today.

The Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting tend to deal with global issues in the current retro-work of the international

economic and financial bureaucracies which were guided by those bureaucracies into theoretical arguments for which tactical administrators among whom include myself do not have much time.

For this reason, we welcome the directness, indeed the brutality, with which Senator Jacelon has welcomed us here this morning.

Because, without saying so in so many ways he has made it plain that the future of Caricom as a trading entity is at stake.

In his remarks are a number of things which we must take seriously as bearing upon our attachments to the rules of Caricom.

In particular, I think that we must examine the facts as to the rules of origin of goods which enter the markets of Caricom. We do not have the same complaints in Barbados about relabelling of goods which come from Trinidad because Trinidad's exports to Barbados are not as considerable as they once were.

Nonetheless, Senator Jacelon will be as aware as the rest of us that relabelling is not a habit confined to those persons in Caricom who

wish to gang up on Trinidad.

I believe that at an earlier meeting there was a somewhat dramatic exhibition when the Minister of Trade in Barbados was wearing shirt jac suits which had been bought in Trinidad of which trousers said Made in Trinidad and the jacket said "Jacs by Simpsons of London."

I am sure that all of us would agree that we must establish ways and means of putting an end to arguments about the rules of origin. But the question goes wider than that.

We have all long had to live with balance of payments difficulties with the problems of being importing economies and all that means for the necessity of generating exports.

Trinidad, after many years, ten years or more, of being cushioned by buoyant trade in exports has now come to understand that it is an importing economy and imports tend to rise to balance the volume of exports in all but a handful of the petroleum exporters of the world.

Trinidad and Tobago is therefore beginning to experience problems

that the financial management of the rest of Caricom has to deal with on a daily basis. I understand the alarm and the worry as Trinidad and Tobago is faced with these conditions.

But I would caution against too hasty an approach to the solutions for these problems. Trinidad and Tobago, I am sure, imports far more from outside Caricom than it imports from within Caricom.

BALANCE

Caricom and unfair trading practices cannot possibly explain more than a tiny percentage of Trinidad's adverse balance of payments conditions on

physical trade other than petroleum.

But I may take an example, ten years ago in Barbados it was impossible to get office furniture other than from Trinidad. Today I wonder if you could find any office furniture being sold in Barbados

that is being sold in Trinidad where we have become substantial suppliers of furniture to the Trinidad market.

This has absolutely nothing to do about the rules of origin, which is a protective policy, or anything else. This has to do with a shift in efficiency, in furniture manufacturing, from Trinidad to a shift in efficiency, in furniture manufacturing, from Trinidad to Barbados.

I therefore would counsel the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to examine its own efficiencies before it blames movements in the balance of trade on Caricom and the behaviour of Caricom manufacturers.

Garments, perhaps, constitute the most difficult area. I wonder if third country imports into Trinidad of garments don't by far exceed the imports from Caricom countries.

These are all matters to look at. For many years, Mr. Secretary

General, Trinidad enjoyed a favourable balance of trade with Barbados. It exported much more to Barbados, apart from petroleum products, than

it imported from Barbados.

On no occasion, the then representative of Barbados ever sat down at a Caricom meeting and suggested that the balance of trade between Barbados and its other neighbours should be zero, that we should import exactly what we export, from any given Caribbean neighbour.

I would respectfully suggest that the solution will only lead us down the road to the alternate destruction of Caricom because such a solution cannot be imposed without imposing such physical or other restrictions not contemplated within the Caricom agreement, which would destroy the spirit of Caricom.

[22 Sep 83 p 13]

[Text]

I SAY these things advisably and not with any spirit of contention because I am suggesting that they seek to draw back before we put our feet over the brink.

The Senator who welcomed us said that Trinidad and Tobago has not resorted to the provisions of the Caricom agreement which relate to the protection of the particular industry or the protection of the countries' balances of payments.

I would point out that certainly in the case of Barbados this has been true for years and years. We have never sought, even when we were in our most difficult balance of payments position in 1976 and again in 1981 to impose restrictions on imports of any class from Trinidad or anywhere else in Caricom.

We would regret if the wealthiest of Caricom territories were, in the interest of a small industry whose activities could only be marginal to those of the Trinidad economy as a whole, were to seek to impose physical restrictions on Caricom trade which perhaps could only marginally be justifiable.

I would also wish to say this that, there is some need for a common protective policy within Caricom. It may be that there is a need to establish not only a common exchange tariff but a common provision for quota restrictions and other physical restrictions on third party trade.

This has to be established at a meeting at which it is a part of the agenda and which it could be sought out properly, and which there could be a consensus on such common protection. It cannot be established adhoc and for the needs of one of the Caricom countries.

It would have to extend over a much wider range, for example garments. It would have to extend to agricultural produce. It would not be possible for us in Barbados to carry an argument that our negative list for garments is inadequate compared to the negative list in other countries.

Our agricultural producers had only one competitor in Caricom exports and that is exporters of Miami. There will have to be a general approach to such a protective policy.

Barbados, of course, Mr. Secretary General, has most to lose from a breakdown of Caricom trade.

It cannot now be a matter which we in the Government of Barbados can conceal to our exporters who

have become the most efficient in Caricom. For a long time, we hesitated to say this less it be an offence, but the figures are there to show under a balance with the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility of \$65 million (US) as further evidence of this.

We recognise that if Caricom was to break down and we were to tell Trinidad to keep its market where Trinidad can expect not to have any access to the Barbados market, limited where it is, that we would have the greatest adjustment to make.

We understand that but we would warn that there is a point beyond which you cannot expect to shape a regional association such as ours in your own advantage and to the disadvantage of others. Caricom was set up to offer free trade to the region.

If physical barriers to that trade and other barriers to that trade was to be imposed by the country with the largest market, every member had to think itself free to make what arrangements it could to protect its own interest for the future.

In Barbados, we are seeking to diversify our export targets and to some extent it may give some relief to Trinidad and Tobago. We have heard so many threats in the last year or two that we understand that it would be unwise for us to

believe that other countries within Caricom would long be able to tolerate the dominance of Barbados exporters.

I very much hope that your manufacturers and exporters have understood what I have been telling them privately for a very long time in this regard. The diversification to third country export markets will undoubtedly give some views to Trinidad.

I expect for example, in garments we cannot hold off the challenge of St. Lucia and Antigua in our own market, and our garment manufacturers have been dissuaded by all the means at our disposal from seeking to supply the Trinidad market in any narrow and selfish way.

I expect we will go out of low cost garments before many more years pass. I am hopeful, Mr Secretary General that it is these developments which will offer a solution, an amicable solution to the problem which Trinidad and Tobago sees as threatening its economy from Caricom and particularly from Barbados.

I very much hope that we will be able to speak as frankly at this meeting as the officials seem to have been able to speak at the preliminary meetings under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Central bank of Barbados, over the last three days.

The time has undoubtedly come for frank talk and I am very glad to

be presiding over a meeting that will have none of the cotton wool theories of other international financial meetings that will be dealing with practical matters that affect us all.

I believe that we have the capacity to rise above our problems and our immediate pressures and I am sure that we have the goodwill to want to rise above those pressures. What is needed now is the exercise of political will by all of us will be political directive of our countries to maintain Caricom as the trading organisation that has given as an immense lift in the last ten years and continue so to do once we respect it for what it is, a regional free trade area. Thank you Mr. Secretary General.

Manufacturers' Complaints

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Manufacturers Association yesterday described as "totally inaccurate" a statement made by Mr. Tom Adams, Prime Minister of Barbados, with regard to relabelling of garments and breaches of Caricom rules of origin.

At the Caricom Ministers of Finance meeting on Tuesday, Mr. Adams, in his opening address, said: "Senator Jacelon

will be aware as the rest of us that relabelling is not a habit confined to those persons in Caricom who wish to gang up on Trinidad, as evidenced by a shirt jac suit which had been bought in Trinidad of which the trousers said "Made in Trinidad and Tobago" and the jacket said "Jacs by Simpsons of London."

In a release issued yesterday, the TTMA said the facts of the situation are these:

"The product, a Shirt Jac Suit, is totally manufactured in Trinidad and Tobago, under licence to Simpsons of London. It is necessary to carry two (2) labels on such products, the 'Made in Trinidad & Tobago' label and the brand name of the licensor.

"In this instance the Prime Minister claimed that the label on the trousers indicated 'Made in Trinidad & Tobago' and the label on the jacket, 'Jacs by Simpsons of London.' A Shirt Jac Suit is a single product.

"The T.T.M.A., on behalf of the owner of the factory, has issued an invitation, through Minister Errol Mahabir, to Prime Minister Adams to visit the factory of Spartan Industries Ltd., the manufacturer of the garment, in order to demonstrate that the product is totally manufactured in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Further, it is normal practice for all manufacturers of products under licensing arrangements, including manufacturers in Barbados, to carry on the product, a label indicating the brand name of the licensor, as well as a label indicating the country of manufacture.

"The Trinidad and Tobago manufacturer complies with both these requirements. The T.T.M.A. hopes that the Minister of Trade in Barbados would, in future, give more accurate advice to his Prime Minister.

"Prime Minister Adams also counselled the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to examine its own efficiencies before it blames movements in the balance of trade on Caricom and the behaviour of Caricom manufacturers.

"The T.T.M.A. is of the view, that questions of the competitiveness of industry in Trinidad and Tobago can only be assessed where access to markets are available and in this

context enumerates impediments to intraregional trade as follows:

- "(i) licences being used as a form of non-tariff barrier;
- "(ii) environmental protection;
- "(iii) payments difficulties;
- "(iv) consumption taxes;
- "(v) aid programmes tied to sources of supply.

"The T.T.M.A. is further supported by other economic organisations including the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Businessmen's Association, Employers' Consultative Association, South Chamber of Commerce, and others, that the prevailing protectionist measures within Caricom is seriously affecting employment in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The T.T.M.A. will be issuing a further release on the trading situation with Caricom on a country by country basis, listing the various non-tariff barriers to Trinidad exports."

Issue with Jamaica

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] Late last night, a decision on fixing a special Caricom rate of exchange for intra-regional trading appeared imminent as talks continued between Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago at the Hilton.

But there was still one major hurdle to overcome--the Trinidad and Tobago query of how imports of materials for goods which are exported to Caricom, are to be paid.

The talks were taking place just six weeks from the expiration of the six-month interim Bridgetown Agreement. It expires November 4.

Trinidad and Tobago's team was led by chief trouble-shooter and negotiator, Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, and the Jamaican team, by Mr. Douglas Baz, Minister of Industry and Commerce.

The meeting between the two principal parties--Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica--followed the adjournment of the Caricom Finance Ministers Conference, sine die--to permit the two parties to continue discussions on the fundamental issues.

Discussions on the issues between officials on Wednesday night, and again yesterday between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, even after the officials were again brought into the picture, failed to resolve the situation.

Contacted yesterday, Mr. Mahabir hinted on two points of agreement.

Firm Stand

Firstly, that a study be commissioned to examine the facts on import licensing and non-tariff barriers on Caricom trade, and for the report to go before the Council of Ministers.

Secondly, that a technical task force be assigned immediately to formulate for early consideration by the Council, a programme for increasing intra-regional trade in specific products currently imported from third countries, but subject to quality and price. And to recommend suitable mechanisms to implement the programme.

But on the thorny issue of the Caricom rate of exchange, Mr. Mahabir recalled that Jamaica had originally proposed that the special Caricom rate agreed on in Barbados earlier this year--(Jam) \$2.25 to one US dollar--be abolished, and that the current parallel market rate of (Jam) \$2.96 to one US dollar--be applied to all Jamaica's Caricom transactions.

Trinidad and Tobago, he said, took a firm stand by stating it was not prepared to accept the Jamaican proposal to abolish the Caricom rate.

"In fact," he added, "we argued that the rate should be retained, and, if necessary, adjusted taking into account import inputs, as well as indirect and local costs."

Mr. Mahabir said Trinidad and Tobago was willing to work as hard as it could to find a solution.

"At the same time however," he added, "now that we have much more comprehensive data than we had in Bridgetown, we need to take several factors into consideration.

"This must be done in order to ensure that not only the Jamaican concern is protected, but that we do not in the process, create more problems for our own manufacturers in our already difficult employment situation," he declared.

He said there were still some fundamental issues to be resolved like duration of the agreement and the conditions under which it will be reviewed before expiration of the agreed period.

He reminded that the Bridgetown Agreement was only an interim one for six months.

Another was the question of import content and indirect costs because they were vital to the calculation of the Caricom rate of exchange.

Under the provisions of the Bridgetown Agreement, it was pointed out, the Jamaican manufacturer had received more than the full benefits of the advantage afforded him in that there was a reduction in value of the Jamaican dollar since then.

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Desmond Cartey, emphasised that even though Trinidad and Tobago retained its import licensing regime, licences were not unduly delayed. In fact 92 per cent of licences applied for were issued by his ministry.

Where licences were not granted it was because he had asked for further information, especially where there was doubt as to the "area of origin." In addition, he himself had been in personal contact with his counterparts in the various countries.

Prior to the resumption of talks, Mr. Mahabir said that even though Trinidad and Tobago's total Caricom trade was a small percentage of its national trade, it remained very concerned over the implications of duty-free imports into the country, which were in fact imports from third countries coming to Trinidad and Tobago "in disguise," and placing local manufacturers in a position of having to retrench workers.

Problems of LDC Manufacturers

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Ernie Seon]

[Text] CASTRIES, St. Lucia, says the manufacturing sector in the Eastern Caribbean is in danger of collapse unless all barriers to free trade within the 13-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are removed. Bledman was speaking to reporters here on his return from Barbados where he attended a weekend meeting of

Wednesday, (CANA) — The president of the St. Lucia Manufacturers Association (SLMA), Primrose Bledman, 13-nation Caribbean Com-

regional private sector representatives. The meeting, convened by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), also called for the removal of all barriers to free intra-regional trade.

The SLMA president accused Trinidad and Tobago of trying to protect its market, especially in the case of technical goods, for local manufacturers by the continued enforcement of its import licensing system.

Bledman said several St. Lucians and Eastern Caribbean manufacturers were on the verge of closing their operations because of the contraction of the CARICOM market for their goods.

Problems in intra-Caricom trade surfaced in January with the introduction by Jamaica of a two-tier currency exchange rate which made regional goods cost more in Kingston than those locally-produced. In retaliation, Trinidad and

CARICOM's most lucrative market, placed all CARICOM imports under licence.

At a meeting in Barbados in May of regional government leaders and senior officials,

Jamaica agreed to a special exchange rate for CARICOM imports. The meeting also agreed that Trinidad and Tobago could maintain its import licensing regime for monitoring purposes.

But Bledman said the retention of the system has slowed trade between the Eastern Caribbean and Port-of Spain.

"In fact, in certain manufacturing activities, there is a clear determination by Trinidad that it is protecting the market for local manufacturers," he said, pinpointing the importation of technical goods such as television sets and fridges as examples.

"It is significant that the products meeting most resistance are radios, televisions, gas ranges, refrigerators, and other household appliances," the SLMA head said.

The authorities in Port-Of-Spain have accused some Eastern Caribbean manufacturers of violating the CARICOM rules of origin by relabelling extra-regional goods as CARICOM-made and then

exporting them to Trinidad and Tobago.

"True enough, there have been cases of breaches of the CARICOM rules, but these are too few to justify reliance on these by Trinidad," Bledman said.

Mr. Bledman said unless a lasting solution to the regional trade problems was found at this week's CARICOM finance ministers meeting in Trinidad and Tobago, an undisclosed number of industries in the Eastern Caribbean, particularly here and in Antigua, would collapse.

"St. Lucia alone in 1982 imported EC \$34 863 000 (one E.C. dollar equals 37 cents U.S) and exported EC \$11 000 000 to Trinidad, and in the first quarter of 1983 the figures stood at EC \$4 500 000 as against EC \$29 000 000 he said.

He added: "Large quantities of biscuits, cereals, groundnuts and peanuts, ketchup, stout, and other food and drink are exported to St. Lucia from Trinidad, and it is hoped that the Trinidad authorities will look at the whole picture when considering the problem."

CALL FOR CARICOM TASK FORCE STUDY OF FOOD INDUSTRY

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 25 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

CARIBBEAN community (CARICOM) food manufacturers have called for the establishment of a regional agro-food industry task force to look into a number of problems facing the industry.

Their call was made at the end of a five-day conference held in Jamaica this month on the food processing industry in the Caribbean sponsored by the Barbados-based Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA).

The CAIC said the task force should have among its terms of reference "the decision of the heads of government conference in July 1983 regarding the sourcing of regional food supplies in the priority order of national, regional and extra-regional."

The resolution states that the regional task force would prepare proposals from this sub-sector on a common protective policy for primary agricultural products and livestock (which was agreed to by the heads of government conference in July) for presentation to the CARICOM Secretariat.

The task force would also recommend adequate measures for monitoring of problem areas impinging on this sub-sector including the following — rules of origin, barriers to free trade, bias towards foreign imports, harmonisation of standards in the region, packaging, cost and supply, local availability and supply of raw materials, marketing, recognition and use of local and regional technical

experts, finance for and incentives to agro-industry, information banks for the industry, more direct efforts at commercialisation of public sector research and development, co-ordination among private and public sector bodies and the effect of labour and upon productivity.

The resolution further states that the task force will be co-ordinated by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and will comprise representatives from the seven-member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, Belize, and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL).

The membership of the task force would cover such areas as marketing and distribution, nutrition, packaging and finance.

The resolution directed the CAIC to convene the first meeting of the task force within three weeks of the end of the conference.

The task force is required to report to member governments through the CAIC by December 15.

Another resolution adopted at the conference called on CARICOM member governments to dismantle the licensing system dealing with trade in the CARICOM region.

The resolution noted that "the mini-summit of CARICOM heads of Government in May 1983, agreed that import licences for CARICOM goods would be used only for purposes of monitoring and that these licences would be granted within seven days."

JAMAICAN TRADE MISSION EXEMPLIFIES TIES WITH BARBADOS

Arrival of 13-Member Group

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Both Barbados and Jamaica have reported favourable trading relations following the resolution of the trade impasse early this year.

A 13-member delegation from the Jamaica Exporters Association, arrived here yesterday on a three-day goodwill mission during which they will give a showing of garments, furniture, cosmetics and confectionery to local buyers.

The mission is led by Miss Pauline Stone, third vice president of the JEA.

Shortly after her arrival at the Grantley Adams International Airport, Miss Stone told reporters

that the private sector in Jamaica and Barbados have always been able to find common ground "when we meet."

"One of the things that has been most outstanding is the fact that we seem to be able to find solutions to our problems and come to agreements faster than many other Caribbean countries", she said.

Mr. Geoffrey Messado, President of the JEA, said that automatic licences were imposed in Jamaica following the resolution in Barbados at a mini heads of Government summit of the trade problems that had threatened the true spirit of Caricom early this year.

"As far as we are concerned we have not got many complaints in

terms of inability to obtain licences to export to Jamaica", he said.

"Licences are being issued", Mr. Messado maintained.

Mr. Henry Vieira, President of the Barbados Manufacturers Association, echoed the Jamaicans' views about the good trading relations between the two countries and was peeved that the media should give the continued impression that there were still problems.

But he did note that the only difficulty encountered sometimes was that payments were coming in "a little bit later than we would like."

The delegation will be exhibiting their products to buyers between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Welcome Inn today and tomorrow.

Favorable Results

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

A goodwill mission from the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) has reported an enthusiastic response to its products from local buyers.

Head of the 13-member mission, Ms. Pauline Stone, said at the

exhibition site at the Welcome Inn Hotel yesterday, that Government agencies in Barbados were also pleased at the wide range of products on display.

The products displayed during the two-day exhibition included paint

brushes, cosmetics, stationery, furniture, ladies handbags, brief cases, confectionery, sports gear, liquors and brake pads.

Ms. Stone, Third Vice President of the JEA, said the outcome of the mission was an indication

that trade between the two countries was almost "back to normal."

She said the only problem the Barbadian manufacturers worried about was late payments from Jamaica.

"I think they appreciate that we are still

facing some foreign exchange problems and we are trying to get that sorted out", she said, adding that "manufacturers in this region understand our problems and give us leeway."

The JEA visit was originally intended as a

mission to Dutch and French-speaking Caribbean islands.

However, the organisation decided to make a reciprocal mission here, responding to that made to Jamaica early this year by the Barbados Manufacturers' Association following the

resolving of the so-called "Caricom trade war."

The trade impasse was sparked by Jamaica's introduction of a two-tiered rate of exchange on imports and heightened by Trinidad's imposition of a licensing system.

The problems were resolved at a mini heads

of Government summit here in May.

The JEA mission left yesterday for Martinique, from where they will go on to Guadeloupe.

Other countries included in their itinerary are Curacao and Aruba.

CSO: 3298/076

CARICOM PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS SEEK END TO TRADE BARRIERS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Private sector delegations which attended a week-end meeting in Barbados have called for the removal of barriers and restrictive measures which stood in the way of free trade in the Caribbean.

But one of the delegations, that from Trinidad and Tobago, expressed some reservations on how this should be done and did not sign that general recommendations agreed to by the other representatives.

The meeting was held at the initiative of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) at its Secretariat, Wilkey, St. Michael.

The delegations from Barbados, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda agreed that there be:

- removal of all licensing systems for intra-regional goods, coupled with prompt payments;

- revitalisation of the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) so as to facilitate the expansion of intra-regional trade;

- the institution of a regional negative list and ceiling prices arrived at in full consultation with the private sector; and

- the appointment of a Surveillance Committee as recommended by the regional manufacturers' meeting of May 13 and 14 to enforce the Rules of Origin criteria.

But Trinidad and Tobago, although going along with its colleagues in insisting that barriers and restrictive measures be removed, expressed some reservations.

In a separate statement the Trinidad and Tobago delegation said that all barriers to trade in the region should be identified and its members were prepared to submit a list of these barriers as seen from their perspective.

They suggested that the other private sector delegations prepare their own respective lists for submission to CAIC, regional private sector organisation.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the current problems which are still seriously impeding the smooth flow of intra-Caribbean trade.

The whole range of existing non-tariff barriers, failure to reactivate the CMCF, and the operation and impending review of the Jamaican special Caricom rate for intra-regional trade transactions were discussed at a mini-summit of Caricom Heads held in Barbados earlier this year.

A CAIC statement said there was a full and frank exchange of views last weekend on the issues, and that the meeting reiterated the commitment of the regional private sector to free trade in Caricom.

CSO: 3298/076

COMMONWEALTH OFFICIAL HAILS FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

COMMONWEALTH Secretary General, Mr. Shridath Ramphal, has stated that areas of differences at the just concluded Commonwealth Finance Ministers' conference were much smaller than might have been anticipated. He was extremely pleased with the outcome of the two-day conference.

He explained that Prime Minister George Chambers, who was mandated to put forward the details of the discussions to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in New Delhi, India, in November, would have an "on going role" in terms of trying to evolve a consensus for and at New Delhi.

Mr. Ramphal, speaking at the Trinidad Hilton, on Saturday evening, shortly before he left for the United States for meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, said he believed that in New Delhi the Commonwealth political leadership would be in a position to take significant decisions.

"I am extremely pleased with the Finance Ministers' meeting, and Port of Spain will be remembered as one of the milestones on the way towards a new Bretton Woods."

His comments were on the report towards a New Bretton Woods, prepared by a high-powered Commonwealth study group on the world's financial and trading system.

Mr. Ramphal said there were some differences at the conference, but the perception that something needed to be done was a collective one.

MORE OF EMPHASIS

He explained that the elements of disagreement that had been highlighted were, for the most part, not real, in the sense that a minister might say that they should not dismantle the institutions, but, in fact nobody was suggesting that they dismantle institutions.

Another minister, he explained, might state that what they should

concentrate on was the immediate, and things that could be done, and that could sound as disagreement.

The study, he pointed out, identified things for immediate, short-term and long-term action.

Mr. Ramphal said "differences that have been projected are not even real, but are more matters of emphasis, matters of style, sometimes matters of tactics." He explained that was why he felt that when they got to New Delhi, and there was more time for reflections and consultations, including the role assigned to Mr. Chambers, which he saw as not a static report role, but as an ongoing one, he believed that the political leadership would be in a position to take significant decisions.

Mr. Ramphal said he felt that it was quite a step that the Commonwealth Finance Ministers took in asking Mr. Marc Lelond, the Canadian Finance Minister, to speak for developed and developing countries, in relation to the International Development Agency (IDA).

He would be able to say on behalf of both developed and developing countries how critical it was that IDA did not crash, and for the seventh replenishment to get underway.

Mr. Ramphal said: "You are talking about people now, real human suffering. I was delighted with the response that the Finance Ministers made, and the fact that they have gone to such lengths to project it to Washington."

"The Commonwealth cannot guarantee success. We try," he said, adding that if the United States of America continued to turn its back on the Institutions, and were adamant, "we cannot compel them, but I think the collective voice of the Commonwealth might be a great persuader, and it will certainly help in Washington."

The Commonwealth Secretariat would lobby in Washington, he said, and he was going to New York, where he would meet some of the leaders, and a large number of Foreign Ministers.

"I will be dealing with the political ministers, while my colleagues will be dealing with the Finance Ministers in Washington," he said.

Mr. Ramphal explained that they had encouraged the World Bank to be around for the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' conference, and that the meeting was supportive of the Bank, but was critical of some elements of fund practice.

The Ministers were very supportive of the institutions in terms of resources. Part of the problems, he explained, was conditionality. He said it would be found that developed countries emphasised that there was need for conditionality.. This was another strawman ...because nobody was saying that there was no need for conditionality developing countries started off by saying that they were not asking for unconditional assistance.

"But it is really now becoming quite clear, and it was manifest at the meeting and people spoke eloquently about it as people do out of personal suffering.. Finance Ministers have asked: how can we be asked to impose the sacrifices on our people, and how can we be asked to do it for this pittance."

Mr. Ramphal said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) must become more sensitive to change its conditionality practices to be more realistic, or it would be ineffective.

CSO: 3298/091

SEAGA URGES CARIBBEAN MASTER PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga yesterday morning challenged the Caribbean regional conference on the food processing industry, at its opening session at the New Kingston Hotel, to come up with a master plan of action to increase agricultural production to a wider scale to earn or save foreign exchange.

Giving the keynote address at the five-day conference organised by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (C.A.I.C.) in collaboration with the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (J.M.A.), Mr. Seaga cited the Government's Agro-21 programme as an example of such a plan, disclosing that planning for the programme was in the final stages of completion; there would be an announcement next month, he said.

A special survey was also being done of the country's agro-industry potential which would form the basis of a plan of development for that sector to complement the Agro-21 programme, Mr. Seaga said.

A regional task force to carry forward developmental work in the area of food processing and agro-industry, will be set up by the conference, Mr. Claude Clarke, chairman of the morning's session and chairman of the J.M.A.'s Food Group, announced as he gave the background to the conference.

C.A.I.C., president, Mr. Tommy Gatcliffe also referred to the setting up of the task force as one of the major objectives of the conference which is being attended by some 100 participants.

J.M.A.'s president Mr. Anthony Williams also addressed the opening session.

Prior to his call on the region to come up with the master plan to increase agricultural production, Mr. Seaga identified three areas of impediment to a wider or larger scale production.

These were, he said, (1) the tendency of agriculturalists to think primarily in terms of the domestic market; (2) the lack of technology; (3) and deficiency in the area of packaging.

REGARDING THE TENDENCY of agriculturalists to think primarily in terms of the domestic market, Mr. Seaga asked where were the new products such as fish and shrimp production and exports of tropical fruits like mangoes. He also wanted to know what was happening in the field of horticulture.

On the question of technology, Mr. Seaga said there was a tendency here to increase the scale of production without increasing the productivity which could not lead to competitive prices in the international market. He questioned why improvements in technology which had been tried and proven were not being utilised.

Turning to packaging, Mr. Seaga said, there was a great deal to be learnt. Packaging had to be learnt from what the consumer needed and not what it was thought that the consumer needed. He referred to local efforts being made to improve packaging.

It was at this juncture that Mr. Seaga called the region's attention for the need for a master plan.

"Problems and opportunities within the food processing industry," the topic of the conference which carries the theme: "Food for survival in the 80's and beyond," was welcomed by Mr. Seaga as being critical and timely.

The topic, he said, hailed the awakening of commerce to that fact that "we can't live by imports alone."

It also marked the awakening of industry to the fact that "we can't live by exports, the bulk of the raw

materials of which are imports." Any serious breakthrough in the improvement of foreign exchange earnings or savings in the economy must incorporate agricultural production, he said.

STATING THE SERIOUSNESS of the food processing industry to the region, Mr. Seaga said what was important was whether the route had been tracked which led from the daily levels of production to a larger and wider scale production.

By that, he said, he meant the extent to which the region had made agro-industry, the dominant part of their industrial production, noting that in the Dominican Republic it was 80 percent of that country's industrial output while in Jamaica agro-industry was 20 percent.

In Jamaica's case it was not because the country lacked the products, he said, listing some of the goods produced here which were regular winners of gold medals at prestigious international competitions.

Pointing to the absence of these products as well as other regional products from the shelves of international markets and also their shortcoming in replacing imported products, Mr. Seaga said that difficulty in locating the products stemmed from them being exported as raw materials with a resultant loss of identity.

Locally also, production tended to be geared to health food stores and gourmet shops.

Breaking out of the narrow range of production was the only answer to improving the foreign exchange situation, Mr. Seaga said. International competition which would follow would require competitive market prices, he stated.

Large scale production must play the dominant role though not necessarily the exclusive role, he said, pointing to Jamaica where the country because of the large number of small scale producers had to combine this with the need to produce on a large scale to be competitive internationally, and come up with the Mother Farm Project.

Large scale farmers helped small farmers in the areas of technology transfer and with markets under this project.

Mr. Anthony Barnes vice-president of the J.M.A., moved thanks.

CSO: 3298/091

DOMINICAN ORGAN QUESTIONS UNION VIABILITY IN GRENADA

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Following reports that the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada was engaged in a retrenchment programme in its Public Service a NEW CHRONICLE Reporter telephoned Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Bernard Coard.

Mr. Coard, who prefers being addressed as Comrade Coard, said that "42 daily paid workers were being laid off since their work was non-productive work."

Comrade Coard then claimed that while this was happening, new jobs were being created. For example, the Grenada Beach Hotel--the Old Holiday Inn which had been burnt down in 1981--has now been re-opened under Government ownership.

He also referred to other new projects which were to employ a number of people.

Responding to the claim that the lay-offs in the Public Service were part of the conditions agreed to between the People's Revolutionary Government and the I.M.F., Comrade Coard insisted that that was not so and emphasized that the EC\$40 million I.M.F. loan was not to support recurrent expenditure since Grenada actually enjoyed \$5 million surplus last year. "The loan is to be used for investment projects and to improve the liquidity situation," said Coard.

Mr. Coard was very amiable and at the end of the conversation invited the reporter to visit Grenada and requested that he be looked up.

However, NEW CHRONICLE then contacted the Grenada Public Workers Union to get their side of the story regarding the lay-offs.

When a request was made to speak to the General Secretary of the Union a reply came that he was not in office and the lady who answered (presumably the secretary) said she couldnot help but gave a telephone number at which further information could be obtained.

Surprisingly and amusingly enough, the number given was the same one which was used to contact Comrade Coard at his office.

It was as if the union had lost its voice.

CSO: 3298/077

BRIEFS

TRINIDAD LOAN TO JAMAICA--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Friday, (CANA)--
Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to lend Jamaica TT\$6.2 million to help
meet Kingston's contribution to payments arrears due to senior administration
staff at the University of the West Indies Campus here. The agreement
was signed here by Frank Barsotti, Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Secretary
in the Ministry of Finance, and Ellen Bogle, Jamaica's High Commissioner
here. A Ministry of Information statement said the loan agreement
also states that the loan and accrued interest shall be repaid fully by
the Jamaican Government on or before October 31, 1984. The Ministry
said the signing of the agreement was in keeping with proposals accepted
by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders at their fourth summit here last
July. The UWI is financed jointly by regional Governments. [Text]
[Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 24 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/077

ATLU HOLDS 44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, REJECTS TUC MEMBERSHIP

Report on Proceedings

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 1 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

Over 350 delegates attended the 44th Annual Conference of the ATLU held at Emancipation House on 25th and 26th September, 1983. The Opening Session was attended by the Hon. Prime Minister Comrade V.C. Bird who delivered the feature address, Mr. Colin Sampson was the guest speaker and delivered a very informative talk to the delegates present. Another important dignitary was the Labour Commission, Mr. Ralph Prince. The President Comrade William Robinson who was unopposed declared the Conference open after informing the delegates of activities of the Union for the past year.

The balloting for new officers was conducted on the second day and the following positions were filled -

President Comrade William Robinson, 1st Vice President Comrade B.T. Carrott, 2nd Vice President Comrade E. Dowdye and 3rd Vice President Comrade Rufus Lewis Treasurer Comrade Jerry Aska, General Secretary Comrade Robin Bascus. The Trustees are Comrades N. Payne, E. Wynter and C. Bailey. Eleven other members were elected to complete the Executive.

The Conference was asked to ratify a decision

taken by the outgoing Executive indicating the Unions willingness to be a member of a proposed Trade Union Congress in Antigua. The General Secretary pleaded with the delegates to ratify the Executives decision but a counter attack was lead by employers Jerry Aska and Challenger and supported by retired and pensionable Comrades Joshua Samuel, Charles Bailey and self employed Comrade Aaron.

It was eventually decided that the A.T.L.U. should inform the Secretary of the proposed Congress that the Union would attend only as observes until the next annual conference.

[Editor's Note: Just below the above report, THE WORKERS VOICE of 1 October, page 1, carries the following comment by R. A. Bascus under the heading "A Retrograde Step": "A.T.L.U. at its 44th Annual Conference took a retrograde step when in the presence of the pioneer of workers unity in this country, took the decision not to join the proposed Trade Union Congress. It was a very pathetic decision indeed, and can only give comfort to employers in this country."]

Union President's Address

St. Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 8 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Comrade Prime Minister, Honourable Delegates, Comrades and Friends - I welcome you to the 44th Annual Conference of the Antigua Trades & Labour Union.

As a Union, continue to maintain that our FIRST and primary duty is to guide and advise workers and to protect the rights of workers at every level in Antigua and Barbuda. If Rule two (2) of the Union's most cherished book of rules is consulted, it is clear that the Antigua Trades and Labour Union is committed to the well-being of its members in particular and Antiguan and Barbudans in general.

The present economic crisis, triggered off by the sudden and uncerebral increase in oil prices since 1973, continues to reduce the standard of living of many. It continues to press nations into large scale borrowings, building up huge national and greater hardships for the poor.

As a Union, we see a degree of slippage backwards some of which resemble conditions of old. We must therefore resolve today to work towards reversing this trend. Some unscrupulous employers seem happy and are willing to lay-off workers without the least consideration for the well-being of themselves and their families. They include employers whose enterprises have benefitted from Government investment incentives and tax free considerations. The Union must act now; the Union must demand that Government immediately put into law the long promised Severance Pay Act. Yes, WORKERS must be entitled to proper and more reasonable sums of money for a service provided to employers. After all they do not share in the profits.

Comrades, the Labour Code now provides for one day's pay per month for each year of service after year one. This may have been acceptable in 1965 but is not good enough in 1983. The Antigua Trades and Labour Union wishes to record that less than one month's pay for each year of service is unacceptable to workers in a modern and advancing world. We also hold the view that for less than one year, the benefit should be pro-rated.

I now turn my attention to the hotel industry. Comrades, after much struggle we now represent a substantial number of workers in this vital work area. The Employers' Federation seems to feel that as long as a hotel is part of the Hotel Association it must be represented by the Antigua Workers' Union. Let me state

here that the Antigua Trades and Labour Union violently disagrees with that theory. Any group of workers has the right to select a Union of its choice; this is clearly spelt out in the Antigua Labour Code.

Comrades, while the Union is in complete agreement with the Antigua Industrial Court, we would be less than frank if we did not record our disappointment at the undue length of time taken to settle a case placed before it. I believe that this situation suits some employers. I believe it is used as a means of extending further punishment and hardship to workers and their families. This long and unweildly process must be brought to a drastic end. The time has come when the Industrial Court must have permanent personnel as this is one of the problems affecting its urgent despatch of cases. If justice is to be done, we must have quick action in this matter, always remembering that we must not be Just a Society but indeed a Just Society.

Comrades, Your Union, ever conscious of the scientific and legalistic nature of industrial relations in today's world, has embarked upon a strong programme of worker education. This effort is intended to ensure that workers know of their rights and obligations, shop stewards know of their duties and functions and the officers and representatives know the full contents of the Labour Code and Industrial Court procedures and practices.

Officers of the Union, including myself, attended a Seminar in St. Vincent between June 15 and July 02, and we were able to convince the sponsors to hold a conference in Antigua now scheduled for November 06 to 12. Finally I want you comrades not to regard this conference as yet another event which brings us together for discussion and review. Workers are facing increasingly difficult times the world over, and it is our duty to keep ahead of the authorities and employers if indeed prosperity is to be restored and real growth experienced to the end of this twentieth century.

I have much pleasure in declaring the Conference open and pray that our Agenda will be satisfactorily completed.

UNION WANTS NATIONAL STUDY ON ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] The 25 000-strong Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has called for the convening of a national conference to discuss what it says has been a gradual downturn in the national economy over the past two years.

"Our analysis of economic trends in Barbados over the last two years shows that, over this period, there has been a gradual downturn in the economy," said General Secretary, Frank Walcott.

"We have concluded that the current economic trend must be arrested by the application of positive measures," the union leader added.

The BWU, Barbados' biggest trade union, said the performance of sugar, tourism, and manufacturing, the three pillars of the Barbados economy, has not been up to mark, and the convening of such a conference would provide the workers and their representative a chance to air their views.

"For many years, the workers have been left outside the pale of discussion and only regarded as elements for jobs. Workers form an integral part of the new generation of thinking and we must be a part of the formulation of policies that affect the workers and their future," Walcott said.

The BWU cited the fact that Agriculture Minister, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, has proposed further government price support for the sugar industry in 1984 after this year's as an indication that all was not well in the debt-ridden industry.

It said evidence of the downturn in both tourism and manufacturing was in the "large numbers" of workers who have either been dismissed, laid off, or made redundant.

According to the Central Bank, the Barbados economy declined by three per cent in 1981, ending five years of positive growth. This was followed by a decline of five per cent in 1982.

Government attributed the decline to the world economic recession which reduced the flow of tourists here and softened demand for local products.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman, reviewing the island's economic performance during the first half of 1983, said in July that the economy appeared to be on the road to recovery, thanks mainly to a turnaround in tourism.

Walcott said the BWU saw its role as not only bargaining for better wages and conditions for employment on behalf of its members, but also seeing that the economy is on a good footing.

"Over the years, we have been consistent in our argument that our role is more than seeking wages and conditions of employment: We are here to ensure that the economy is on a sound footing and that steps are taken to ensure that it remains this way," the BWU General Secretary said.

CSO: 3298/078

ARGENTINA NOTES DESIRE FOR EMBASSY, CLOSER RELATIONS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

IN a move aimed at promoting better relations between Argentina and the Eastern Caribbean countries, the government in Buenos Aires has reportedly expressed a desire to the Barbados Government to establish an embassy in Bridgetown.

The embassy which would be headed by an ambassador would serve the countries in the Eastern Caribbean. At present diplomatic relations between the various territories in the region and Argentina are conducted through the Argentine Mission to the United Nations.

"The Argentine government has advised the Barbados Government of its intentions but the ball is now fairly and squarely in the laps of the Adams cabinet," a highly informed source in Washington disclosed.

The move by Argentina is seen as a positive step, one which comes in the wake of the serious rift between the English-speaking nations and the Spanish-speaking states during the Malvinas/Falklands crisis.

REQUEST

The source pointed out that the request by the Argentine government to set up an office in Barbados follows some behind-the-scenes activities initiated at the

request of the Adams Government last year to repair the damage done by the differences over the Falklands/Malvinas crisis war with Britain.

Last November, Barbados' Prime Minister Tom Adams asked the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organisation of

"As I understand it Barbados is still mulling over what to do about the request from the Argentinians," the source explained.

Reached in New York while on his way from Washington to attend an education meeting in Jamaica, the Assistant Secretary American States, Mr. Val McComie, to use his good offices to improve relations between Barbados and the South American state.

Mr. Adams had himself disclosed the fence-mending mission but had declined to identify the intermediary. It was subsequently learned that Mr. McComie was asked to undertake the assignment at the personal request of Mr. Adams.

And it was out of Mr. McComie's actions as well as the efforts of some officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Argentinians decided that they should have a diplomatic presence in Barbados.

General of the OAS declined to comment on any aspect of his assignment on behalf of the Barbados government.

COMMENT

The only comment he made was that a real indication of the improvement in relations between Latin America and the Caribbean was the indication from Argentina that it wanted to have a diplomatic presence in the Caribbean.

That comment was interpreted as supporting the report that Argentina wanted to have an embassy in Barbados.

The news of the Argentine move has come at a time when there are also persistent rumours that Mexico wants to open an office in Barbados.

While those reports do not carry the same weight as the news about Argentina, they certainly lend credence to the view that something is being planned by a number of Latin countries in the Caribbean.

When the reports about Mexico first surfaced last year some officials in Barbados declined to comment fearing that any such move would antagonise Trinidad and Tobago, the country mentioned as the first site for such an embassy.

CSO: 3200/078

ADDITIONAL ACREAGE PLANNED FOR SUGAR CULTIVATION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 28 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Sugar Industry Limited (BSIL) is gearing itself for the start of the next sugar crop and making long-term plans to increase the acreage under cultivation.

The plans include some managerial changes at two of the island's six sugar factories, routine work in getting all the plants readied for grinding, while as a long term measure the BSIL is moving to bring idle lands back into production.

An official pointed out yesterday that Andrews and Carrington will have new managers when the crop begins next year.

Mr. Ben Farmer, until recently, manager at Carrington, has retired and his place will be filled by Mr. Ralph Armstrong, who was formerly in charge of Andrews. Mr. Peter Farmer will be going to Andrews.

The official said that with the programme of work now being carried out, all six factories will be ready in early January

barring some unforeseen circumstances.

Provisional estimates indicate that the crop could realise up to 115 000 tonnes of sugar but the official said this depended very much on the type of weather during the period October to December.

"These are crucial months and depending on the rainfall there could be an upward or downward revision of the figures," he pointed out.

If the 115 000 tonne target is realised it will be the highest tonnage of sugar produced in Barbados since 1980 when 135 000 tonnes were manufactured.

Government has set a target of 150 000 tonnes and one of the steps taken to reach this target is the cultivation of idle land.

The official noted that an assessment of the acreage to be brought back into production was now taking place.

Two plantations in St. Philip, River and Vineyard, are being brought back into production.

DESPITE CUTBACKS, TRADE WITH JAPAN STILL IN ITS FAVOR

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Barbados' imports from Japan declined dramatically last year but despite that, trade between the two countries continues to be heavily stacked in the favour of the Japanese.

Figures obtained from the Government Statistical Services revealed that Barbados' imports from Japan totalled Bds \$37 million last year as compared with \$53 million for the previous year.

Latest figures indicated that for the first quarter this year this country bought goods from Japan totalling \$13 million.

However the massive trade imbalance is revealed in the total value of Barbadian goods sold to that country.

According to the figures Barbados sold \$39 002 worth of goods to Japan last year way above the \$7 818 sold the previous year. There were no exports for the first quarter this year.

The bulk of Barbadian imports from Japan has been motor vehicles, especially cars.

Other goods include toys, accessories, spare parts, tools, electronic equipment, office furniture and machines.

Exports from Barbados include self-contained air-conditioning machines.

The trade imbalance has over the years been of great concern to Government and private sector officials with calls from some quarters for a reduction in the volume of imports from that country.

During a tour earlier this year to some far eastern countries including Japan, Trade Minister Bernard St. John said he had drawn to the attention of the Japanese the wide trade gap between that country and Barbados.

He said too it had been established there was a market in Japan for a number of local products.

Out of the trip to Japan came arrangements for the revival of the sea island cotton industry in Barbados.

Following negotiations between representatives from both countries Barbados has set aside 200 acres for the cultivation of cotton which will be sold to Japan next year.

CSO: 3298/078

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

TRADE STATISTICS--Barbados exported Bds\$156.4 million worth of goods during the first four months of the year, a decline of \$2 million compared with the same period last year, the government reported yesterday. The Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) reported that electronic goods and clothing continued to be the main exports. The island shipped 12 950 tonnes of sugar abroad in April, the first for the year, which earned \$9.7 million. Barbados produced 85 100 tonnes of sugar this year, the smallest crop since 1948. Total exports for the first quarter last year were worth \$158.7 million. However, domestic exports for the period rose this year to \$129.2 million compared with \$90.9 million last year. Domestic exports for April were worth \$41.5 million while \$20.6 million were earned during the same month last year. Total imports continued to decline, with \$361.8 million in imports being recorded for the 1983 first quarter compared with \$403 million for last year's period. Eighty nine point eight million dollars in goods were imported in April compared with \$82.4 million for the same month last year. Meanwhile, the trade deficit also declined this year. It was \$205.3 million at the end of April, \$40.7 million less than last year.--(CANA). [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 83 p 1]

NEW CANADIAN ENVOY--The Government of Canada has appointed a new High Commissioner to Barbados. He is career diplomat, Mr. Noble Power, who succeeds Mr. Allan Roger who ended a four and a half year tour of duty in August this year. Mr. Noble Power, after pursuing graduate studies in Latin American politics and in diplomatic history, was appointed Director of Planning for Canada's Commonwealth African programme at the inception of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the mid-1960's. He joined the Canadian Department of External Affairs in 1970 and served as his country's High Commissioner to Ghana and concurrently Ambassador to Togo and Benin. Prior to his appointment to Barbados, Mr. Power had been Vice-President of CIDA. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 25 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/078

UK DEVELOPMENT UNIT IN BARBADOS OFFERS ASSISTANCE

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 24 Sep 83 p 15

[Text]

We should say from careful observation and judging of the results which can be noted in various areas, that the British Virgin Islands Government has the understanding of, and is receiving the co-operation of, the U.K. Overseas Department and the Development Division which is stationed in Barbados. This was not always the case, not so long ago there was considerable difficulty in getting any development help for these islands. Now harmony of understanding of what the B.V.I. needs in development assistance can be noted in various fields, and the financial and technical means which are being provided are producing notable results. Many projects, some completed while others are underway, are uplifting the standard of the Territory as has never been seen before. Of course, there is still a lot to be done, but things are really on the move.

As is known, the Development Division does not hand out any means of development just for the asking. Everything has to be thoroughly justified — which at times calls for extensive plans. Fortunately, the B.V.I. Government is not lacking in preparation of plans nor pushing them forward with constructive arguments. The Planning Board and the Government have done a remarkable job in this field, for which the work accomplished deserves commendation.

The approach to the Development Division has to be intelligent, persuasive and justifiable — also a friendly approach can be of help, and it seems to us that the Government has mastered these business techniques. We are seeing the results brought about through this sort of representation, and we hope it will be even further advanced. The Territory needs this sort of leadership.

CSO: 3298/093

BRIEFS

NEW CONSERVATIONIST PUBLICATION--The B.V.I. is to get a newsletter dedicated to conservation and development issues of the British Virgin Islands. The concept of the newsletter, called RESOURCE - is to promote both the natural and human resources of the territory and to highlight, among other things, the critical importance of conserving our natural resources in order to maintain and further the growth of tourism, fisheries, agriculture and the many services which support these sectors. Regular features will include information on yachting, scuba-diving, as well as other aspects of tourism, fishing, agriculture, parks and protected areas and B.V.I. culture. RESOURCE will be published on a quarterly basis by the B.V.I. National Parks Trust and the B.V.I. Tourist Board, in collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Natural Areas Management Programme (ECNAMP), and its first issue is expected to be available by October of 1983, it was announced by Information Officer, Mrs. Michelle Abbott-Smith, who will be the Editor of the quarterly Newsletter. Keep a look-out for it in shops, hotels, marinas and public places throughout the British Virgin Islands. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 24 Sep 83 p 15]

CSO: 3298/093

M-19 LEADER VIEWS AMNESTY, SOCIALISM, GUERRILLA STRENGTH

PM191126 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 4

[Interview with Colombian 19 April Movement (M-19) "number two" Alvaro Fayyad by Roman Gorriaran in Quito--no date given]

[Excerpt] Question: What is M-19's stance in the current Colombian political process, following the promulgation of the amnesty decreed by Belisario Betancur?

Answer: The grave problem impairing Belisario Betancur's policy and calls for peace is that he has not agreed or sought to negotiate anything with the guerrilla movement, and the amnesty should have been agreed to with us and the other organizations. At all times, we--M-19--have supported the amnesty proposal from the outset, have engaged comrades in public political activity, and have been to the Congress. All this is part of a policy adopted by the organization at the eighth conference, held 8 August 1982--the very day of Belisario's investiture. According to the government, a stage was beginning which it defined as post-Francoist, from which it follows that Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala was Franco. Continuing the metaphor, we demand a kind of Moncloa Pacts, which would include all of us. We accept the amnesty, but we are not handing over our arms, because they are the only means of conducting opposition in Colombia. But we support the amnesty, since it is a first step toward peace; therefore, we proposed the second step: to silence all guns simultaneously. But Belisario stopped halfway, allowing himself to be hemmed in and blackmailed by the military, and basing his government on the two traditional parties--the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party.

"Belisario's Origin Gives Him Democratic Style"

Question: What difference does M-19 see between the Liberal Turbay and the Conservative Betancur?

Answer: These two parties share the running of the state; it is impossible to be a public employee unless you are a member of either party. That is why Betancur's proposal, with which he won the election, is the proposal of a national front that will break the two-party system; something that the whole country supports, and we do too. But the differences between Turbay and Belisario are undeniable. Betancur is a man with good intentions; he is not a doctrinaire

conservative, but a man who really wishes to change something in Colombia, at least as regards intentions. Moreover, his humble origin gives him a more popular, more democratic style. Because of all that, the popular support which Betancur still has is impressive, but in the economy, society, and politics, good intentions are not sufficient; you must make clear on whose side you stand. But we remain prepared to talk; we wish to silence the guns and to talk.

Question: There has been a great deal of talk recently about the unification of the guerrilla movement in Latin America. What truth is there in this?

Answer: In Colombia there are steps unity. For instance, M-19 has signed documents of a strategic nature with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and there are also talks with the other movements on the need for unity among Colombia's five guerrilla organizations in order to demand dialogue with Belisario; there are greater or lesser nuances, but there is agreement that the guerrilla movement is the only chance of organizing opposition forces in Colombia. As regards Latin American unity, what could be better? But, unfortunately, it is not the case, and we have allowed a wave of militarism to sweep the continent. If there were unity, Augusto Pinochet would not be at ease, the Argentine military would not be seeking collective amnesia, and, above all, Central America would not be so besieged.

"Bateman Is Legend Among People"

Question: There are many accounts of Jaime Bateman Cayon's disappearance circulating: that he was eliminated by M-19's hardliners, or that he fled with several millions [currency not specified] belonging to the organization. What can you say to all this?

Answer: The underlying problem was that Jaime Bateman--"Comandante Pablo"--was a mass phenomenon in Colombia; he is already a legend among the people, and people expect to see him any time, despite our reiterating that he disappeared in the light aircraft in which he was traveling to Panama. Bateman was in Santa Marta--his home town--celebrating his birthday, and afterward he traveled with Nelly Vivas and another comrade in a light aircraft piloted by a Conservative politician to Panama, in order to meet with a representative of the president at what would have been the first meeting between the government and M-19. But as a result of a storm in the Darien area, on the border between Panama and Colombia, the aircraft disappeared, and no trace was ever found; we searched the area exhaustively and found nothing--neither oil slicks on the sea nor wreckage in the jungle. Nothing: he disappeared, and Ivan Marino Ospina became number one, and I became number two. The accounts of his elimination by the hardliners and of his flight with millions are the work of the Colombian Army's military intelligence, which assigned many men and large resources to Bateman's capture while he was alive, without ever achieving it. So now it is necessary to discredit him and split M-19.

Question: How does M-19 define its stance?

Answer: We are readopting the figure of Bolivar: Our first action was the theft of Bolivar's swords in order to return them when there is freedom and democracy in Colombia, since what there is now is a liberal formalism. In the political field we express an outlook, as Colombians and revolutionaries, outside any Marxist blueprint. People are always wondering whether Lenin or Trotsky said this, but we have rejected theory, which serves only to explain events after they have happened or to attempt to accommodate a reality that does not fit the theory. Our criteria are those of the masses. We do not study Lenin's books; when a new member joins the organization, we give him Garcia Marquez' "One Hundred Years of Solitude" to read.

Question: Does M-19 seek socialism?

Answer: Which socialism? That of Felipe Gonzalez? That of Yuriy Andropov? Tito? That of Vietnam? Which? We are struggling for a democratic system in which the country's fundamental forces will express themselves.

Question: How many men does M-19 have and what arms?

Answer: It is difficult to quantify the men. We are the second-ranking guerrilla organization in Colombia. The first-ranking is the FARC, and there are about 10,000 to 15,000 guerrillas in all in Colombia. Our arms are light for the present, although we are planning to become an army. And so we will have to purchase heavy arms, and I emphasize the word "purchase"; because no international center supplies us. We steal arms from the army and purchase them on the black market; those are our sources.

"Betancur's Time Is Running Out"

Question: What prospects do you see for Colombia?

Answer: Dramatic ones; we are approaching the hour of truth. I hope that the possibility of peaceful change through Belisario's good intentions remains. The people wish to believe him, wish to support him; the guerrilla movement wishes to support him, too.

Question: How do you explain Colombia's peace efforts in Central America and the domestic situation?

Answer: It is inexplicable; the time must come when its international policy coincides with domestic policy. We welcome its policy toward Central America and the nonaligned countries, but being so progressive and dialogue-oriented in Central America must coincide with the attitude within the country. We have told Belisario that peace begins at home.

CSO: 3348/28

BRIEFS

ITALIAN CREDIT--Following negotiations conducted in Italy by Juan Bonilla Ayub, president of the Costa Rican Development Corporation, Italy has made \$40 million of credit available to Costa Rica. Vice President Alberto Falt, will sign the credit agreement when he visits Italy on 14 October. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 3 PA]

FRG HELICOPTER PURCHASE--Costa Rican Deputy Public Security Minister Johnny Campos has revealed that his ministry will soon purchase two MBB Messerschmidt helicopters from the FRG. Each of these helicopters costs 700,000 colones, he added. The purchase of the helicopters was negotiated directly by Colonel Campos during a recent trip to the FRG. He pointed out that the Messerschmidts are twin-engine helicopters that can carry five persons. They will be used for rescue missions, transportation of wounded persons, natural disasters, and other humanitarian purposes. He said in conclusion that the purchase of these helicopters, which are so necessary for the country, will be made through a loan. [Text] [PA161732 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83 PA]

CSO: 3248/105

NATIONALIZATION OF DOMLEC: INSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL LESSON

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 7 Oct 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

As from October 1st, the Government of Dominica has finally taken full ownership and control of Dominica Electricity Services [DOMLEC].

This follows over a year of negotiations between Government and DOMLEC's principals, the Commonwealth Development Corporation [CDC].

Apparently, the two parties were not able to see eye to eye. CDC U.K. was pursuing an expansion programme through the installation of comparatively low capital diesel plants which would have bound Dominica to the uncertain oil market. Government on the other hand, was insisting on expansion of the island's Hydro capabilities which is the only way that energy costs to the public will go down and stay down.

What has precipitated is best described in commercial jargon; "the corporate managers of [DOMLEC], C.D.C., have agreed to transfer control of their 51% shares to the Government as of October 1st." Indeed, this is taken verbatim from the Government release informing the public on the matter.

As a normal and legitimate commercial transaction, no one need make much noise about it.

But we think we ought to because it is revealing.

You see, had a similar situation occurred in Grenada, we would have heard no end to it.

Comrade Bishop would have been on radio and platform attacking the "imperialist and capitalist" C.D.C. for exploiting Grenada and after an hour of ranting and raving, he would have arrived at the grand finale which would require "unity", "continued struggle", "vigilance", and the necessity of "controlling the commanding heights of the economy". The grand finale is of course; C.D.C. is to be NATIONALIZED - that magic word!

In essence, the possible situations are identical. The differences are a matter of style, and as such, superficial yet fundamental.

Superficial because the circumstances which led to Government taking full control would be the same, and whatever the implications are for the economy would be the same.

Fundamental because Bishop's politicizing of a simple commercial situation, as opposed to Dominica's taking it in stride, is reflective and indicative of the fundamental differences between the two systems of Government.

Bishop needs to politicize such situations in order to create rallying points and a sense of solidarity against a common enemy, for his regime has no democratic legitimacy, and hence a pervasive insecurity exists.

The Government of Dominica on the other hand is legitimate and only needs to test its popular support at the polls.

On a less political note we welcome governments nationalization of DOMLEC and look forward to the benefits being passed on to the public.

We hope too, the black out of Sunday last is not an indication of things to come under the new arrangement.

UNITY OF OPPOSITION FORCES ASSESSED, DERIDED

Douglas Rejection of DLP, DLM

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 16 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] "If I am faced the morning after election with the possibility of having to form a coalition government with Patrick John or Oliver Seraphine I will retire from Politics...resign my seat in the House and retire..."

That's how the NEW CHRONICLE heard it from Parliamentary representative of the Portsmouth Constituency Michael Douglas--a categorical rejection of former colleagues John and Seraphin.

Mr. Douglas explained that "our party has been burn severely already having been through a government with people like Patrick John whom we found totally unprincipled." [as published] As such he said "We are not going to be making any unprincipled alliances."

In an examination of individuals under whom he could serve in government, the UDLP Leader said: "I could serve under somebody like Dyer...I could serve under one or two people in the Alliance whom I don't care to name at this point in time...The more moderate elements in the Alliance and of course I could serve under myself."

Mr Douglas however condemned the Alliance call for unity of opposition forces as a ploy to bolster their hopeless track record at the polls. He said: "The Alliance area the weakest of the parties in Opposition... The very very weakest...They don't control one seat...So I don't see they have any stake in this Alliance business...They are pushing it because they are the weakest."

The NEW CHRONICLE was curious about his election strategy vis-a-vis the Alliance. The UDLP leader said he would advise the DLM Alliance to keep totally out of the election if that Party "really wants to ensure that a capitalist government is out of power." He said the DLM should "allow the Labour Parties to work things out against the Freedom Party", and, he said "The Labour Party would certainly win as there are more Labourites than Freedomites". In return, Mr. Douglas continued "We would give them (The Alliance) a senatorial position and maybe...maybe a ministry."

It is in the interest of Labour unity Mr. Douglas said that he would be willing to serve under ex-communications and Works Minister Henry Dyer now an independent in the Dominica Parliament.

About Mr. Dyer, Mr. Douglas told the NEW CHRONICLE: "Up to now he is not noted for his quickness of thought, because there are a number of things he could have done since he was fired as a minister and since he resigned from the Freedom Party that a lot of political observers including myself feel ought to have been done before."

Mr. Douglas concluded "nonetheless because of the solid consistent progress that he had made through his life I am prepared in the interest of the unity of the working class in Dominica to serve under him."

That, the Portsmouth Parliamentary representative said is contrary to what a lot of people believe that "Mike Douglas wants to be Prime Minister." But, Mr. Douglas said "I am a Prime Minister in my own right, in fact we are all Prime Ministers in our own rights."

Mr. Douglas has not forgotten the old days in government with Messrs John, Seraphine and others as a matter of fact he remembers them so well that he recounted for the NEW CHRONICLE with exceptional clarity the days when Patrick John played dominoes with him the day before firing him from Cabinet. [as published] With similar clarity he recalled that Oliver Seraphine as P.M. in the Interim Government used an opportunity when he (Douglas) attended a World Bank Meeting to dismiss the Leftist elements in the Interim Government appointed by the Committee for National Salvation.

"Today", Mr. Douglas points out "That same man tells you...that he is forming an alliance with the same Leftist elements he dismissed."

"I could serve under somebody like Dyer...I do not think I will be serving in Dominica again under Patrick John or Oliver Seraphine. I don't think that's possible."

Criticism of Opposition

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 83 p 4

[Text]

There are many indications of progress in Dominica today. There are positive signs that things will continue to develop progressively through efficient government enjoying the support of a motivated and dedicated people.

There are however, certain signposts bearing bold evidence of a serious lack of progress in certain areas crucial to

the realization of the goal of total development. Our concern is that such evidence tells the story of simple, deep-rooted shortcomings in the human condition, which, if not corrected could lead to catastrophic future results.

We believe in "averting the danger that has not yet come." As such we are re-introducing an examination of the general human, and it would seem very Dominican, problem of being largely unable to select good from bad when both are thrown together.

The examination is being made in the light of a notable recent political development.

It is amazing that a call for opposition unity at the next general elections involving the coming together of forces as different in ideology and principle as the DLM Alliance and the two labour parties can actually find support in Dominica. It is even more amazing that the support, limited though it may be is grounded on the sole motive of terminating the role of the Freedom Party - an administration that has in the past three years demonstrated, not flawless government, but at least a relatively high standard of public administration unknown in Dominica for quite some time now.

Though traditionally we have been criticized for our short memory it is hoped that some of us have not forgotten that the Freedom Party came into power after 10 years in Opposition at a time when the once adored Labour Party, steeped in corrupt practices and divided by ugly leadership struggles fell from grace.

The question can be asked, even if the Freedom Party had not performed creditably would Seraphine, John, Douglas and Labour be ready to take over in 1985? The answer is clearly 'no'. Why? Because the nature of their politics which caused their wholesale rejection has not changed. They are still protecting the pseudo poor-man-party image - apparently their sole strategy for rallying support. Further, for what is coming out of them those days one cannot be sure from any standpoint of reason that they will do any better than they did previously.

And in their utter desperation and insatiable desire for the reigns of leadership they are being joined by the DLM Alliance, according to Michael Douglas the weakest political party in Dominica. So these days 'profitability' in the business community is becoming 'an undesirable tool used by the big man to keep down the small man.... and the word "exploiter" is being used firstly to describe those whose creativity and sound business efficiency facilitate the utilization of the means of production for their good in particular

and the common good in general. Secondly it is being used as a snare to entrap those whose gullibility is available for exploitation.

But maybe we have been fooled into believing that there is any real difference between these opposition forces. If the opportunistic propensities of the DLM had been shrouded beneath their rhetoric and pro-Soviet jargon before, it is certainly clear now that they are in fact on par with the opportunist, deposed champions of the labour regime. These days their purpose is conveniently united - they say the same things, do the same things and hope for the same things - the fall of the Freedom Party. What is in fact shamefully pathetic is that they now spend so much time criticizing clear examples of progress and healthy entrepreneurship that they have no time to improve their lot.

While opposition will remain necessary in the continuity of democracy we cannot be impressed with the overall performance of opposition forces, intent on going out of the way to confuse issues and calculatedly mislead the public.

But that certainly is our fault: "Dominicans too like to believe what they hear loud mouth people say." If through that process, we are misguided we should rightfully stand the blame and the seriousness of the consequences, harsh though they maybe.

It may never be possible to attain through hope, a crop of politicians - leaders and potential leaders who are all firm adherents to truth and dedicated servants to the cause of increasing the common good through responsible leadership and effective opposition. We can however focus on making ourselves knowers and exponents of real truth to the extent that it becomes impossible to relate to or to be attracted to anything that is potentially bad.

Indeed our only safeguard against possible manipulation by this proposed opposition Alliance (united in purpose but divided in their greed and lust for power) is the immediate eradication of those short comings that make us prone to senseless submissions.

Analysis of Opposition Groups

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Ellsworth Carter]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Sunday, (CANA)--With speculation still rife in opposition circles here that Prime Minister Eugenia Charles will call an early general election, the newly-revamped Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has speedily taken up a proposal from the leftwing Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) for an opposition alliance to fight the ruling Freedom Party (DFP) whenever the poll is announced.

Three constituency branches have already endorsed the proposal which the DLP leadership says is binding on the whole party. The idea will be further discussed at a special convention scheduled for November 4.

However, political observers here say the idea has not gone down well with the rank and file of the DLP, the predominant party here for two decades until its defeat at the polls in 1980. Supporters, they say, feel the ideological colour of the DLM is distracting and the DLP first needs to get itself on a firm footing.

The Labour Party, under the leadership of ex-Prime Minister Oliver Seraphin, regrouped a few months ago after his faction and another led

by Patrick John, also a former Prime Minister, decided to settle their differences.

Prime Minister Charles has dismissed suggestions that she will call a snap election. She says her three year old administration still has a lot of work to do. In the landslide 1980 election victory, Miss Charles' DFP picked up 17 of the 21 seats in the House of Assembly.

The idea of a DLP--DLM merger has not appealed to former Finance Minister Michael Douglas, Leader of the United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP), another splinter group of the original Labour Party which broke up in 1979.

Douglas says his party is keen about an opposition alliance, but sees the DLM as no serious threat to the DFP's stronghold, except perhaps in one constituency. Political observers say he may well team up with sacked DFP Communications and Works Minister, Henry Dyer, to form another party. Dyer resigned from the ruling party after his dismissal by Prime Minister Charles nearly two months ago.

What is baffling observers here is how the supposedly anti-communist DLP could team up with the DLM when Seraphin, while he was Prime Minister in 1980, sacked Cabinet Minister Atherton Martin, dubbing him a communist.

The DLM makes no bones about its leftwing orientation and is a firm advocate of close ties with communist Cuba. In fact, general secretary Dr. Bill Riviere says: "We will seek to broaden our relations with Libya when we get in power."

According to the former United States university professor, the proposed opposition alliance will fight the next general elections under one banner, on one platform and will publish a single manifesto.

"If successful, they could form one government and run the country on the basis of one programme for development," Riviere says. The DLM contested the 1980 poll as part of an alliance which failed to win a seat. Martin led that alliance.

Douglas has said his party was keen on an electoral accommodation with the DLP, but in view of his opinion that the DLP is proposed association with the DLM is "defeatist", these hopes have presumably faded.

Said the DLP leader then: "The United Dominica Labour Party is open to an electoral accommodation, if this can be negotiated on soundly based principles some of which are almost non-negotiable."

Douglas also views the DLP's move as an indication that it is unable to mobilise the mass of its support across the island.

Opposition parties believe that as soon as a proposed US \$30 million (one E.C. dollar equals 37 cents U.S.) road building project is under way, Miss Charles will call the snap election.

In anticipation, the DLM has started to mount its political platform at mass meetings islandwide. The DLP too has stepped up its political activity.

BRIEFS

TAIWAN MISSION--Dominica has signed an Agricultural Technical Agreement with Taiwan. A Taiwan delegation led by Minister without Portfolio Lin Chin Sheng, arrived here Wednesday, on a four-day visit. The Agricultural and Technical Assistance Agreement was signed Thursday when the delegation met with acting Prime Minister Brian Alleyne and Cabinet. It is expected that the agreement will facilitate the implementation of proposed agricultural technical co-operation between Dominica and Taiwan. The Taiwan officials, while here, are expected to undertake field trips to various agricultural projects, and will meet the Dominican Press. The Taiwan delegation includes Ambassador Michael Tung, who is not accredited to Dominica, and the Director of the Department of Central and South American Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francisco Ou. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 83 p 1]

VISITING TEAM FROM ST LUCIA--A St. Lucian team of four Community Leaders led by Community Development Officer, Sylvester Morose, are now in the state. The five are here on a one-week stay to observe and participate in community development projects. The visit forms part of activities for community awareness month in St. Lucia. The activities there began on September 3 and end on September 30. According to a St. Lucian source, Dominica was selected for this aspect of the awareness programme because of the high level of organisation of its community projects, particularly those undertaken on a self help basis. The team's visit is co-ordinated by the Local Government and Community Development Department. The group is scheduled to meet Government officials, visit organisations of special interest in the Roseau area, and projects in the Southern, South-Western, Western and Northern districts. The St. Lucians will also be given the opportunity to observe the nature of community organisation in the rural area. They will also attend some community based meetings. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 83 p 2]

CDB LOAN RESERVATIONS--The Bridgetown-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) could in the future shy away from lending money to Dominica for infrastructural and development projects, Government sources have said. The sources said the situation could result if there were any default on payment of monies owed to the CDB in respect of a loan on behalf of the Dominica Port Authority. The bank recently commissioned an examination of the port's operations in the wake of reports that the authority was

experiencing severe financial difficulties and a well documented inability to service its debts, currently standing at EC\$22-million (EC\$1: 37¢ U.S.). The commission's report is now complete and has been submitted to government. The Port Authority lost EC\$19-million last year and the CDB reportedly believes certain stringent measures will have to be adopted to reverse the trend.

CSO: 3298/080

COARD REPORTS ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS, PROFITS, EMPLOYMENT

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Planning Trade and Finance, Bernard Coard, has said that things are "tight" with Grenada's economy, but it is moving forward.

In the television and radio programme "Perspective '83", Min. Coard said that already \$53.3 million has been collected in revenue between January and August this year, while \$51.2 million has already been spent on recurrent expenditure. This means that for two-thirds of the year, over \$2 million surplus on the recurrent budget was collected.

He said that this year's budget target of \$8 million surplus on the recurrent budget looks realistic. He expects an increase in the rate of revenue collection towards year end since more taxes will be collected because more goods enter the country.

If the present rate of expenditure continues, he said an \$8 million surplus will certainly be made on the recurrent budget.

On the capital budget, Min. Coard said that prospects for the next three years look good. The government expects to spend between July this year and June 1986, some \$278 million in investment programmes, he said. This represents \$93 million a year being spent on the capital budget, on programmes and projects of the Revolution.

All this money will come on the basis of agreements the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) already has with government organisations such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the European Development Fund (EDF), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC), and Algeria, Libya, German Democratic Republic, Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

Min. Coard pointed out that already \$350 million has been spent on investment projects after only four years and six months of Revolution.

The PRG is already planning beyond the next three years. Work on feasibility studies to put together a five year plan beginning after 1986, has already begun, Min Coard said.

On the private sector's role in Grenada's economic development, Min. Coard reiterated his call for the private sector to move away from what he calls "invoice capitalism" and into investments.

The private sector has managerial and technical skills, as well as access to these skills, and therefore has an important role to play.

One-third of a \$40 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be put into commercial banks so this means that more money will be available to the private sector for investment.

On the performance of Grenada's 45 state enterprises, Min. Coard said \$19.9 million worth of goods has been produced, although the gross production target is \$25.3 million. This means that in the first six months of the year, state enterprises are \$5.4 million below their production targets.

However, Min. Coard pointed out that a profit of \$2.6 million has been made by the state sector in the first half of this year. If this trend continues, he said, it will make its projected \$5.2 million profit.

Despite a number of lay offs in government departments and ministries, some 1,378 people more have been employed this year. This, however, represents 150 workers less than the targeted 1,528.

Min. Coard pointed out that while 18 people from the Ministry of Construction and 21 from the outer parishes have been laid off because of disguised unemployment, and when projects come to an end; at the same time over 100 workers were taken on at the newly opened Grenada Beach Hotel.

Min. Coard said the PRG is trying to get rid of overstaffing, but is attempting to phase it out. Many of those laid off, he said, will be incorporated into new projects.

The National Inservice Training Programme (NISTEP) has served to increase some teachers' earnings by 18 per cent, Min. Coard said. He explained that NISTEP has allowed a number of teachers to qualify thus increasing their earnings. Increases have been paid to teachers who have moved from grade one to two. Further increases are to be paid to teachers being promoted to grade three.

CSO: 3298/081

REPORT ON DELEGATION TO CARICOM UNDER RANDHANNY

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

MINISTER of Tourism and unemployment in advanced Civil Aviation and Deputy capitalist countries and their Minister of Finance, Trade and impact on other countries, and Planning, Lyden Ramdhanny is will assess the world economic heading a Grenada delegation system.

to a meeting of Common- Min. Coard said Grenada in- wealth Finance ministers in tends to lobby that problems Trinidad. of small island states are con-

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) consultant to Grenada, Dave Bhodu, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning, Gloria Payne-Banfield, are Grenada's other representatives at the meeting which began yesterday and ends Thursday.

In the radio and television programme "Perspective '83", Minister of Trade, Planning and Finance, Bernard Coard, said the meeting's agenda will be identical to that of the General Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IMF and World Bank (WB), which will be held in Washington from September 27 to 30.

Forty-eight countries are attending the meeting to caucus for a common position to enter the IMF/WB meeting which will be attended by 146 countries.

The meeting will discuss protectionism and inflation rates,

sidered at the meeting, and will raise the proposal for the restructuring of the WB and IMF, for more participation by developing countries.

Grenada will also talk about the New International Economic Order and the IMF's Compensation Financing Facility (CFC). It is proposing that CFC be given for longer periods and on better terms to developing countries.

Grenada's concrete recommendation will be that the IMF's repayment period for the CFC be extended from a three or five year period to eight to ten years.

Min. Coard explained that in cases where countries' export crops were destroyed by natural disasters, the short repayment period does not allow them time to get the crops back to a production level where they can repay the loan.

These same issues, Min. Coard said, were raised at the United

Nations Centre for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) conference which he described as a failure for developing countries.

Following the WB/IMF meeting, Grenada will again be represented at a conference of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Economic Community (EEC) to be held in Brussels early October.

A new agreement will be negotiated between the EEC and ACP countries to replace the Lome 11 convention, which has come to an end.

Min. Coard said this meeting has great significance for Grenada and the other 45 developing countries attending, since it will determine what concessions they will get for their goods on the EEC market of European countries.

Grenada is the chairman of the ministerial bureau of Caribbean countries of the ACP.

Grenada has benefitted from the Lome 11 convention through money to build community centres, health clinics, and the Eastern Main Road project, among others, representing \$25 to \$30 million.

UNION SIGNS CONTRACT WITH NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 21 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

THE West Indian Publishing Company, publishers of the FREE WEST INDIAN newspaper signed its first three-year contract with the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) on Monday.

Present at the signing ceremony which took place at the company's office were union representative Carl Johnson, shop steward David Blackburn, manager Keith Joseph and Labour Commissioner Franklyn Philbert.

Blackburn said that negotiations for this contract started in 1980. One of the reasons why the contract took so long to be completed he said, was the many changes in managers. "The negotiations were drawn out and the workers really had to struggle to achieve this contract" he added.

He also noted that this was the first contract signed by this company which is one of the oldest in the country

Joseph said that the company is pleased to be able to provide better working conditions and improved standards of living for its workers. He noted that the union held many discussions with the workers and the workers themselves elected Patsy

Lewis, a reporter, and Denis Louison, a litographer, in addition to Blackburn, to be on the negotiating team.

Contract

Some of the highlights of the contract include salary increases of 7½ per cent for

this year, 10 per cent in 1984 and another 10 per cent in 1985. The increase which was effective from July will be retroactive from January this year and will be paid in two installments; the first at the end of this month and the other in December.

The last time workers got an increase was in 1980. It was agreed that the salary increases will be reviewed next year.

Benefits

Other benefits, include meal allowance, sick leave, overtime and severance pay.

The contract also guarantees workers more rights in the running of the company through worker participation in the production, disciplinary and management committees.

CSO: 3298/081

DETAILS OF IMF LOAN, PLANNED PROJECTS, REPAYMENT STEPS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 14 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The PRG has recently accepted a major loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The loan is for approximately forty million dollars EC (\$40 m) which will be paid to the PRG in quarterly installments over the three years, 1983-1986.

The IMF loan must be repaid over the next 8-10 years. These terms are, of course, much more favourable for Grenada than if the Government has secured a loan from the International Commercial Banks, who would have demanded full repayment within 3-5 years and at a much higher rate of interest.

The PRG's intention is to use the loan to stimulate national development even further. Nearly fourteen million (13.8) dollars is to go to the National Banks, the NCB and the GBC, to build up their reserves of funds. This will mean that more loans will be available to the Private Sector, small business people, and cooperatives, especially for investment in hotels, other tourist facilities, manufacturing, and agro and other industries.

Nearly twelve million dollars (11.7) will go directly into the Government's capital expansion programme for a variety of projects including the building of further miles of farm and feeder roads, expansion of agricultural production, to develop the recently established farm machinery pool for rental to private farmers and State farms, and to finance road improvements islandwide, including in Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

The remaining fourteen million dollars (14 m) will be used to repay the IMF for past loans which will fall due during this period.

The effect of this will be to release fourteen million dollars into development projects which otherwise would have had to be paid from Government funds. These Government funds (all \$14 million) would not also be fully utilized to develop the Tourism, Agricultural, Fishing, Agro Industrial and Forestry Sectors of the economy.

This loan was only accepted after several months of negotiations with the IMF and is not subject to the usual 'IMF medicine' applied in many

countries, namely, layoffs of workers, wage freezes, cut-backs in social services, removal of price controls, devaluation, drastic cut-backs in capital development programmes, etc.

Because of the strength of Grenada's economy and the PRG's efficient economic management shown by the fact that we enjoy a surplus on our recurrent budget, and have experienced real economic growth in every year since the revolution, increasing employment, and relatively stable prices, the IMF was not in a position to impose the usual harsh conditions for its loan, said an official at the Ministry of Finance.

The IMF loan does require us to monitor carefully both our recurrent, capital and State enterprise spending, but this is done, in any case, by the Ministries of Finance and Planning.

In addition, the IMF loan has required an agreement that the PRG will not accept any further 'hard loans' during the next three years on high terms of interest with short repayment periods. The PRG had already taken this decision only to accept grants of soft loans in order to keep our national debt low enough to be repayable.

In recent years the IMF has come under severe attack from many under-developed countries, for the suffering which its harsh conditions have imposed on the working people of countries which have been forced to accept IMF loans. In addition, many countries which have accepted loans have gotten into deeper problems, because they have used those loans to finance over-expenditure on the recurrent account (to finance Government Ministries, unrealistic pay increases for public servants, etc.) and for importing more goods than the country can afford, instead of increasing local production and productivity.

In the case of Grenada, the IMF loan will be used to finance capital development projects, which will generate more jobs and increase real wealth, with which to repay the loan.

CSO: 3298/081

REVIEW OF BANANA-GROWING SITUATION; PROBLEMS PERSIST

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 8 Oct 83 WINBAN 25th Anniversary Supplement p 22

[Text]

AT present Grenada contributes approximately 10 per cent of the total banana exports from the four Windward Islands. And despite a continuing decline in banana production and exports, bananas continue to play a pivotal role in the Grenada economy and efforts have been made by all parties concerned to ensure the survival of the industry.

In 1981, Grenada exported 11,201 tons of bananas valued at \$9,872,056 compared to 9,835.8 tons in 1982 valued at \$8,942,723.97 — a drop of 12 per cent.

In an exclusive interview, acting General Manager of the Grenada Banana Co-operative Society

GBCS) Anthony Isaac explained that Grenada's fall in output in 1982 had been largely influenced by circumstances in 1981 which included an abrupt and sustained drop in growers' price brought about by an unusual erratic Green Market Price (GMP), a worsening of the availability of farm labour, growing input costs and a progressive erosion of growers' confidence in the crop as a reliable income source.

According to General Manager, "the net effect of these factors has been a chronic inattention to husbandry practices".

Mr Isaac said that "despite the low returns, banana growers had access

to a number of incentive payments which were related to practices to enhance fruit quality. These included, 0.25 cents per pound for deheaded fruit, 0.5 cents per pound for sleeved fruit, 1.0 cents per pound for deflowered fruit and 4.0 cents per pound for qualified field packers".

The GBCS General Manager admits that their target for field packing of bananas has been slow but he notes that the farmer who field packs his bananas and meets the prescribed quality standards receives a total incentive and premium payment of 7.7 cents per pound over and above the prevailing price to non-field packers.

Board member Christopher Ram, an accountant by profession and a regular member at WINBAN meetings was however more optimistic of banana production in 1983. He listed a number of factors which could, increase Grenada's contribution. These he said, were the expansion of banana acreage as cocoa farmers replanted their field under the Cocoa Rehabilitation Project, repair to a number of key farm roads, availability and distribution of inputs and a year virtually free from damaging high winds and rain. But Grenada's banana problems is also hindered by Moko disease

COUNCIL REJECTS 'TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES' BILL

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 29 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] The Regional Council held a marathon session on Tuesday evening, when the full assembly met to examine the bill on transferring responsibilities as part of the law on decentralization. And so as not to break the rule, chairman Moustache was nearly three-quarters of an hour late in opening the meeting. In his introduction, he defined the problem facing the council members--they were to give a detailed opinion concerning the bill. The chairman then gave a brief review of the council's activity, recalling that the Regional Assembly's mission is to plan and implement the region's social, cultural, and economic development.

The council began its work last March, and about 1,500 people responded to the call. The result was that it came up with the outline of a regional plan without even knowing whether the funds for carrying it out would be provided.

So Tuesday's session was a working meeting of considerable importance. It was a matter of examining the bill down to its smallest details and making sure that it would be beneficial. It was also a matter of obtaining maximum funds in order to take on the mission of development, the danger being that the responsibilities would exist without the necessary funds. Moustache then discussed the problems that would not fail to arise as a result of the government's decision to close down the sugar unit in Beauport.

The planned closing of the mill took up a good portion of the assembly's time. In the chairman's opinion, the Regional Council could not meet on the very day on which it learned of the decision without discussing it. "The closing of Beauport could well be the detonator of a series of social crises," and chairman Moustache explained the capital importance to our economy of the sugargrowing basin in the north, which is the most homogeneous in Guadeloupe. His analysis took into account the constraints represented by the distribution of land, the situation of the small planters, and the damage done by the drought. Despite those highly catastrophic circumstances, the chairman remains convinced that if all the parties involved assume their responsibilities, it will be possible to straighten out the situation. He then denounced those who had made the decision to shut down the unit, because "no decision concerning the Beauport mill can be made in haste." Such measures will lead to the economic and social decline of that zone in northern Grande-Terre. The government must therefore

assume its responsibility by calling national solidarity into play. And the regional chairman at once proposed that the council approve a motion condemning the Beauport closing and ask the government to keep and respect its commitments.

The next item was the examination of the text of the bill, and there were no surprises in the debate. The assembly adopted very definite positions for or against the bill. Speaking on behalf of the Communist group, Pierre-Justin set the tone. His group was favorable toward the bill but deplored numerous imperfections in the text, which he said showed some desire to innovate but failed to take several aspects of the question into account. Moreover, he said, the responsibilities of each of the assemblies needed to be clearly specified.

The next speaker was Deputy Esdras, who developed legal arguments. Like Bernier and Mrs Michaux-Chevry, he stressed the need for a separation of the two assemblies, not only in terms of their responsibilities but also in terms of their funds. In the case of the Regional Council, those funds must come from the national government, not from the department. The Departmental Assembly must not be "stripped" to benefit the region; instead, funds must be transferred from the national government to the region. On the basis of political--and particularly subtle--arguments, Lucien Bernier said that the debate should not even be concerned any longer with questions of responsibilities and how to share them. He said that instead, discussion concerning the stagnation of the economy was the paramount issue.

Lucette Michaux-Chevry stressed the problem's financial aspects and asked that the taxpayer be protected and not be made to bear the burden of the transfer of responsibilities. She said that the General Council had already had to make up for the national government's failure to act, notably by assuming responsibility for the deficit at SOSUMAG.

There is not enough money for both assemblies, and the department must not be plundered to benefit the region. The text should therefore be examined by a general committee.

When the meeting resumed, Councilor Esdras said that "the text is contrary to the law, to decentralization, and to the interests of the Guadeloupians." He asked that the assembly reject the bill entirely instead of going over it article by article. Saving 2 hours of debate, without attempting to amend the text, would demonstrate the assembly's clearly unfavorable opinion. In her speech, Mrs Michaux-Chevry pointed out that the text had been rejected by the councilors in French Guiana. A motion was then made. It repeated the arguments developed by Deputy Esdras--that is, that the bill violates the law, that it does not comply with the principles of decentralization, and that the funds for the region must come from the national government. The government bill was thus rejected by a vote of 21 to 18.

We note that the councilors on the left--Socialists and Communists together--have issued a resolution asking the government to prevent the closing of the Beauport mill.

11798
CSO: 3219/3

GUADELOUPE

BRIEFS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP--The consumer price index for Guadeloupe rose by 0.4 percent in August 1983. This moderate rise was due to a combination of four factors: 1) the pause in energy fuel prices; 2) the moderate increase in food prices or the seasonal drop in fruit and vegetable prices, which was offset by higher meat and fish prices; 3) the higher cost of services and interurban road transportation, which have undergone their second price hike since the price freeze ended (road transportation is up by 7.5 percent since the start of the year and by 21.8 percent over the past 12 months); and 4) the increased cost of manufactured products due to the higher tariff on vehicles (up 1.8 percent) and higher prices for clothing and accessories (up 1.7 percent), the prices of which are influenced by the dollar rate. [Text] [Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 24 Sep 83 p 1] 11798

CSO: 3219/3

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--The Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced the following appointments: Fernando Martinez Jimenez, ambassador to Brazil; Manuel Lopez Luna, ambassador to the EEC; Patricia Licona, minister-adviser and alternate representative to the OAS; Roberto Flores Bermudez, minister-adviser and alternate representative to the United Nations; Julio Rendon, minister-adviser to the Honduran Embassy in the United States; Juan Alberto Lara Bueso, foreign secretariat senior officer; Julio Garcia, Foreign Secretariat legal adviser; and Gustavo Milla, adviser to the Honduran Embassy in Nicaragua. [Text] [PA231945 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Oct 83 PA]

CSO: 3248/106

PNP'S PATTERSON DISCUSSES POLITICAL AFFILIATION ISSUE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

"The most basic and fundamental requirement for our recovery is for all Jamaicans, irrespective of their political allegiance and sympathies, to be inspired by purposes that are patriotic of the country and supportive of Jamaica," according to Mr. P. J. Patterson, former Deputy Prime Minister in the PNP Administration.

Mr. Patterson was speaking at the North St. Andrew Kiwanis Club dinner Thursday night at Hotel Four Seasons, Kingston. He asked whether Jamaicans would ever come to the realization that they represent one nation and one people, and not two parties or two tribes.

"Jamaica cannot overcome its fundamental problems until the people are ready to cross the great political divide. We can make no lasting progress unless we remove the barrier of partisan separation," Mr. Patterson said.

He stressed that he was not asking for the removal of the two-party system, but that the people should recognize that the country was bigger than the parties. To achieve this, Mr. Patterson said there were other corrective behaviour patterns required. The political leaders should not discredit their country abroad when out of office then call for everybody to put Jamaica first when they have won the elections. "It must be Jamaica first whether you are in or out," he added.

He also spoke of the danger of seeking to discredit certain national institutions such as the Church, Judiciary and Security Force. He said that when one sought to discredit these institutions or the leadership, one was eroding the confidence of the people in the institutions and in the country.

MR. PATTERSON APPLAUDED the peace efforts by the leaders of the country and pointed to certain steps which must be taken in order that such efforts should not be in vain. First, he saw the need to remove some of the underlying causes which have created political tension, for example, the paucity of scarce resources and the feeling in certain sections of the community that one could only survive if his party succeeded or was condemned to gradual death if his party lost the elections.

He called for more frank and frequent political dialogue between political parties on important issues like the fight against drug use and crime. Mr. Patterson also identified the role of community groups, which had supporters of both political camps among their membership, and which should speak out for what was right, condemning wrong, irrespective of who did it.

The force of public opinion and irresistible moral pressure, in his view, must create a social sanction which would oblige every political representative to make the peace efforts work and not to pay mere lip-service.

After the many years Jamaicans must face the reality that the problems could not be solved by waving a magic wand nor by any act of political wizardry. Mr. Patterson said that Jamaica could only overcome its woes by leadership that combined vision with a sense of realism, a society that was prepared to sacrifice now if it expected to reap later, and a people who understood that progress would entail hardships but remain determined to treat the temporary obstacles as the stepping stones to the promise of a future destiny.

The dinner was highlighted by the induction of seven new Kiwanians by President, Mr. Roy Pennant.

CSO: 3298/082

MANLEY CHARGES JLP ADMINISTRATION WITH FAILURE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Opposition Leader Michael Manley has charged that the JLP Government has failed the people of Jamaica because their concepts and strategies were wrong, and that it had begun to destroy even the big people of the country.

"We are in the deepest imaginable trouble. If you are a farmer you've been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency," he said.

Addressing on Sunday at Vauxhall Secondary School in Kingston, the annual constituency conference of Kingston East Central, of which he is the Member of Parliament, Mr. Manley told his supporters that the policies the Government pursued in November 1980 were "cheap, raw politics."

He said that when they looked at all the gains which he said were made by the farming community, the decision was taken to allow a flood of goods to come in from abroad, taking away the protection and exposing the Jamaican farmers to a competition that they could not handle because of their size.

"They said that when we called for sacrifice to protect those farmers, it was mismanagement but it was not mismanagement, it was strategy," Mr. Manley said.

Declaring that no one in Jamaica could silence him from talking the truth, Mr. Manley said that he had once said that even if Jamaica discovered oil and had all the foreign exchange in the world, the PNP would not relax or give up certain controls to keep out some of the luxury goods entering Jamaica, so that the small businessman could survive.

He said that many had cursed and abused him for making the statement but time had proven him right, "because they did not find oil, they thought President Reagan was an oil well."

"We are back to square one. The Government strategy is wrong and cannot work because it is based upon that kind of contempt for the Jamaican people," he said. "I don't come here to tell you that the Government is a wicked set of people, I am willing to give them all the benefit of the doubt."

The Government was failing, he said, because their strategies and concepts were wrong and could not work for the Jamaican people. "They mash up the small

people first and the strategy is beginning to mash up even big man," Mr. Manley said.

Bank of Jamaica statistics, said Mr. Manley, showed that the national debt was \$2.8 billion adding that the strategies of the Government were so "catastrophic" that in six months of this year they had lost \$643 million in trade while in the last year of the PNP administration it had only lost \$300 million.

MR. MANLEY ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT of allowing the tourist industry to be experiencing all kinds of pressure as a result of the parallel market rate of exchange, stating that it was the industry which was supposed to save the country but was now being strangled to death by the strategy of the Government.

He said that the Prime Minister was so desperate that he had "gone to trouble the Coar of Arms" and that Mr. Seaga wanted to change the crocodile to a mongoose.

"I think the Prime Minister has found himself in a state of virtual confusion," he added.

There was a propaganda that was being circulated that because of the economic situation, the PNP had better not win the election since they did not know how the party was going to clean up the mess, he told his cheering constituents.

Mr. Manley dismissed this as a "ridiculous argument" because the longer the PNP left the country unmobilised, the worse and worse the situation was going to get. That argument sounded to him, Mr. Manley said, as if it was a horse-race and somebody advised that the horse be pulled back and give up the race.

"But learn this, this jockey is not pulling back the horse and giving up the race. This horse is going to win," he declared.

Jamaica's problem was not only an economic problem, he remarked, but it was also a political problem where the people needed to be mobilised around certain programmes such as co-operatives, land reform and land-lease.

"Right now the country needs to be mobilised to accept that we keep certain things out for the time being so that our farmers can grow or otherwise he will have to starve or come to Kingston to compete with Kingstonsians for jobs," Mr. Manley said.

On the enumeration of voters, he urged the youth to get enumerated and suppress their fears about the process and that they should get politically educated to understand why they had to struggle.

He stated that he knew that there was a reluctance on the part of the youth to get enumerated, but "if you back away because you have a doubt, what you are doing in all your bitter fear today, is you're condemning yourself to a bitter tomorrow."

VITAL IMPORTS GET BUDGET BOOST AS TRADE IS ASSESSED

\$110-Million Infusion

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Sep 83 pp 1, 15

[Text] The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, announced last night that the foreign exchange budget for vital imports such as raw materials, spare parts and capital goods had been increased by US\$110 million following a "crucial" review of import licences.

Some US\$1,225 million had been allocated to the foreign exchange budget in June when fresh measures to safeguard the economy were unveiled by Prime Minister Edward Seaga; this was increased yesterday to US\$1,335 million.

The Minister also announced that importers will now be able to get 20 per cent of their quotas for 1984 in the form of advances so that by January the annual problem of obtaining licences would not recur for the first quarter of the year.

Mr. Faz, on his return from Washington on Tuesday where the Prime Minister is now attending a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), took "full charge" of a Ministerial team assigned to review the allocation of licences and quotas, a situation which resulted in the return of licences to a "handful" of importers who through their organisations, the Jamaica Manufacturers Association and the Jamaica Exporters Association, protested this move on Wednesday.

In an interview with the GLEANER last night, Mr. Vaz said that the review was completed Wednesday night and for the first time his Ministry and the

Trade Administrator's Department had up to date information on imports up to September 22 this year.

The computerisation at the Trade Administrator Department was now completed with information on exports, imports, licences and quotas issued fed into the computer.

"I have personally taken over the exercise to try to reconcile where we are against the revised foreign exchange budget issued by the Ministry of Finan-

ce," Mr. Vaz told the Gleaner.

PERFORMANCE OF EACH IMPORTER in respect of quotas and licences issued previously and the utilisation against these had been examined. Mr. Vaz said that during the exercise it was discovered that there were large quantities of un-utilised and under-utilised quotas and licences.

"We intend to take back these quotas and licences and apportion them to

other importers who need and can utilise them," Mr. Vaz said.

As of yesterday, the process of calling in importers to inform them of the findings of the review commenced and would continue until the end of next week, during which time "critical licences" would be issued, Mr. Vaz said.

Simultaneous with the exercise, Mr. Vaz said, there would be the introduction of a new system which he described as the best thing that ever happened to the importing community. He said that the Trade Board would be assigning quota advances against 1984 quotas by October so that importers would feel secure in the knowledge that it would be business as usual, departing from past "traumatic" experiences at the beginning of each year.

Formerly each first quarter of the year had been fraught with traumatic experiences in terms of the tardiness in the issuing of licences and quotas, allowing the importer to lose a lot of ground.

"We are now allowing the importer to plan and not panic. At the end of the exercise next week we'll be able to say to the importer that he can get 20 per cent of his quota for 1984 based on quotas allocated in 1983 while new ones are being finalised," he said.

Mr. Vaz said that the review was proceeding smoothly as there were instances where "we had voluntary surrenders of licences" because the holders were told of the 1984 advances.

IN OTHER INDUSTRIAL MATTERS, the JMA has called a special meeting of its members for next Wednesday to have manufacturers air their complaints on matters such as quotas and licences, CARICOM trade and CARICOM exchange rates, the Export Development Fund (EDF), and the parallel market.

The manufacturers will also be asked to submit their plans for export development, a release from the JMA said yesterday.

According to the release, the executive of the manufacturers lobby convened a special meeting Tuesday last in response to urgent calls from a number of members complaining about the refusal of the Trade Administrator to process licence applications at the time.

The JMA impressed upon the Ministry of Industry and Commerce the plight of the complaining manufacturers and the President was assured that on re-submission, the applications would be processed, the release said. It added however that based on information available to the JMA some of the re-submitted licences had been approved.

Complaints addressed at the executive meeting, the release noted, showed that members were quite confused by either a lack of information or by what appeared to be conflicting information out of the Trade Administrator's Department.

"They were anxious not only about the short term licence situation, but also about the longer term as they could not continue to operate without planning as ad hoc operations were now prohibitively costly," the release said.

The release further stated that all the members were concerned about the outcome of both the private sector and inter-government meetings concerning CARICOM trade and exchange rates. They were also pressing for information regarding the EDF and disgruntled about the parallel market transaction, a consequence of which was the "escalation of production costs", making domestically manufactured products very expensive.

The meeting of the manufacturers is set for Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the JMA's board room.

Shearer on Illegalities

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER the Rt. Hon Hugh Shearer told a Maritime Week banquet last night that "bureaucratic delays" complained of by the business sector were largely caused by

"the large scale of illegal practices in imports and exports by some businessmen."

Mr. Shearer, who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, was speaking at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel at a banquet and citation ceremony, one of the highlights of Maritime Week.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the illegal practices include the importation of goods falsely as "no funds gifts", and the non-return of foreign exchange earnings out of the sale of export goods. Continuation of the practices could lead to grave consequences, he said.

At the outset Mr. Shearer linked trade union and political development with the growth of maritime activity and went on to say:

"As we mark Maritime Week, I am, of course, aware of complaints in the business sector that bureaucratic delays are contributing to the problems of doing business of all kinds, and in particular that these bureaucratic delays are slowing down the passage of goods through the ports and causing an escalation in the cost of port services.

"I regard this occasion as an appropriate opportunity to make the point that a great deal of what is described as "bureaucratic delay" is caused by the large scale of illegal practices in imports and exports by some businessmen. It is in an effort to deal with these varieties of illegal practices in import and export transactions, that the Government has been obliged to institute additional arrangements to counter these illegalities. The establishment of the "stripping station" to examine contents of containers bringing goods into Jamaica is one example. Illegal practices also include the importation of goods falsely as "no funds gifts" for which millions of

U.S. Dollars and other foreign currency are being taken out of the country's foreign exchange earnings to pay.

ILLEGAL PRACTICE includes non-return of foreign exchange earnings out of sale of export goods in which hard-earned and borrowed foreign exchange is invested for production.

The route to economic recovery is by increased production and productivity and marketing and observance of legal practices. The indulgence in illegal import and export practices will lead to ruin and very grave consequences.

I urge all persons in all categories in the Maritime Sector, including port workers, supervisory, managerial, clerical, personnel, to take a positive interest in this grave problem and use your position at the Water-front in offices and on docks to assist to eradicate the destructive, illegal activities in your own interest and the national interest.

The measures taken by the government are not simply for the pleasure of catching wrong doers, but in order to protect the very economic life-blood of the Jamaican economy.

It is in the interest of every Jamaican. Indeed, it is the responsibility of every Jamaican to assist the relevant bodies to eradicate these illegal practices which are damaging the national economic recovery effort and endangering the stability of our Institutions and the preservation of the social and economic gains out of 45 years of struggle.

Widening Trade Deficit

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 2 Oct 83 p 1C

[Article by Raymond Forrest]

[Text]

Aggravated by poor economic results the Jamaican economy has been under continuous pressure so far in 1983. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the country's visible trade figures over the first half of 1983. A look at the latest values show a very disappointing first half performance as despite a rise in imports over 1982, exports have fallen drastically which has produced a widening of the already perennial trade deficit.

BLOW Efforts to improve on this are exports falling but imports are much higher. Exports most vital area of the country's life, as not only port values of J\$616 million over Jan-July 1983 compares unfavourably with \$678 million in 1982, to the Government's effort.

\$928 million in 1981, \$877 million in 1980 and \$716 million in 1979 over a similar time frame for January. Import values for the first six months of 1983, on the other hand, were J\$1.259 billion, J\$1.133 billion in 1982, \$1.24 billion in 1981, \$950 million in 1980 and \$799 million in 1979. In percentage figures this means a decrease of 8% in export sales and an increase of 11% in import intake for 1983 over 1982.

DEFICIT

This gives a trade deficit of J\$643 million over the first half of 1983 (which figure incidentally is larger than that of Jamaica's exports over the same six months), compared to \$454 million in 1982, \$311 million in 1981, \$73 million in 1980 and \$83 million in 1979 over a similar first half. Bad news indeed.

Much of this reduction in exports must be attributed to the lower sales of

bauxite in 1983 and the stall in CARICOM trade during the early months of this year as Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago (Jamaica's largest markets) took retaliatory action against Jamaica's introduction of the parallel rate of exchange for some of its imports. Notwithstanding this imports have risen appreciably, as evidenced in the above values.

FINANCE

The question is posed of how long can we continue to finance this trade deficit (as well as the usual deficit on the services side of the current account) with capital inflows and loans?

Further drastic actions may unfortunately have to be undertaken. In June when the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, announced additional economic measures, U.S. \$150 million was lopped off the Import Budget for 1983/84 in the areas of consumer and capital

goods. How effective this proves in slowing the trade deficit will only be seen at the end of 1983 when the relevant figures are compiled and tabulated.

LOANS

Loans in this region of the world are also much more difficult to negotiate at present time and the Jamaican economy has not shown the financial recovery that would encourage investors and foreign bankers to plough much new capital into the economy.

The low par value of the Jamaican currency is also closely related to the nation's poor trade performance and the rising external debt. An external debt that is being added to continuously given the country's inability to check the need for foreign credit on a large scale in all areas. Up to the end of June 1983, the external debt was J\$2.8 billion, which can be compared with \$452 million at the end of 1977, \$1.138 billion at the

end of 1978, \$1.49 billion at the end of 1980, \$1.89 billion at the end of 1981 and \$2.376 billion at the end of Sept. 1982. In fact almost of 90% increase in over three years without any commensurate increase in productivity in the economy although certain external arrears have been paid off.

COPE

All of this must give those in control of the nation's finances a sinking feeling over their ability to cope. How long will it be before Jamaica begins to take tangible steps to earn its own way in something what maybe only soothsayers and foretellers can boldly state!

Over the next six months of this year one can only hope that the import cuts that were enforced and a vigorous burst in exports will help to reduce the severity of this trade gap. The country is certainly not in a position to do worse.

Vas Interview

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 2 Oct 83 pp 9, 15A

[Interview with Douglas Vaz, minister of Industry and Commerce, by Winston Witter; date and place not given]

[Text]

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Douglas Vaz, has been hammering home a message to businessmen since he took up the reigns of his important and often mis-understood Ministry — "get out there and export." This message has gained added momentum in recent months in the face of a serious foreign exchange crisis and a resultant parallel market arrange-

ment on the one hand and with potential opportunities that can flow from the Reagan-inspired Bill, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, on the other.

His Ministry has come under increasing attack from the productive and mercantile sectors, large and small. But he has weathered the storm very well, always appearing defiant and intolerant of whom he calls the "belly-achers", while recognising the need for a structural adjustment of the Jamaican mentality.

"Local producers have benefitted considerably from the parallel market arrangement introduced by the Government to safeguard the economy because it has provided a bias in their favour," he declares.

Explaining how he arrived at this conclusion, Mr. Vaz said the local producer was allowed to bring in some of his raw materials and capital goods at the official rate of exchange, whereas other importers of third market goods were forced to bring these in at the parallel market rate.

What concerns him, Mr. Vaz says is that the economic slippage resulting from the cutback in the foreign exchange budget is going to militate against positive growth but the Government is trying to do everything to ensure that this is not aggravated.

In an interview with the *Gleaner*, touching on a wide range of topics relating to his Ministerial Portfolio, Mr. Vaz said that particular attention had to be paid to the allocation of funds to ensure that such funds as were available went to the right sectors.

Quota system

"If this frivolous importer wants to get upset, then he can get upset; but we have to ensure that persons getting the funds are serious importers of serious merchandise," he added.

Touching on the quota system which hinges on the allocation of foreign exchange resources, Mr. Vaz said a comprehensive review was now underway at the Trade Administrator's Department geared at streamlining the licensing regime.

The problem with the quota system was that the foreign exchange budget was slashed by \$150 million in June, at which time the Trade Board had granted quotas based on the original foreign exchange budget.

"What is being done now is a detailed review of where the individual importers are vis-a-vis their actual imports for the year. You can't adjust a quota unless you know what is the utilisation against them. We have to be looking at the licences granted against quotas," the Minister said.

Examination was also being carried out on the licences granted through the Export Development Fund (EDF) and quota-free importers with a comparison of their performances in 1982.

Mercantile

Mr. Vaz explained that the end result of this exercise would be that consumer goods, especially non-essentials, would not be receiving priority

treatment, noting that despite a notice sent out a few weeks ago to this effect, some importers failed to understand the extent of the crisis and that the priority had to be raw materials and capital goods.

"We have to look at capital goods in the light of a budget cut in this area to determine what is required to ensure development and not just bringing in capital goods in the non-essential category," he said. Expressing amazement that some people still wanted to continue business as usual in a mercantile way in the face of the foreign exchange crisis, Mr. Vaz observed that the answer to the foreign exchange crisis was to desist from trading.

What is your recommendation to these persons who merely want to trade?

People wanted to change from one consumer goods to another rather than setting their sights down on how to adjust business pattern to comply with the national priority which is producing for exports. Strict importers of mercantile goods have got to change their bias to use his capital and go into a business with the deliberate purpose of generating foreign exchange, which generation may assist one day in allowing him to go back to mercantilism. This is a structural adjustment of the Jamaican mentality. No structural adjustment of the economy can continue unless you structure the entrepreneurial mentality.

Complaints

But many entrepreneurs are complaining that they don't have the wherewithal to do what you're suggesting.

Some entrepreneurs are doing extremely well along this line. My only regret is that they are hampered by some of the tools required for their forward movement such as the EDF. It doesn't mean that because all things are not cleared all at once, then you can't go ahead. I have time for the people who are going ahead. I don't have time for the belly-achers who'll not get rid of it.

Are Lines of Credit still available?

Yes. But the short term Lines of Credit are not easily usable because they require a short term payment and that is not possible right now. It's the longer term lines of credit that are being used.

These are Government to Government credits?

Y^{es.}

Do the short term lines of credit originate from private institutions?

These are commercial houses; some based in England and the United States. The lines are 180 days credit and are considered too short. The parallel market has provided a release from this tie to country to country lines of credit and if you really examine it they used to grouse that the lines of credit were extremely expensive. Now if you check out the cost of a line of credit in 1982 and check out the cost of the parallel market, you'll find that they are not very far and yet still everybody is costing on the basis of the parallel market.

NIDCO successful

Asks about the state of the Export Development Fund and whether new funds were coming in for the Fund, Mr. Vaz said new funds were on stream but they were awaiting the completion of the Bank of Jamaica's replenishment of the Jamaican contribution to the EDF. When that was complete the new funds would flow in from the World Bank to beef up the EDF.

Turning to the Structural Adjustment of the Jamaican Economy (SAJE) programme, Mr. Vaz said that it was on target as far as the industry and commerce aspects were concerned but what worried him was that the cutback in the foreign exchange budget would militate against positive growth.

The National Industrial Development Company (NIDCO) was set up to ensure that the SAJE programme was administered along the lines prescribed. Mr. Vaz said, describing it as the "most successful" Government agency so far.

What has NIDCO done for the productive sector to date?

As you know it is responsible for developing the seven subsectors. The responses to footwear and furniture have been excellent. The finishes and the quality of furniture that we are now able to produce as a result of the technical assistance from NIDCO and GIMCO of the United States have been spectacular. The recent workshop where we brought down five experts to demonstrate how to correct the flaws we found in initial shipments has made a remarkable difference. The experts are now finding what we are doing more than acceptable and feel that we will succeed. The linkage industry that go into furniture manufacturing has made a considerable change because we are now making the formulations that apply to the US market.

So NIDCO has covered only two subsectors?

No. NIDCO has dealt with textiles and apparels extensively, Electronics and Footwear. The quality of the footwear being produced has improved, we are now finding Jamaican men who have never worn locally-made shoes, are now wearing them and are amazed both at the price and the quality. We are doing extensive work in the agro business, processed foods, but this is being dove-tailed in the Agro 21. NIDCO is a co-ordinating agency.

Mr. Vaz also spoke of the Jamaica Export Trading Company's new role as a participating agency where it was involved in the business of exports. It will be taking over the agricultural exports formerly managed by the Agricultural Marketing Corporation. Discussions were taking place to explore whether JETCO could recommence working on exporting gypsum, Mr. Vaz said.

JETCO would also work with small manufacturers who did not have the capability to market their products overseas. "I see where JETCO will become a vital contributor to the export drive." The agency had been put under the umbrella of the Jamaica Commodity Trading Corporation because the same management expertise developed in importing needed to be dove-tailed in the exports of commodities.

Barter arrangement

The functions of JETCO had fallen under JCTC as a strictly export-oriented organisation both in agricultural produce and industrial products, he said.

How is the barter arrangement going under JCTC?

The barter deal has gone through with Guyana and we have been able to export Jamaican goods in exchange for rice. Guyana is having a problem now with deliveries. The motor vehicle barter has gone through nicely. A number of those vehicles have come in and more are expected to arrive.

Are you thinking of bartering other commodities?

Oh certainly. Barter has become a mechanism whereby you can supply goods that you have to import anyhow in exchange for goods you would normally export. Barter has been a proven principle.

Can you respond to the complaint that JCTC is not supplying the trade with the required volume of lumber?

You have to be careful with that one because when you look at the volume of lumber that JCTC is bringing in now as against 1981-82, it is such a spectacular difference. Typical Jamaicans are ungrateful and have short memories. There is a difficulty with the supply of mahogany. We are trying to hive off the good quality mahogany for the export trade and use the lesser grade for the remainder of the market. JCTC sometimes get blamed for the quality of the lumber and when you really pinpoint it, it's the handling of lumber that is the problem.

Importation of lumber

Are you giving consideration to allowing the Hardware Merchants Association to revert to importing lumber on their own?

When the Hardware merchants were complaining the JCTC took on a retired private sector individual regarded as the dean of hardware business in Jamaica as their advisor and I thought that would satisfy them. Everybody was happy with JCTC in the 70s because nobody wanted to take the risk. I don't see how any individual can buy better than a company that buys in bulk.

Dealing with the Caribbean Basin Initiative, Mr. Vaz said the Bill allowed Jamaica an access to a market which was the largest and most affluent in the world. What Jamaica had to do was to examine the areas in that market that it had the capability to supply and specialise in supplying. It should not be a random type of approach but rather a selective one.

He told the *Gleaner* that he would be going on a mission to the Far East at the end of October with a specific approach to attracting investors here to set up concerns, exporting products with a "substantial value added" feature to take up opportunities under the CBI.

Reacting to the view that Jamaican exporters had not been fully able to develop their Caricom markets but were being told to capitalise on the CBI, Mr. Vaz argued that Caricom was a starting off point and it had been around for a long time.

"Since many Jamaican manufacturers had not sought to expand into Caricom that has nothing to do with the United States, CBI or Caricom, it's the mentality of the entrepreneurs himself. It's that mentality we have to change," he claimed noting that the local market was not a sinecure as protection was being lifted.

Gains made in Caricom would not be whittled away, the Minister quipped: "Not because there's CBI, it means you have to abandon Caricom. CBI is an area where you have to expand into because the more you produce the cheaper the product."

There is the contention that freight rates are much too high for the Jamaican exporter compared to his competitors. Are you examining this area?

If freight rates are too high and manufacturers are accustomed to shipping with their prices on a CIF basis, it's a simple matter of reworking your costing and shipping on FOB. If you ship on an FOB basis the recipient in the US or overseas pays the freight in his own currency.

Would that not mean an added cost to the recipient?

No. If the Jamaican pays the freight at the parallel rate, it's going to be a higher cost which he has to pass on to the person he's shipping to. By virtue of the recipient paying the freight that increases his sales. We have to look at different ways too. If you are shipping from Kingston to New York and that becomes expensive, then you have to look to Miami and use ground freight. Businessmen have got to return to being businessmen. This spoon-feeding thing must stop, everybody has got to go back to work. The successful entrepreneur in Jamaica will not be the one who just sits behind his desk, he has to go back and use his head.

What sort of incentive exists for the exporter?

The incentive that they have is when they export, they retain 50 per cent of their exports at the parallel market rate. That's a good incentive but it only works for the exporter. The important thing is to find what is it that you're going to do to export and export.

The exporter has to pay the JNEC for market intelligence information they require. Isn't this a bit too much?

So what is wrong with that? You think that Uncle Sam gave Coco Cola any incentive to ship into China? Coco Cola saw a market of 700 million people and figured it might be a good market so they spent money to go in there. This business where Government must do everything must stop. The only area where you are going to find that right now is NIDCO which is doing an awful lot. You know what the incentive is, to make profit. The biggest incentive in business is to make profit.

Mr. Vaz had requested the Chamber of Commerce to consider a proposal for them to adjust the prices of consumer goods to reflect the going parallel market uniformed rate at the commercial

banks. However the Chamber's executive met and rejected this proposal on the ground that the uniformed bank rate was new and they needed time for it to take effect.

"They didn't respond completely because what I said was when it comes to drugs, in particular the lifesaving drugs, they needed to treat life-saving drugs different from ordinary drugs," he said.

Mr. Vaz elaborated that he told the Chamber members that if they were using the rate of \$3.25, it did not apply because the quoted rate was \$2.96 selling and \$2.91 buying as set by the banks. If the ten biggest companies in Jamaica decided not to buy outside the \$2.96, the rates must fall, Mr. Vaz suggested.

"It was a corporate decision that the national interest comes before the personal interest and that the stabilisation of the rates could only come from those persons serving national interest. The people who are selling the money are doing everything in their power to ensure that the rates go higher and higher."

Mr. Vaz said he proposed to the Chamber that when it came to drugs, they should develop a strategy that treated life-saving drugs different from ordinary drugs and they had not answered that at all. They treated it as though it was an across the board suggestion, Mr. Vaz stated, adding that he had given the Chamber specifics and he was still awaiting a reply on that.

When do you think that there will be a slowdown of price increases?

The majority have already taken place and water will find its own level.

How has the consumer hotline been working?

Excellently well. We have had hundreds of calls and several exchanges have been made coupled with refunds to the tune of \$8,000.

CSO: 3298/082

PNP ELECTS LEADERSHIP, FORMS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Sep 83 p 22

[Text]

The top leadership of the People's National Party headed by Mr. Michael Manley as President were returned to office unopposed at the five-day annual conference which climaxed at the National Arena on Sunday.

Returning as Vice-Presidents were Mr. Seymour Mullings, Mr. Winston Jones, Mr. O.D. Ramtallie and Miss Portia Simpson, all returned en bloc.

A release from party headquarters on Monday said the PNP is to establish a special committee on the state of education in Jamaica at present.

The decision to establish the committee arose out of discussions on the report of the Party's political education commission during which delegates expressed grave concern at the state of education.

The delegates were most concerned with the high cost of education, not only in the areas of uniforms and books, but also in such areas as examination and tuition fees.

At the same time, the delegates also took the decision to continue according to political edu-

cation priority status in the work of the party.

These were among decisions arrived at during the closed sessions of the 45th annual conference of the People's National Party which began on Wednesday, September 21 and ended on Sunday, September 25, with the public session.

The PNP release said other decisions arrived at include: significant increases in the contribution of individuals and groups to the financing of the party; endorsement of the initiatives of the party in the area of political violence, and rigorous enforcement of the criteria which was recently passed by the National Executive Council, for those aspiring to become candidates for the Party.

In the area of international affairs, the delegates asked that the International Affairs Commission of the People's National Party provide more information to party members in general, and the public at large, on the situation in Southern Africa and Central America, two areas of primary concern to the People's National Party.

The financing of the Party in the face of the present economic climate in the country was also of grave concern to delegates. However, they adopted the decision to increase significantly the contributions of individuals and groups as the base for financing the party.

At the fund raising sessions which took place during both the private and public sessions, in excess of \$150,000 was raised. Just over \$16,000 was raised at the private sessions while some \$135,000 was raised at the public session on Sunday.

During other business at the conference, the reports of the PNP Youth Organisation, the PNP Women's Movement and the National Workers Union were adopted.

Other reports adopted were those of the Welfare, Internal Affairs, Human Rights, Organising and Finance Commissions. Reports were also adopted from the Communications and Outreach Working Group and the Security Forces' Committee. The Communications and Outreach Working Group is to

be constituted into a full commission.

Discussions on the party's Economic and Social Planning document was done on Saturday and lasted until the early hours of Sunday morning. Delegates broke up into work shops to discuss the Economic and Social planning document and the document will now go forward to task forces for discussions and further development.

The PNP release went on: At the public session on Sunday, PNP President and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley, told the packed Arena that under the Party's economic programme agriculture must become the engine of growth for the economy.

In an address lasting just under two hours, Mr. Manley emphasised the importance of rural development as an integral part of a future PNP government's economic programme.

He spoke of the intention of the party to pursue co-operatives and said that there were countries with expertise in this area willing to assist.

VISITING NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERS FINANCIAL AID

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 p 18

[Excerpt]

The Norwegian Government has made available US\$1/2 million to carry out further oil exploration, visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. Sverre Stray, told a press conference yesterday.

Norway had decided to offer technical assistance to Jamaica in oil exploration, onshore and offshore, some time ago but this had not yet started.

Speaking at a press conference at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Mr. Stray said that all the arrangements were already in place for Jamaica to receive the funds for the survey to be started and if the first phase of the project proves to be "positive" his Government would

give additional funding for its continuation.

However, Mr. Stray said it was up to the Jamaican Government to decide on starting the survey as "we have the money available."

Since the technical assistance and economic co-operation programme started between both countries in 1977, Norway has provided bi-lateral assistance to the tune of US\$15 to date.

He added that Norway would also provide the experts to do the work in addition to the financial assistance.

Mr. Stray said that during his talks with Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Hugh Shearer yesterday,

Norway was unable to offer new projects on a bi-lateral basis but the avenue was open for discussions of new projects on a multi-lateral level.

"We hope to co-operate with Jamaica in the field of private enterprise as the foremost initiative," he said. Mr. Shearer also mentioned bauxite and its downturn during the talks but Mr. Stray said there was not very much his country could do to aid the industry here.

A PLAN FOR BOTH Jamaica and Norway to set up a plant for smelting bauxite, introduced by the previous Government, did not survive feasibility studies. Norway continues, howev-

er, to buy bauxite indirectly from Jamaica through Canada, Mr. Stray said.

There were some discussions going on between both countries in the field of mutual trade, he said, declining to comment further because it would prejudice the talks which were on a private sector level.

On the matter of the ongoing projects that Norway had underwritten here such as Antillian Food Processors Limited, Mr. Stray told newsmen that the main problem affecting this was the lack of foreign exchange to import raw materials to run the firm. He hinted that Norway would find a solution to this problem but did not elaborate.

CSO: 3298/082

ENVOY REVIEWS 1983 GROWTH IN CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Sep 83 p 24

[Text]

Canada's development assistance to Jamaica has significantly increased this year and according to Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. David Reece, it could reach \$20 million — almost double the 1981 amount.

Mr. Reece was speaking on the relations between Canada and Jamaica last Thursday at the weekly luncheon of the Kingston Rotary Club, Pegasus Hotel. He said that his country's development assistance to Jamaica, including food aid, for the fiscal year ending March 1984 could amount to as much as \$20 million as compared to \$12 million in 1981.

The amount, he noted, included the annual disbursement of \$350,000 for useful small projects in the island.

In the field of development, the High Commissioner disclosed that there were a number of

projects in the works including mini-hydro and bridge construction. He observed that a good deal of programme assistance was continuing among which was some \$25 million worth of fertilizers for the agricultural sector.

He was optimistic that bilateral development co-operation in agriculture would blossom in the wake of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture's visit to Jamaica last week. Mr. Reece said a number of promising projects were discussed ranging from seed potatoes to a board plant from rind after sugar cane separation by a machine developed by a Canadian firm.

He also pointed out that through the Non-Governmental Organizations Programme of CIDA Rotary projects have been supported throughout the region. Special mention was made of the equipment provided for

workshops for the handicapped in Jamaica which was organized in co-operation with the Rotary Club of Guelph, Ontario.

In addition, Canada provided approximately \$1 million of training in the defence field on an annual basis. This collaboration, he said, has been in operation for some years and has proved an important personal, as well as defence link.

He further pointed to the great number of unofficial Canadian and Jamaican High Commissioners at work in their own spheres of professional and commercial activity.

"These personal and professional ties, including the large community of Canadians of Jamaican origin living in Canada and a small number of Canadians living here, represent a major facet of our overall relationship," Mr. Reece said.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK STARTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 p 17

[Text]

Gleaner Western Bureau
The Agricultural Credit Bank has embarked on "a massive development programme" involving field staff in 13 parishes meeting with the management committee of Peoples' Co-operative Banks to assist them in planning for the future.

The 39 PC Banks are expected to have in place, by November 17, a development programme and budget which should enable the PC Banks managing committees "to have a blueprint to follow for the year 1984 and simultaneously enable the ACB to determine its capital and loan requirements for lending during the same period."

This was disclosed on Monday by the managing director of the ACB, Mr. Keith Roache, at a man-

agement workshop for executives of the Caribbean Agricultural Credit Association — CACRA — at the Royal Caribbean Hotel.

He said that "coupled to this effort will also be the establishment of a management information system which will reflect the actual operations of the P.C. Bank as compared to its budget on a monthly basis."

Mr. Roache said P.C. committees and managers were now being more optimistic about their future in terms of volume of lending and being able to attract share capital.

"We do not pretend that we have all the answers for what is perhaps a new system for which there is no precedent in the Caribbean," said Mr. Roache.

He said Government was concerned "that we do not yet have in place, even in the ACB, a system that adequately addresses the problem of the landless farmer; this is a question that needs some novel solutions."

Also taking part in the programme were the Deputy Managing Director of the ACB, Mr. Clive S. Edwards; the Agricultural Credit Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, Italy, Mr. Pekka Hussi; Mr. Vans T. LeBlanc, Manager, Agricultural Industrial and Development in Dominica, and Mr. Audley C. Coulton, Director/Secretary of CACRA and Manager, Jamaica Agricultural Credit Board.

CSO: 3298/083

BRIEFS

GROUP TO CHINA--Twenty members of the Jamaica-China Friends Association left the island Monday to spend two weeks on a tour of China. The members were invited by the Association for Foreign Countries in China to explore areas, including the capital, Peking, Shang-Hi, and rural towns. I Mr. Ferdie Sangster, was leader of the group and Mr. Kam Hugh, deputy leader. Mr. Maurice Tenn, president of the Jamaica-China Friends Association, was at the Norman Manley International Airport to bid farewell to the group, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Jamaica, Zhao Zongxiang, was also present. The group is sponsored by the Association for Foreign Countries in China and will be expected to visit sites of historical values in that country. The members will return to Jamaica on October 14. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 p 19]

HILTON LEASE--At the request of the Hotel Corporation of Jamaica, the government agency responsible for the Jamaica Hilton at Mammee Bay, St. Ann, Hilton International has agreed to extend the expiration date of their agreement and lease of the hotel from December 31, 1983 until April 30, 1984, general manager of Jamaica Hilton, Mr. Ken Kennedy, told the GLEANER on Tuesday. On September 3, Mr. Kennedy told the GLEANER that a few months before Hilton International had forwarded a letter to the Hotel Corporation of Jamaica intimating that it would not be renewing the lease on the Jamaica Hilton. He said then that government had not asked it to reconsider its decision and no one had asked if it would stay on through the season. On September 9, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Abrahams, said the decision of Hilton International to pull out of Jamaica would not result in any financial loss but in a loss of very good friends. He said the hotel would be put up for divestment and this could only accrue to Jamaica's benefit since any future lessee would be required to pay a guaranteed fixed rental. Mr. Abrahams said the contract was not renewed when it became clear that it would not be of mutual benefit to do so. He said the Hilton chain was now trying to move out of the resort business and go into the operation of urban commercial hotels. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Oct 83 p 19]

MILK PRICE INCREASES--The price of "Nestles" and "Betty" sweetened condensed milk will be increased today by 20 cents and 18 cents per tin respectively, rising from \$1.20 and \$1.12. They will now cost \$1.40 and

\$1.30 per tin. The new prices are announced by the Hon. Douglas Vaz, Minister of Industry and Commerce, in an advertisement appearing in today's GLEANER. The maximum distributor's selling price for "Nestle" (48x14 oz) is \$63.35 per case while the maximum wholesalers selling price is \$64.62 per case. The maximum retail selling price within and outside the urban and suburban districts of the Corporate Area is \$1.40 per tin. For "Betty" (48x14 oz), the maximum distributor's selling price is \$58.82 per case while the maximum wholesale selling price is \$60.00 per case. The maximum selling price within and outside the urban and suburban districts of the Corporate Area is \$1.30. The Prices Commission approved new prices for condensed milk on February 5 this year when "Nestle" rose from 93 cents to \$1.20 and "Betty" from 86 cents to \$1.12. Then, Mr. Vaz had said that the Government had done "everything in its power" to cushion the recent increase in the price of sugar. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Oct 83 p 1]

BULBS TO TRINIDAD--Lighting Manufacturing Caribbean Limited, a local manufacturer of lightbulbs, made its first export shipment of 250,000 bulbs to Trinidad on September 19, 1983. The Ocho Rios-based company manufactures under its own brand name "Carib", but has also secured a contract from Sylvania Corporation of the U.S.A.--the third largest manufacturer of light bulbs worldwide--to supply 500,000 bulbs to the CARICOM region for this year. Mr. L. B. Stephenson, according to a press release from the company, has said that he is pursuing export markets in hard-currency areas for his brand, and exploring the possibility of manufacturing other types of lights such as reflector bulbs, Christmas tree lights and motor vehicle bulbs. With the help of a Far East Consultant, Mr. Chen Chin Chu, Lighting Manufacturing Caribbean Company Limited produces 14,000 bulbs a day. Sixty workers are directly employed on a double shift. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 2 Oct 83 p 1C]

DRUGS IMPACT ON TOURISM--Tourism Director John Gentles has said that the presence of drugs was hampering tourism. He was speaking at the opening of showrooms of Wicker Wonderland at the Artisan and Craft Village in St. Anns Bay on Sunday. Mr. Gentles said the use and abuse of drugs was one of the main deterrents to tourism in the area and urged residents to be vigilant in that respect and to work with the authorities to stamp out this "virus." He also issued a warning that tourism would not succeed unless Jamaicans became aware of its importance to Jamaica. Also speaking at the function was Senator Patsy Pink, Director of Youth and Community Services in the Social Development Commission. She pointed out the necessity of having the centre there for display of Jamaican goods, particularly in this time of economic constraints. She also gave a brief history of the centre. Also in attendance were the Custos of St. Ann, Dr. Osmond Tomlinson and Mrs. Tomlinson, and representatives of Major hotels in the area. The function was well attended by citizens who welcomed this new addition to the craft village, JIS reported. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Sep 83 p 10]

CSO: 3298/094

NEW GOVERNOR ROEMER ON POSITION, TASKS

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 13 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Frans Heyligers: "New Governor of Netherlands Antilles Roemer: Ivory Tower Is No Place for Me"]

[Text] Willemstad, 13 Oct--Tomorrow at the Huis ten Bosch palace in The Hague, Queen Beatrix will swear in the new governor of the Netherlands Antilles, 54-year-old Dr R. Roemer. This sociologist, born in Curacao and largely educated in the Netherlands, is thereby resigning his most recent job, that of vice chancellor of the brand-new Antillean University.

The name Rene Roemer had already been mentioned with great regularity as a serious candidate to succeed Governor Dr Ben Leito long before Leito was even making preparations to move on. Roemer was able to prepare himself, as it were, over the course of 3 years for the post that he will formally occupy as of Saturday: governor of the Netherlands Antilles. That is to say, representative of Queen Beatrix in the Antilles, representative of the royal government in the Antilles and head of the Antillean government.

In addition, his duties include exercising supreme command over the Dutch marines in the Antilles as well as tending to matters concerning foreign relations for the government in The Hague. At the same time, he serves as the final appellate tribunal, enforcing the observance of legal provisions by the authorities and declaring illegal decisions null and void.

He is also by virtue of his office chairman of the advisory council, the Antillean Council of States, which acts as an advisory organ for the government. Roemer is quite happy with his appointment: "It's a next step in one's life. In fact, you can say that it's an extension of this career that I've had, which began 26 years ago in government service. In the duties that I've had through the years, I've visited all six islands of the Antilles with great regularity. Through this, I've been able to identify with all of them. In this way, one can somewhat bridge the island mentality under which we as Antilleans labor."

Status

You are probably the last governor of the Antilles while it consists of six islands, assuming that Aruba attains a completely separate status within the kingdom of the Netherlands in January 1986. "Don't forget that we must still strive for a Union of the Antilles right away. I hope at least that we will soon have an Antilles of the five islands plus one. Constitutionally, we are indeed dealing with a opdeling. But beyond the constitution and politics there are still many other possible forms of cooperation."

That constitutional opdeling stipulates that you will have an Aruban governor as a colleague in 2 years. "Naturally, one must be able to live with this. Aruba is becoming a separate nation within the law. The proximity of Aruba and the intimate way in which we have always cooperated will undoubtedly mean that the relationship with Aruba will be of a completely different nature than was the relationship with Suriname at one time. When I'm in Suriname, I am in a foreign country. When I'm in Aruba, I am not in a foreign country. I will never feel as if I am in a foreign country there. As far as that goes, I am a Grand Antillean. When I'm in Aruba, I feel at home in spite of that bickering between Aruba and the others. When I'm in Bonaire it's the same. When I'm in Curacao I naturally feel at home."

Outsider

Roemer is aware that his influence as governor formally represents little on the administrative level and that it can at best take place behind the scenes. In case of a difference of opinion with the government, the will of the minister will tip the balance at last resort, although in name he is head of the government.

He does not object to this. "At this time the governor has more of a mediating role. The actual power is with the cabinet council. It is indeed possible that at a particular moment the governor says: 'I want to speak with this minister about such and such bill.' In that sense he can indeed have an impact and the outsider need not know about it. Perhaps one should even say that the outsider should not know about it. For then the discussion can be much more pleasant and much more open."

The governor has the right "to be consulted, to encourage and to warn." Or, as it has also been said now and again, "the governor may be the conscience of the Antillean government." Roemer has held many posts through the years. He has also been an advisor to the government for years in a number of discussions. On the cultural as well as the political level. In this role, he was closely involved in all the discussions that took place in the last few years concerning modifications in the political structure of the Antilles. Moreover, he occupied leadership posts in the communist as well as within a number of particular organizations. In order to avoid awkward positions, he will have to resign from these posts shortly.

Alienation

That grieves him, because it can also be the beginning of an alienation from the society from which he originated. He is determined to resist that alienation. "One of the problems that you have is that you create a position because you think it's necessary. You name someone to a position, but at the moment that you have named him, you approach him with certain expectations. Someone's behavior is never only dependent on himself. If I am summed up right away as a figure in an ivory tower, then I will be pushed into an ivory tower."

Although his post will indeed involve some formalities, he takes as his example his predecessor Cola Debrot who, even as governor, maintained his social contacts as much as possible by continuing to circulate among the people.

12271

CSO: 3214/100

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL DELAYED--Carmen Lara Castro, president of the National Human Rights Defense Commission, has reported that after arriving at President Stroessner International Airport yesterday, she was delayed and given humiliating treatment. Mrs Lara Castro said that she had returned from Buenos Aires, but a cable from Germany reported that Mrs Lara Castro had participated in a human rights congress held there. Mrs Lara Castro stated that she was delayed at the airport for almost 2 hours by the police, adding that her luggage and some letters and papers she was carrying with her were searched. Mrs Lara Castro said that some documents on economy and others of the status of Napoleon Ortigoza and Escolastico Ovando as well as personal letters she was bringing for some people were seized. Mrs Lara Castro said that in addition to her luggage and her papers, she was personally searched by a female police officer, which she considered a real offense. She added that a policeman posted at the airport destroyed one of her letters in front of her. [Text] [PY211240 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 13]

CSO: 3348/29

COMING INDEPENDENCE ELICITS SHARP LABOUR OBJECTIONS

Charges of Arms Movements

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] At a public meeting held at Manchester Avenue, Basseterre, last Sunday night (4 September), the leaders of the Labour Party warned the people of St. Kitts of the evil and destructive plans which the Simmonds government have prepared for St. Kitts for after the fake independence set for 19 September 1983.

Next morning, Monday 5 September, the following notice was printed on the public noticeboard erected and used by the Peoples Action Movement at the Circus in downtown Bas-Basseterre -

13 MORE
DAYS 19 SEPT.
BEFORE THE
MASS BURIAL

Several photographs of the noticeboard were taken by concerned Kittitians. One of them is published herewith.

News of the notice very quickly spread throughout Basseterre and later the entire island of St. Kitts. People hurried from their places of work and their homes to see the notice.

There were angry reactions by Kittitians of all walks of life.

By the next morning, Tuesday 6 September, the notice had been changed to read "12 MORE DAYS".

Rather than take down the board or rub off the offensive notice, a PAM agent had added the words "COOL AID ARRIVE" at the bottom of the noticeboard.

The notice at the Circus confirms what the Labour Party has been warning about for several months now.

The Peoples Action Movement has planned a mass burial of St. Kitts people to take place on 19 September 1983 or shortly thereafter.

The noticeboard is a well-established part of PAM's information and propaganda service. Since 1980 it has trumpeted PAM policies, PAM functions, PAM programmes as an official mouthpiece of the Peoples Action Movement.

The PAM officials who write on the board and who prepare the information to be put on the board are well known to the people of St. Kitts.

For many months now, the Peoples Action Movement and the government have been bringing creates of guns and ammunition and other instruments of destruction into St. Kitts. PAM officials have been seen frequently going in groups to practise shooting in several parts of St. Kitts.

The noticeboard has given out the message. We are to prepare for mass killings and mass burial of Kittitians from 19 September 1983.

Labour Fears of Retaliation

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 10 Sep 83 p 2

[Editorial: "A Living Death"]

[Excerpts] Our mid-week edition for Wednesday 7th September 1983 featured a banner headline on the front page 'PAM IS PLANNING A MASS BURIAL OF KITTITIANS FOR 19 SEPTEMBER.'

Since the publication of our story, there have been several reactions.

In the first place the blackboard was turned around so that the writing on it was concealed from the public. As we understand it, this was done on the express instructions of the Premier personally.

Whether the Premier did give those instructions or no, it is clear that a number of PAM trumps were embarassed by such publicity.

After all, we had in our editorial of 31st August last pointed out that independence was associated only with very negative thoughts. We pointed out that a lot of air play was being given to a calypso which suggested that the Opposition leaders should be locked up.

Therefore a suggestion that over and above imprisonment independence held the threat of mass murder could not amuse the people of the country and was bound to create discomfiture for the government.

For even those who will affect to be supportive of the independence which is coming are uncomfortable with the thought that their mission is to end liberty or life.

There will be those who wish to pretend that they are serious and that they wish to respond to the challenges of independence to work and to build.

Others perhaps merely wish to dance and prance to celebrate the attainment of independence.

But not many will get any pleasure from keeping company with death.

So it is not surprising that the black board was turned around and an attempt was made to conceal the evidence.

But this deference to refinement and sensibility could not last for long. The hypocrisy of the Premier could not prevail. Those who are set on the desperate path to evil, those who already attempted mass death in 1967 had their way. So the gory message of the board was once more turned to face the public.

And each day there is the count down to the macabre fate that Simmonds and his friends planned for the innocent people of this country.

Those who wish to be caught may be caught. But for our party, we remember that when Powell said in 1966 that blood would flow in the streets of Basseterre we did not take him seriously. yet in 1967 there were those including some who are responsible for the blackboard who planned a coup. laid dynamite traps on the railway line, attacked the Power Station and staged a shoot out at the Police Station and defence Force. They intended mass murder then; they can intend it now.

Furthermore the same Powell said not so long ago at a public meeting in Greenlands that he would deal with Labour people so that "some you will find and some you will not be able to find." This sounds very much like a formula for a mass burial.

Nor should anyone in this country forget the story of Stafford Grant - how he was found with a bullet through his head while he was supposed to be on duty at Frigate Bay; how before dawn the Commissioner of police had declared that no foul play was suspected; how he had lain in the hospital without any specialist help for several days until he died; and how the Government corrupted the pathologist's findings of the circumstances surrounding his death.

Nor should anyone forget how a young citizen recently returned to this country was shot in unexplained circumstances at Fortlands; how up to now the public have not been told who shot him; how he was kept in the hospital for several days and how he was buried in the early morning without ceremony, and without a word to his relatives as if he did not have a charge to keep, "A God to glorify, A never-dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky".

A threat of a mass burial is consistent with the guns and instruments of death with which the government have equipped the Police Force and the Defence Force.

It is also consistent with the position PAM has always taken. In 1975 their symbol for independence was a coffin. So independence has always meant death to them.

It is little wonder they are preparing to bury the people of St Kitts en masse.

For even if we physically survive the 19th day of September 1983 we shall all of us be going through a living death.

Mysterious Airport Incident

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 14 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Last Friday, 9 September, according to very reliable reports, a D.C.3 aircraft landed at Golden Rock Airport at about midnight. It is reported that the aircraft was operated into St. Kitts on a Seagreen Airways charter flight and brought furniture and fittings for the Royal St. Kitts Hotel at Frigate Bay.

When the aircraft landed and had taxied to a stand-still, a squad of soldiers armed with machine guns rushed out of hiding and surrounded the plane.

The pilot is reported to have been terrified by the guns pointed at him and to have exclaimed, "What the hell is going on in St. Kitts?"

The aircraft was then unloaded. Most of the cargo was taken to the Royal St. Kitts Hotel but at least two crates were taken to a destination in downtown Basseterre.

By Saturday morning, news of the incident was all around Basseterre, inspite of very strict instructions from the Simmonds government that none of the soldiers or the men who worked the plane should dare to say a word about the armed exercise.

At Saturday night's re-opening of the Royal St. Kitts Hotel, Michael Powell, Minister of Tourism, confirmed that a charter plane had in fact landed "some time after midnight" Friday with equipment for the Hotel.

The Management of the Hotel has disclosed that Fleming and Sons were/are responsible for the transport of equipment to the Hotel.

Mr. Vernon Fleming, Managing Director of Fleming & Sons, former Secretary of the Peoples Action Movement and a PAM candidate in general elections, was appointed a lieutenant in the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force after the PAM/NRP coalition government was established in February 1980.

The following questions arise to be answered: Why were armed soldiers taken to Golden Rock Airport last Friday night? Why did they surround the Seagreen aircraft which was known to be arriving with equipment for the Royal St. Kitts Hotel? What role, if any, did Mr. Vernon Fleming play in the incident?

Criticism of Constitution

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 16 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] In accordance with an Order of Her Majesty's Privy Council, on Monday 19 September 1983 the Associated State of St. Christopher and Nevis will [word indistinct] its association with the United Kingdom and will become an independent nation. A new Constitution will come into effect as the supreme law of the new nation.

The new Constitution provides that the nation will be comprised of two separate and autonomous units, one called "Nevis", the other called "St. Kitts and Nevis."

There will be no unit called "St. Kitts".

The unit called "Nevis", according to Chapter X of the Constitution, will have its own separate and autonomous Legislature, Cabinet, Premier and other institutions of government, including a Deputy Governor-General.

The Nevis Legislature will have full power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Island of Nevis.

The Island of St. Kitts will not be involved in any way in the government of the Island of Nevis.

The other unit, "St. Kitts and Nevis" according to Chapters IV and V of the Constitution, will have its own separate and autonomous Legislature, Cabinet, Prime Minister and other institutions of government, including a Governor-General.

The government of St. Kitts and Nevis will consist of representatives from both the Inland of St. Kitts and the Island of Nevis. The St. Kitts and Nevis Legislature will make laws for the peace, order and good government of the island of St. Kitts.

The Island of Nevis will be an integral part of the government of the Island of St. Kitts.

An honest examination of the provisions of the new Constitution reveals that, from next Monday, the Island of Nevis will be independent but the Island of St. Kitts will enter upon a new form of colonialism, politically dependent on the Island of Nevis.

In addition, according to the new Constitution, the Island of Nevis has the power to secede from the "Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis" whenever it wishes, by giving 6 months' notice. The Island of St. Kitts has no power to secede from the Federation, at no time and in no way.

In the St. Kitts and Nevis Legislature, the Island of Nevis will have 3 seats for 9,000 inhabitants, i.e. 1 seat for each 3,000 inhabitants, while the

Island of St. Kitts will have 8 seats for 36,000 inhabitants, i.e. 1 seat for each 4,500 inhabitants. The Constitution provides that Nevis, with 1/5 of the population, must have not less than 1/3 of the seats in the Legislature.

Very importantly, the Constitution cannot be altered, even if 100% of the people of St. Kitts want it to be altered, unless 2/3 of the people of Nevis agree to the alternation.

The people of St. Kitts are witnessing a mock independence and should take no part in celebrations of this mock independence.

CSO: 3298/095

FIGURES ON TRADE DEFICIT FOR 1983 SECOND QUARTER

Castries THE VOICE in English 28 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

ST LUCIA'S trade gap continued at a steady negative deficit of just over \$30 million during the second quarter of this year, according to the quarterly overseas trade report published by the Statistical Department. Food and animals also accounted for the largest single import item (\$16 million), while imports of machinery and transport equipment decreased by \$6 million this year compared to last year's second quarter figure.

According to the figures, the 1983 second quarter deficit was \$34.2 million — an increase of \$890,000 over the figure for the first quarter. Imports totalled \$71.9 million while exports were at \$37.7 million. St Lucia's main trading area continued to be the Caribbean Community. During the second quarter this year, St Lucia imported \$11.3 million worth of goods from the CARICOM region against \$19 million during the corresponding period last year. Exports registered a modest increase from \$11.6 million last year to \$12.4 million this year.

The 1983 April to June imports were some \$5 million less than the figure for the second quarter of last year while exports increased by more than \$7 million this year compared with last year. There was also a sharp increase in imports from the United States — \$25.7 million this year compared with \$21 million last year — while the island's exports to that market doubled from \$2.6 million last year to \$5.5 million this year.

During this year's second quarter, St Lucia's main exports were in the food and live animal category which totalled \$19.2 million, an increase of \$4 million over the figure for the second quarter of last year. St Lucia's biggest single export market was the European Economic Community. Exports for the second quarter this year registered \$18.5 million (mainly bananas to Britain) a \$5 million increase over the April to June figure last year. Imports from that area dropped by some \$7 million.

CSO: 3298/085

BANANA INDUSTRY SITUATION ASSESSED AFTER HEAVY WINDS

Export Gains

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 17 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Excerpt] **BANANA exports from St. Lucia for this year are running at 30% more than last year's and officials from the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) say that they expect a significant increase in the island's total production for 1983.**

According to the SLBGA, exports for the first half of 1983 totalled 30,000 tonnes compared to 23,000 tonnes for the same period of

1982, an increase of 7,000 tonnes.

General Manager of the Association, Mr. Ivan Shaw said that St. Lucia's production target for this year was 56,000 tonnes as against 42,000 tonnes in 1982.

He added that the projected tonnage for 1984 was 66,000 tonnes.

St. Lucia's highest ever export figure was 85,000 tonnes which was achieved in 1969.

Mr. Shaw said that considering the short, severe drought experienced by farmers this year, the 1983 crop was even more optimistic compared to that of last year.

He added that the improvement of the industry was due to the growers' enthusiasm. Luckily there was no hurricane this year and despite the drought we should have a very good year for bananas this year," he said.

"Our UK market has been strong and although the pound sterling has been highly watered down by the exchange rate, the growers have had an adequate return for their crop which together with other factors have contributed to their enthusiasm towards the industry."

Remarkably, Mr. Shaw noted that the road improvement programme which began earlier this year, had made a positive effect on the industry.

As a result of this programme he said, established and "would-be" banana growers have shown a readiness to cultivate land in less accessible areas with poor roads.

19 September Blow

Castries THE VOICE in English 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Excerpt] **ST LUCIA'S fortunes in the quest for economic recovery were dealt a harsh blow on Monday night when more than six hours of sustained heavy winds left the vital banana industry in shambles.**

Up to late yesterday government and banana officials were still studying the effects of the up-to-60 knot winds and to draw up a plan of action.

But there appeared to be agreement that the industry which has

been performing creditably this year — with current exports running at 30 percent better than last year's — has been dealt a severe blow and with it, the St Lucia economy as well.

Rescue Operation

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 24 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton and local banana officials were yesterday holding discussions with representatives of aid agencies in an effort to mobilise assistance for St Lucia's banana industry ravaged by gusty winds earlier in the week.

Mr Compton who interrupted a visit to Trinidad where he was to have attended the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers to return home after the disaster; yesterday put forward the case for new assistance to the industry during a meeting with representatives of several regional and international agencies at his official residence at Vigle.

Attending the talks were officials of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank, the European Development Fund, the British Development Division and the United States Agency for International Development.

One official estimate puts the loss to the banana industry as a result of Monday night's winds at around \$30 million between now and next May, when

banana exports from St Lucia to Britain are expected to show a drastic reduction.

During the week, banana farmers began the task of rehabilitating their fields.

One immediate result of this was a shipment of some 1,200 tonnes of fruit to Britain on Wednesday.

However, officials say that this is likely to be the highest shipment for some time.

Optimism on Damage

Castries THE VOICE in English 28 Sep 83 p 12

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Text]

ST LUCIA'S banana exports are expected to show a small reduction in production for the end of the year as the result of blow downs by strong winds last week.

General Manager of the St Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA). Mr Ivan Shaw has said that the damage which caused a loss of 40% of the island's production will result in an eight to ten

thousand decrease in exports this year. This means that the projected loss will not be as significant as was earlier believed.

The SLBGA which had been optimistic about the industry's output for this year and which pegged it at being 56,000 tonnes has re-estimated the island's full production figure this year to be about 48,000 tonnes.

following last week's damages.

According to Mr Shaw, to date the industry has exported 39,000 tonnes of the fruit, but will lose approximately 10,000 tonnes from now until December.

"We also believe that for the first half of next year, we will lose another 10,000 tonnes and expect the industry

to get back to normal production about March or April 1984".

In an effort to help farmers in their rehabilitation of the industry, the SLBGA will provide direct assistance to growers in the form of inputs for the growing fruit.

Mr Shaw said that already a lot of work had been done by

growers islandwide, in clearing up and replanting.

"The St Lucian banana grower has to be admired for his determination and hard work. Already a great deal of work has been done. The growers are very positive in their efforts to rehabilitate the industry", Mr Shaw said.

He added: "We have no idea now, what kind of aid we

will receive from foreign agencies. To be positive we must remember that in a small crisis in January this year we lost 15 to 20% production, again due to high winds. We did not receive aid, but the growers worked hard and we were able to provide a 56,000 tonnes mark for this year. This is indicative of the growers' spirit".

CSO: 3298/084

BRIEFS

AIR SERVICE WITH CANADA--Direct air travel between St Lucia and Canada is expected to commence before the end of this year in time for the upcoming winter season. An agreement to provide such services was initialled here last Friday after three days of negotiation by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Earl Huntley and Canadian Chief Air Negotiator Mr Geoffrey Elliot. This agreement is the first successful air agreement to be negotiated by St Lucia since its independence in 1979. Canada has accepted the island's designation of British West Indian Airways as its official carrier although the island has no claims to the airline. The agreement is subject to approval of the Trinidad and Tobago and the St Lucia governments who will determine conditions concerning the responsibility of the airline while flying St Lucia's routes to Canada. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 28 Sep 83 p 1]

TOURISM RESURGENCE--St Lucia's tourist industry is beginning to show positive signs of growth again after the recent lean years. During the first quarter of this year, arrivals by air increased by a modest two percent, but the figure rose to seven percent overall for the first eight months. Director of Tourism Ms Maria Laville told the VOICE this week that judging from the information which had been coming from local hotels, the coming winter season "looks very good" for St Lucia. According to statistics released by the Tourist Board, of St Lucia's four main tourist markets, the United States showed the most dramatic increase in visitor arrivals by air and sea during the first half of the year: 9,854 compared with 6,545 last year. The British market also recorded a 15 percent increase this half year, but there were decreases of 30 percent and 19 percent from Canada and West Germany respectively. But visitor arrivals by air alone rose from 48,262 between January and August last year to 51,687 for the same eight months this year, a seven percent increase. [Excerpt] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 1 Oct 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/085

MITCHELL OUTLINES POLICY POSITIONS OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 7 Oct 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The St. Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce presented the second in its talk series by Leaders of political parties on Monday 3 when about 200 people congregated at Memorial Hall to hear Son Mitchell's address on the New Democratic Party's political and economic plans for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mitchell began by drawing attention to a box of children's books on the ground floor of the Memorial Hall. The books, he suggested, had probably been donated by an agency a year ago and had sat there ever since instead of being in the hands of children who would enjoy them. He drew an analogy between the neglected books and the state of the country, citing the demise of plans for the Kingstown development as another example of poor organization.

He asked the audience to recall the period of his leadership (1972 - 74) "things done, things not done and things which were for us unthinkable." The 1973 oil crisis had a great effect on the economy of the Caribbean. His evaluation at that time indicated that inflation would result and that

standard methods of economic management would have to be replaced. Business, for example, would need extra financing for the purchase of the same quantity of goods.

The government would have had to take up some of the slack. However, at that time, it would have been good business if St. Vincent had borrowed money and used it for the development of infrastructure because that cost would have been paid for with inflated money. During that period, France was "looking around" for investments for a lot of Arab money. St. Vincent could have taken advantage of that situation. A specific programme needed to deal with the energy crisis was one that would have advanced agriculture. A program of land reform which would put more land into the hands of more people would have been a move to strengthen that sector. Subsequent developments in Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S.A. proved his point.

In the former case, oil production created a situation in which so much money was so easily available that agriculture was abandoned. The U.S.A. on the other hand,

because of its food production "showed the strength of its agriculture in dealing with the energy crisis."

Mitchell described himself as a successful businessman, the proof of which he said, was in his being able "to afford the luxury of politics in this country. "My financial independence has made it possible to operate without a price on my head." Furthermore, his experience of management both in government and in the successful business he runs through tourism has given him the knowledge that problems need a definite response and cannot be approached on a trial and error basis. "The people", he said, "have invested in my training as a politician". Not just experience itself is important, but what is learned from that experience, he noted.

He went on to outline how the N.D.P. saw the problems of the country. The first is that of unemployment. The statistics do not reveal the "massive unemployment of despairing young people" which he sees daily. Poverty and a mood of depression pervade.

The problems of Agriculture Tourism and

population growth all need serious thought. Among the questions we should be asking are: What target do we aim for in terms of the number of visitors to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the year 1990? What strategy do we use to achieve this goal? The population has doubled in 20 years. If we continue to have such high population growth, and the avenues of migration formerly open to us are closing, what serious plans do we have for coping with the population requirement? "How do we provide schools, medical facilities, parking spaces etcetra?"

Attitudes bred by these problems are subversion, restlessness and despair. Mitchell said that subversion was popularly associated with activities of the far left, but he saw this as a misconception. Subversion of a government can occur when instead of the consent of the people, a government relies on force to maintain power. The military and security forces in such a situation can decide to take government into their own hands because of the corruption of civil authority. Mitchell said this situation was possible in St. Vincent in the future even if it were the distant future. He tied this point, into the theme of his talk: Planning, Management and the importance of a directed response to problems and developments.

Mitchell compared St. Vincent and the Grenadines negatively with St. Lucia (in the area of sanitation), Montserrat (wage structures) and Barbados (which has reached nil population growth). Another example of the lack of direction is the response to the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

If the U.S.A. has worked out a package, the business community is being called upon to react.

If the N.D.P. formed a government its first tasks would be to restore confidence in the Civil Servants and to stimulate the economy. Efficient management of the economy, would mean less taxation. As things stand now, there is no accounting for the financial affairs of the country. (According to the World Bank St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a \$17 million debt. For example, no accounts are being published on the Sugar Industry.

Mitchell claimed the political centre for the NDP, saying that it was not possible to be conservative in these times. Programmes which were considered radical ten years ago. (eg. Land reform) were being understood as essential today, even by U.S. administrations.

On the question of co-operation with others in opposition to the Labour Government, Mitchell said that the N.D.P. was open to dialogue with other parties, groups and individuals. He hoped that "opposition parties will mature." He felt that "the idealism of the UPM had been tempered with the passage of time" and the NDP should "work with them to see where common ground exists. If we can find common ground - fine."

Mitchell said that the opposition was fighting not just the Labour Party but the Westminster System of "first past the post" elections. Of certain aspects of the system he said "it does not work" and is in the long term inapplicable to the situation in the West Indies. In England, for example, tradition insured that a

Minister of Legal Affairs could not be in contempt of court and remain a Minister. He was looking to other models (eg. those developed in France and Germany) for alternative concepts.

The NDP Leader's approach to government is that it should be as unobtrusive as possible. That people should be free to form co-operatives, trade unions and get on with what they did best without prejudice as to party support. He thought that decentralization in the administration of government was required, and that people in rural areas need a greater sense of responsibility and access to technical education and training. "How does someone in Union Island get to a technical college?"

Mitchell asked.

In closing, he declared that a National purpose for the people was essential. Targets must be set and a proper spirit of dialogue engendered. Once we know "what we want to do", the instruments, talent and resources were available to bring about the change.

Questions from the floor brought forth suggestions and plans by the NDP on diverse topics.

On the subject of decentralization, the Marketing Board had "become a super market" and was not looking after the farmers as he had intended it to do. On an alternative to the Westminster System, he saw the establishment of a Constitutional Commission which would hear the people's suggestions. The Arts and Crafts industry, should move into the production of high quality goods more suitable for the potential tourist market.

The educational system must be more relevant. Technical training must be carried further into the countryside, and an A Level college should be established. The present government's plans for Hydro-electric power should be utilized and developed further.

Unemployment requires "a big package of incentives". Training in technical areas, in agriculture, industry and tourism must be on-going. The removal of the three percent tax would also help.

If, because of the need for certain consumer goods, the trade imbalance with countries like Japan must exist, then those countries should be convinced to give help in areas (such as our agriculture) which we can develop. In this area Caricom could work toward a co-ordinated

action on behalf of the whole region. Land reform programmes such as the one at Lauders Estate means better standards for the people of the agricultural sector and benefits for the Commercial Sector.

Next Monday, October 10th, Dr Ralph Gonsalves Leader of the Movement for National Unity will take the Chamber of Industry and Commerce up the invitation to disclose his Party's political and economic plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The venue will be the Memorial Hall at 8.00 p.m. again.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement has also agreed to the Chamber's proposal.

BRIEFS

UNION ACTIVITIES--The President of the Commercial Technical and Allied Workers' Union (CTAWU), Cyril Roberts, has issued a press release regarding impending union activity. The CTAWU programme includes plans for a series of public meetings at Campdem Park Industry Site; and negotiations on behalf of the workers with Bottlers Ltd, Geest Industries, Cable and Wireless. Pico, St. Vincent Philatelic Service, Eastern Caribbean Agencies, Port Authority, Central Water Authority and Town Board. Recently negotiations were completed on behalf of the Arrowfoot Industry organisation's monthly and weekly paid workers. CTAWU has also obtained a two-year contract which has resulted in back pay for Housing and Land Development Corporation workers. [Text]
[Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/096

DEMAS REPORT TAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECONOMY

Tax Increases

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

GIVEN the present and projected financial constraints the Demas Task Force says "there is both a need and justification for a substantial increase in the rate of consumption taxes" in Trinidad and Tobago.

This section of the Task Force's report which is labelled "Imperatives of Adjustment" signals a red flag warning to free-spending Trinidadians and Tobagonians of what to expect in the upcoming 1984 Budget — increased taxes.

According to the Task Force, consumption duties are by any standard very low in Trinidad and Tobago.

Last year, gross consumption taxes amounted to just over eight per cent of private consumption expenditure. Net consumption taxes — excluding subsidies — were negative.

The report however noted that the largest tax collections from consumption taxes came from import duties. Citing World Bank data, it noted, too, that the rate of tax on imports in Trinidad and Tobago was the lowest in the Caribbean and South America.

It pointed to two major constraints to tax collection — the import duties, fixed in the Common External Tariff. Changes in these rates must be approved by Caricom. Also, a large portion of dutiable imports was covered by incentive

legislation and brought in little or no tax.

The report envisages that revision of the Common External Tariff and a review of existing concessions, ought to be completed in 1984.

Assuming that revision of the Common External Tariff is completed in 1984, the Task Force estimates that this measure could yield an additional \$500 million in the following two years — 1985 and 1986.

According to the report, there was a suggestion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to replace the purchase tax and other related consumption duties by a generalised sales tax.

However, given the structure of the production and distribution sectors in the economy, it was thought that in the medium term, a more efficient move would be to expand the existing network of taxes. Also, rationalise the rate of taxes applied rather than go ahead and introduce a general sales tax.

Having received such advice, the Task Force recommends widening the network of consumption taxes and to increase the rates of taxes levied.

The proposed additional yield is estimated to be in the order of \$170 million per year or \$510 million over three years.

In relation to property taxes — lands, buildings, and transfer taxes — the report recommends overhauling the system to ensure that tax collec-

tions bear meaningful relationship to the cost of services provided.

In its report which will be considered by the National Economic Commission, the Task Force pinpoints the modified site value system of taxation as providing such a mechanism.

It recommends too, escalation of stamp duty on land transfers with rates climbing from two to five per cent.

HEALTH TAX

If the modified site value tax is introduced next year along with a changed transfer tax on property, it is estimated to bring in \$300 million over three years.

In view of Government's intention to in-

troduce a charge for the health services, announced in the 1983 Budget, the Task Force says the most efficient way of collecting such a charge would be through the addition of another component to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS).

Assuming that the rates would be at a level of say 15 per cent of the cost of the health services, this charge is estimated to yield \$80 million annually, or \$240 million over the three years — that is, the period of development covered by the report.

But while spelling out the amount of taxes that can be collected through certain measures, the Task Force has also noted that there was considerable room for improving the efficiency of tax collection.

Private Sector Problems

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

THE DEMAS Task Force has recommended that Government, in the future, refrain from taking over "lame duck" enterprises and feels that in many such cases these enterprises "should be allowed to die."

The Task Force feels that the time has come for a somewhat greater incremental role for the private sector in manufacturing companies — partly but not solely because of the anticipated limited financial resources of the Government.

The State wholly owns 34 enterprises while 14 are majority owned, one in equal participation and 17 in minority ownership with private organisations, according to the report.

"There are also companies operating in the fields of communications, air and sea transport, broadcasting and television. The Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) is not included among the 66, however, presumably because its assets have not been capitalised and distributed as equity.

NO COMMON FACTOR

"Taken as a whole, the sector reveals no common financial, economic or strategic organising principle and the companies display no common factor or group of factors which may have been determined their status.

"However, as a substantial

claimant on government resources — the gross requests of State enterprises in 1982-83 totalled \$2.9 billion, over 50 per cent of which was urgently required in the 1983 appropriations — an attempt must be made to organise the sector according to some criteria relevant to the investment function of its components.

The Task Force said there are a few wholly owned companies which produce exclusively or almost entirely so for the public sector. There is no overriding necessity for the corporate form of organisation except, apparently, that it freed these companies from observing Central Tenders Board regulations and was thought to bring a measure of cost efficiency to their activities.

LARGELY ILLUSORY

"On the other hand, they completely distort the corporation tax picture since there is hardly any realistic pricing and costing between these wholly-owned Government entities and the public agencies they serve, and no concept of net return on investment to government seems applicable."

The Demas report continued: "An example of this type is the Hospital Management Company which is a purchasing/maintenance service arm of the Ministry of Health. Any concept of profit generating capacity on its part would be largely illusory."

"Some others are the National (Secondary Roads) Development Company Limited, the School Nutrition Company Limited, the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited, and the Secondary Schools Maintenance, Training and Security Company Limited."

"It may be argued that the corporate form provides intangible benefits such as flexibility in management, innovative ability, adaptability to new technology, quicker availability of staff and so on."

According to the report, the com-

panies need to be looked at from several points of view, grouped according to varying criteria, and balance sheet, income and expenditure, cash flow, payroll, production and sales abstract data will need to be taken into account in certain of these groupings.

Strategic and economic roles and goals will have to be identified — energy sufficiency and food security among them, and also brought into the equation.

"A regime such as described, which seeks to staunch the annual haemorrhage of central government financial resources by identifying the cash needs of the enterprise more clearly and by widening participation by other sources, should go some way to correcting or stabilising a rapidly deteriorating situation in the short and medium term, during which the relevant authority might be persuaded to undertake the deeper, longer term studies required," the report revealed.

PROFIT POTENTIAL

The report pointed out that there were a large number of state enterprises which operate in a commercial environment, a few of which may be subject to additional important considerations.

It noted, too, that a great many were perfectly capable of being operated profitably, given efficient management, adequate capital and no serious social or political constraints.

The report stated that as the companies were operating generally in a commercial environment and have potential profitability, requests for cash transfers should be restricted.

Drawing attention to the fact that the report dealt with existing State enterprises, the Task Force pointed out that it had not developed the issue of the future involvement of the Government in State enterprises, and it was in this context that it stated that in future the Government should "as far as possible refrain from taking over lame-duck enterprises."

The report stated in part: "Implicit in the recommendation for a broad and deep analysis of government investment in producing companies and the introduction of a financing regime is a belief that Government will continue its policy of active direct participation in economic activity."

"It is assumed that any substantive Government role in corporate policy or practice will be played out in the company itself as this must have been part of the underlying reasons for participating in the investment in the first place."

Land Productivity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

WILLIAM DEMAS'S Report on getting the country on the go includes a recommendation for penalising land owners who cling on to their real estate unproductively.

A study long-awaited by Government for its economic planning, points out that much of the available lands identified for housing are privately-owned, although the owners have not been significantly involved in the area of developing business.

The Report states that stimulation of housing, on a private level, should be "encouraged" through

a) Direct acquisition or penalties for leaving the land idle, or:

b) Organising joint venture infrastructural projects.

The report explains that joint infrastructural projects would only be attractive to private landowners if the schemes are profitable to the owners.

Government should enter into direct negotiations with landowners and much will depend upon a secondary mortgage bank.

This bank, to finance its operations, would have to sell mortgage bonds. This system will be attractive if the bonds are free from taxation.

Another function of the proposed secondary mortgage bank is the placing of limited time and resources towards research into housing.

This research will be into fields not largely explored before, such as socio-economic, financial and technological areas, the report continues.

The bank would exert influence on interest rates for housing far less than the existing 12 to 14 per cent, says the Demas study, which goes on to emphasise that closer

scrutiny should be applied to financing charges now available.

"Apart from the basic cost or selling price of the unit," says the report, "there are charges such as stamp duty, valuation commitment and legal fees."

"These fees add substantially to the cost of the unit together with the down payment and bridging finance."

Severe hardships result from these costs, says the report, which recommends that stamp duty and other payments should be reduced. Terms of payment could be cut through establishing the secondary mortgage market.

The Demas team believes that cutting into the real housing needs of the country will mean the construction of 4,000 to 6,000 units a year for the next 20 to 30 years... if both public and private sectors were to work together.

"A programme of this magnitude would require," says the study, an annual expenditure of over \$1.4 billion, either directly or indirectly.

"Clearly, the estimated housing targets cannot be achieved within these financial limitation (since the total allocation is \$1.4b projected over four years)" the paper remarks.

Present housing costs require monthly installments of over \$800 within an income of \$2,400 a month. This means that low income earners, using their money as head of households, cannot now purchase houses that were originally meant for them.

The Demas Report says that, unfortunately, the introduction of prefabricated houses has not proven to be more economical nor time saving than conventional methods.

Deficit Forecast

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 83 p 4

[Text]

THE GRIM forecast of the Demas Plan is that "even on the basis of fairly optimistic assumptions with regard to petroleum revenues" the deficit on current account may exceed \$7.8 billion between 1983 and 1986.

This forecast was consistent with the gloomy economic picture painted throughout the report by internationally - renowned economist Mr William Demas, president of the Caribbean Development

Bank, and his 12-member Multi-Sectoral Planning Task Force team.

In Chapter 3 under the heading, "The Size and Financing of the Public Sector/Investment Programme", it was pointed out that "in order to assess the magnitude of the programme of action which the Government must take to generate a surplus on current a projection for the economy as a whole, and for the public sector in particular was prepared covering the period 1983-1986."

According to the report, it took into account the measures which

were announced in the 1983 Budget as well as the reduction in oil prices.

It found that "in the absence of compensatory fiscal measures over the period" a breakdown in the recurrent account deficit would be \$1,272.6 million for 1983; \$1,687.2 million for 1984; \$2,251 million for 1985 and \$2,60.5 million for 1986 adding up to a total deficit of \$7,891 million.

Another more "optimistic assumption" which was based on an increase in the price of petroleum in 1984 and 1985 and also on increased revenues through a reduction in the Supplementary Petroleum Tax (SPT) merely shows a slightly smaller deficit - \$6,884 million.

The plan suggested a programme of measures pointing out that "there is no alternative but to introduce over the period 1984 to 1986" such a package.

The measures are:

- Reducing the deficits of the public utilities. In the base case, the deficits of the utilities are projected to be \$4,717 million between 1983-1986.

- Reducing other subsidies, particularly the subsidies on food. In the base case, these subsidies are projected to be \$1157 million over the four-year period.

- Holding down the rate of increase in the wage and salary bill in the public sector. The increase in the wage and salary bill over the four years, in the base case, adds almost \$2,000 million to the cumulated recurrent deficit.

- Holding down the growth in other transfers. These transfers are projected to be \$6,118 million over four years: the increase over the period is \$812 million.

- Increasing taxes and enlarging the tax base.

Cooperation in Petroleum

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 83 p 4

[Text] THE DENAS Task Force has recommended that Trinidad and Tobago should cooperate with nationally-owned petroleum companies of Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

The report states that the co-operation with the regionally-owned companies should be promoted with a view to developing economic opportunities.

Among the recommendations proposed under energy is for joint oil and gas exploration and development as well as refining and marketing with Venezuela.

It was felt that this should be pursued at the earliest opportunity.

The report also recommended the establishment at the earliest opportunity of a multidisciplinary team to study and devise a comprehensive energy price policy.

It drew attention to the need for rational energy pricing and subsidy policies that would promote energy conservation, optimise the use of the different forms of petroleum energy which are produced locally and encourage the development of technological capability in respect to alternative energy sources.

On the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas project, the Demas Task Force felt that it would be developed expeditiously after restructuring the project to

--Reduce Government equity in the plant facility to a minimum,

--Ensure the collection of an adequate economic rent in lieu of the depletion of reserves; and

--Provide effective coordination of the technical, financial construction and marketing aspects of the entire project.

On oil refining the report states that primary distillation capacity should be reduced to 150,000 barrels a day, the amount depending on crude availability, marketing needs and refinery rationalisation constraints.

Upgrading of facilities should also be pursued, it was stated, to improve product yield particularly since the proportion of heavier crudes may increase.

Deficiencies in Manufacturing

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 83 p 19

[Text] IF THE private sector of the country is to "perform adequately" in manufacturing, then there are many issues with which the country's public sector must deal "appropriately," the Demas Report says.

Those issues include directing private sector perception to the attractiveness of manufacturing.

The Report points out that private sector perception has been that "the returns in manufacturing industry have been inadequate and relatively long-termed," hence the "considerable private sector dynamism" of the last decade has been "largely in commerce and real estate development, not in industrial development. The results have been reflected in the lacklustre contribution of the manufacturing sector to Gross Domestic Product."

The public sector must do its best to discourage belief in industry that "entry costs and start-up costs for manufacturing are now prohibitively high," and recognise that the public sector will have to address itself to the "need to provide additional incentive to industry beyond those now available."

That scenario prescribes an agenda for the public sector: in particular, development of export capability and export capacity, strengthening of the thrust towards deepening of the manufacturing sector, "careful examination and review of the regime of incentives to industry and of the scope for linkage and integration among the sectors and industries."

The efforts would force "manpower issues--in particular, the supply, cost and availability of technical manpower--will increasingly emerge as critical.

"A policy and programme must be implemented, bearing in mind technological changes taking place within industry and the new types of skills which will be required," the Report insists.

Not only will problems of manpower development be part of the crux of industrial development," the issue of industrial redeployment (both of manpower and of industry) is one likely to emerge, forcefully during the plan period," the Report states, "partly as a result of declining land production of oil and gas, the location of the new fields away from the traditional centres of the industry and the much lower manpower ratios used in marine exploration and processing."

The pyramid of problems erected by the need to resolve those problems mentioned would contain others. Among them, the authors of the Report itemised two: "further retrenchment, and industrial and commercial rationalisation."

These two, the Report said, "will also contribute to the need for such redeployment."

Necessary and desirable, in the view of the Demas team, is "further elaboration of the regional aspect of the industrial development programme within Trinidad and Tobago," since the magnitude of the problems, the scope for smooth transition to other activity, and the provision of alternative employment are important priorities for investigation."

The Report did not include however, any agenda for public sector development as part of its overview on development of manufacturing industry.

Labor, Other Cost Factors

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 83 p 20

[Text]

ACHIEVE productivity or go limping into the industrial world, the Demas Report clearly tells Trinidad and Tobago.

Discussing the critical role of labour cost in industrial development, the Report stresses that "wage rates in money terms and in real terms have increased sharply and in a sustained manner over the last decade," and so both "the option and the scope for labour-intensive manufacturing utilising semi-skilled and unskilled labour are extremely circumscribed."

"This single fact determines," the report declares, "to a considerable extent, the context and the content of industrial policy over the term of this plan."

Trinidad and Tobago must now "focus on becoming cost competitive in all areas of its industry and to institute sustained and thorough-going programmes of productivity improvement."

"The second implication is that it is necessary, in the selection and promotion of industry, to emphasise skill-intensive industry and capital-intensive industry, oriented to export markets both within and outside Caricom."

The industrial sector is seen in the Report as the bellwether occupation of the country: it must sustain employment, generate output and

income ("to avoid a fall in real industrial output, and in real incomes") and substitute for imported production "to conserve foreign exchange," the Report starkly states.

The agenda for industry also includes, the Report recites, obligation to create the base for future export earnings, contribution to national objectives in deepening and diversifying the industrial structure and achieving greater integration among sectors of the economy and within the industrial sector.

MUST ACCELERATE

Not only that, industry, the Report added, must accelerate technological development and realise greater local self-sufficiency in meeting basic needs.

How to achieve the agenda was also set out by the Report: "Put in place new capacity and capability, help create a climate receptive to new skills and technology, and play a major role in the redeployment and retraining of manpower, contribute to the removal or alleviation of critical bottlenecks to economic, particularly industrial, performance and obstacles to the absorptive capacity of the economy and the sector; bottlenecks that have had the effect of raising the cost of

investment, lowering productivity, and fuelling the rate of inflation."

What kind of industrial revolution ought to be in the making was a question also addressed, if indirectly, by Report, in these terms: "given the circumstances...the focal areas for action and attention by the sector must include (a) export industries (requiring) high levels of skill and technology, (b) housing and agro-industry, (c) capital goods, intermediates and engineering industries, (d) other industries downstream of existing energy-based industries, possibly (e) other energy-based industries, (f) deepening of the industrial sector, and (f) services."

CSO: 3298/097

GOVERNMENT RULES OUT SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] **TOBAGO WILL definitely not have a school feeding programme this year. It has been 'chopped' by the Ministry of Finance.**

The Ministry has written the Tobago House of Assembly saying that the programme should be shelved until next year, triggering renewed resentment of the central government.

"This is grossly unfair," declared Dr J. D. Elder, the Assembly's Secretary for Education who has been spearheading the project. "The Prime Minister stated quite clearly in his 1983 budget that the Tobago project would be financed this year. How can he tell us now to wait until next year?"

"The Prime Minister is also the Minister of Finance and he is once again going back on his word to Tobago," charged Dr Elder.

The school feeding programme is one of the projects the Assembly has been pushing since its development plan came into existence in late 1980.

The estimated cost is \$6 million but the Assembly had proposed a pilot project with three kitchens, one each at Charlotteville, Caanan/Bon Accord and Mason Hall.

The Assembly has already signed an agreement with the State-owned Nutrition Company of Chaguaramas for advisory services, and two months ago applied to the Ministry of Finance for the release of funds to furnish the kitchens and hire staff.

The Ministry has now responded that the programme should be postponed to 1984.

What this means, said Dr Elder, is that Tobago children will have to wait, probably until the middle of 1984 for free lunches, since it will take that long for the formalities of the 1984 budget to be completed. "And of course we have the groundwork of preparing the kitchens, buying equipment and hiring staff," he said, "so our poor children will not get free lunches probably for another six months."

Minister of Education Overand Padmore had recently announced in Trinidad that because of stringent financial circumstances, several of his ministry's expansion projects were to be postponed, including expansion of school feeding.

But Tobagonians argue that this should not apply to Tobago since it was not a case of expanding school feeding in the island but of starting it.

Another cause of concern to Dr Elder was the future of three school teachers who had been seconded to the Assembly to organise the feeding programme. Their period of secondment ends next month but the ministry has said nothing of their status.

Dr Elderer also referred to the ruling last month by the Organisation and Management Division of the Finance Ministry to defer consideration of the Assembly's application for school feeding staff.

"It is very clear to me that this was a deliberate act and that the postponement now of the school feeding project was a fait accompli even then," he said.

UNIONS HIT FOR NEGATIVE STANDS, WAGE FREEZE REJECTED

Weekes, Panday on Wages

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

BOTH Mr. George Weekes, president general of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) and Rep Basdeo Panday, Leader of the Opposition, have come out strongly against the wage freeze proposed by the Demas Task Force.

Mr. Weekes felt that it was not unusual to find the "employer class" seeking to make "scapegoat either of the workers or their trade unions."

Mr. Panday said that before any question of a wage freeze could be attempted it was necessary to bring about "some measure of equality in the wages being paid to workers."

"You simply cannot freeze wages when some workers are getting \$1 an hour and another set \$10 an hour, because by so doing you will be perpetuating injustice and inequality. You have got to bring those who are below in line with those who are on top."

In addition, Mr. Panday who is president general of the All Trinidad and General Workers Trade Union said: "You must also ensure that there is a freeze on profits, and a freeze on cost of living." That was our initial reaction to the question."

But he said that the union was making a study of the Demas Report and would make "a comprehensive statement in due course."

Mr. Weekes said that workers and unions were always being made scapegoats "for the bad economic planning and the level of inefficiency that normally flows as a result. In addition there is the question of corruption that digs deep into the economic life of the country and no self-respecting trade union leader or trade union will accept that either their unions or their workers will be used as scapegoats."

Union 'Negativism'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 2 Oct 83 p 3

[Text]

THE MAJORITY of labour leaders in this country are reacting like desperate animals cornered by rapidly changing conditions they do not understand and cannot control, and lashing out viciously at anything within reach,

preferably at the weak and at those unwilling or unable to engage in gutter warfare.

When the economy boomed, it was easy to make exorbitant demands. Increases ran into hundreds of per cents. One actually topped 900 per cent. Any relationship to productivity vanished. Wisdom was supplanted by arrogance, greed and unwillingness to face reality. Labour's motto became "Let the good time roll... and to hell with responsibility."

Unionists were thus caught unawares by the sudden turn for the worse in the economy. Thus, they are totally unaccustomed and unprepared for drastically reduced pay increases. They are at a loss to communicate to their workers that in many cases zero increases are better than smaller pay packets. They have no intelligent plan for that most feared of all, catastrophes, redundancy and layoffs.

In summary, they have no alternative or contingency plans. Hence the desperation.

UNVARNISHED TERRORISM

The situation has not been made any easier by loss of membership, loss of dues and, above all, loss of confidence by the rank and file in the once blustering and formerly successful leaders.

They are losing face rapidly and without the intellectual machinery to meet harsher times they can only rely on ever more vocal complaint, and, unfortunately, on frighteningly reckless action.

The latter is aimed not at the large and tough corporations with the strength and battle-hardened resources to handle what amounts to unvarnished terrorism, but at one or two minor victims who are inflicted with prolonged "punishment".

Those highly painful skirmishes are also used to sound the battle-cry and to whip-up the badly sagging morale of organised labour led into the marshes of confusion by inept officers.

No one wants to see organised labour take the final plunge and become "disorganised" labour. Feudal systems cannot sustain a modern economy or generate continued advances in the national weal.

Purposeful, intelligent behaviour is required from ALL sectors if efforts are to be crowned with glory. Labour is one of the key ingredients. It has a rational, participative role to perform, without it there simply will be no progress. For anyone!

This, however, calls for new attitudes. A new think. And vigorous, new application. In a word, "work" that unmentionable, four-letter utterance that has become the bane of today's lazy, complacent unionist.

The lingering, nay, predominant approach to the changes and adjustments required by unionism to the altering and often difficult economic situation is one of negativism. Better to withdraw enthusiasm than eagerly ferret out solutions is the overriding feeling.

"After all, finding answers is management's duty, not ours," is another parallel line of negativism that stunts the growth and development of the worker, holds back progress, denies the country a chance to improve — every effort, small or large, is important — and deprives the very union of the extra income created by innovation.

Negativism does not stop at suppressing new ideas. It absolves the squads of Monday morning delinquent workers from any feeling of guilt over absenteeism, whether at the start of the week or on the day following a holiday.

UNERADICABLE ILLNESS

Abuse of sick leave is likewise an uncaring negative act. At times it is nothing short of corporate sabotage. Funeral leave, compassionate leave and other forms of work avoidance are so entrenched as to be regarded as rights, not as expediences.

"Yuh take yuh sick leave for de year yet?" This is a normal question displaying an abnormal attitude of escape from efforts...and self-fulfilment.

Waste is more subtle, but infinitely worse when it refers to materials. Petty theft and, sometimes, not-so-petty pilfering are regarded as an uneradicable illness.

Carelessness, slothfulness and lack of application, defy calculation as generators of loss. But somehow the unions don't see these dehumanising trends as their problem.

It's the management "to catch." Because heads of labour have consistently turned a blind eye to these negative attitudes, they failed to detect their long-term effects on the viability of the companies involved, and on the very unions themselves.

Suddenly it's panic. All the reports, signs and omens point to a downturn and the only response within the capabilities of the many

incompetents in positions of authority in unions is confrontation and noise, the more the merrier.

Calls abound for demonstrations, "pressure," resistance, withdrawal and other stridencies that are nonetheless a fetid heap of negatives.

Not a single positive suggestion from the unions, the people who have appointed themselves judge and jury over the faults of employers. It amounts to an abject and disgraceful confession that labour lacks the ability for resourceful action and entrepreneurial thinking.

Labour thus still sees itself as drawers of water and hewers of wood, instead of implementers and innovators in the sophisticated world of machinery, computers and rapidly advancing technology.

The equation turns sour and dangerous when to confrontation and demonstration is added the dimension of violence. Bombings and beatings are becoming a sick norm.

There is actual photographic evidence of strikers whacking cars and windscreens, venting the rage caused by their impotence in destroying a company on management vehicles.

There are office premises scarred, dented, ripped and smashed, representing the ire of rampaging workers. But then a curious thing happens.

Reaction from the law has to be pleaded and begged for. Response is often slow and unwilling. And then, to add insult to injury, the rampaging unionists charge that THEY have been physically attacked.

There is a political flavour here. The incumbents have ever held a non-confrontation position with respect to labour. The rule remains — give them what they want, and don't fire anyone. A prominent Government Minister only days ago affirmed this position to an executive of a state enterprise. He added later that particularly in view of the recent elections reversals, every effort must be made not to create waves.

And where does this leave the country? It's a three-cornered problem — desperate unionists, weak leadership and a hapless public. Inspired change, positive thinking, a return to courage and principle and the introduction of new techniques, where possible, are strong contenders for attention.

TRADE BALANCE IN THE RED FOR FIRST HALF OF 1983

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Oct 83 p 4

[Text]

FOR the period January to June of this year, Trinidad and Tobago has imported goods to the value of \$3,506 million as compared to \$3,008 million in exports.

This shows an adverse balance of visible trade totalling some \$498 million.

The figures compare favourably with those of the same period for 1982 where total imports were recorded at \$4,377 million and total exports at \$3,750 million.

PETROLEUM SECTOR

For the month of June alone imports stood at \$476 million and exports at \$464 million with an adverse balance of visible trade to the tune of \$12 million. For the same period in 1982, imports stood at \$952 million and exports at \$615 million with an adverse balance of \$337 million.

During January to June of this year, the petroleum sector accounted for seven per cent of total imports and 84 per cent of total exports.

Imports under the section of food and live animals during the same period rose from nine per

cent in 1982 to 13 per cent this year. Fruit and vegetable imports amounted to \$105 million for the period, cereal and cereal preparations at \$96 million, dairy products and eggs at \$85 million, meat and meat preparations at \$65 million, feeding stuff for animals at \$48 million and fish and fish preparations at \$20 million.

This same section accounted for only two per cent of all exports for the period with fruits and vegetables accounting for \$3 million, cereal for \$4 million, sugar for \$49 million and coffee, tea, cocoa and spices at \$12 million.

Imports under the Caricom Agreement for the same period of January to June accounted for some five percent of total imports or \$189 million, while exports accounted for three per cent of domestic exports or \$97 million.

CARICOM IMPORTS

Jamaica accounted for some 32 per cent of Caricom imports to this country, but only 16 per cent of exports, Barbados accounted for 26 per cent in both imports and exports, Guyana for 14 per cent imports and 26 per cent exports, while Antigua and St. Lucia absorbed eight per cent each of our exports.

When compared to the same period for 1982, this country's imports from Caricom countries decreased by some \$42 million while exports decreased by some 107 million. The most significant export decreases included Guyana by \$51 million, and Jamaica by \$15 million.

CSO: 3298/098

PANDAY BLAMES 'POLITICAL STAGNATION' FOR ECONOMIC ILLS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] THE ECONOMIC MESS in this country is due less to the influence of international forces, and more to the political stagnation with which the country has been gripped for the past 27 years. This was the view of Opposition leader Mr. Basdeo Panday when he addressed the Central Port of Spain Rotary Club at Holiday Inn on Thursday.

According to Mr. Panday those who regard this period as political stability fail to appreciate the difference between the two.

In explanation, he referred to the 1956-58 period, when the PNM, under late Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, won the elections. This, he said, was due to the right things being said at the right time by Dr. Williams.

But when he lost the elections in 1958, Mr. Panday said, the late Prime Minister not only allowed the Federation (West Indies) to collapse, but resolved that he and the PNM would never again lost elections.

"That single concern became his only objective. It seems to have enveloped and preoccupied his mind until his death. Williams lived from elections to elections. As soon as one was over, he began campaigning for the next one."

Mr. Panday said the present regime had inherited this "pre-occupation for personal power," and seemed powerless to break out of this "survival syndrome".

"The way you come to power, or the way you maintain power, determines the way you are going to exercise that power." This, he said, would determine whatever social policy was made and the kind of social institutions set up, and this would be the downfall of the present government.

According to Mr. Panday, in formulating a policy for this society one must first understand that this country is not Great Britain or the United States, but a peculiar society--small, compact and highly plural, with various dimensions to that plurality.

Any policy of divide and rule in a plural society, he said, was bound to end in disaster--not only for the perpetrators, but for the nation--when technical, technological and intellectual manpower would also become divided.

Because the current Government had no plan for the country, "when the oil windfall came they did not know what to do with it, and used it to create Special Works and DEWD, not as part of an overall plan, but as a political strategy".

"They engendered a prodigal consumption pattern without developing the productive base of the economy to provide for such wants. The results were escalating prices, an insatiable appetite for foreign goods, and the feeling that we can continue to live without producing."

According to Mr. Panday, this system of handouts deepened the existing feeling of alienation in the society. And this feeling, he felt, was the greatest single constraint to the progress of the nation.

The present Government, being the perpetrators of this alienation, he said, lacked the credibility and moral authority to mobilise the nation, "whether it be for belt tightening or to end the fete and return to work."

"The only way to extricate ourselves from the present crisis, and lay the foundation for sustained economic growth, is to mobilise the population for the task, and the only way to do this, is for a new political dispensation to end the alienation."

He described the accommodation Local Government election victory as a "most gratifying experience" in this regard, since they were able to mobilise the people and inspire them to work for no money, when others were in the habit of getting money for no work. The secret, he said, was to make people feel that they belonged.

He noted that it was easier to mobilise the people at the local instead of the national consciousness: the retention of the political, economic and social institutions, inherited from our colonial past, and the centralisation of power by the current regime.

According to Mr. Panday, social and political reforms must now be given high priority, and the only way to do this is to remove the present regime.

CSO: 3298/098

PANDAY BELIEVES SOME TRY TO DESTROY UNION FROM WITHIN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THERE are some members of the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union who are trying to destroy the union by fostering disunity within the ranks.

"I can understand our enemies doing that. But when some of our own members aid and abet our enemies by spreading false and malicious rumours in the Press, it is disheartening and difficult to understand their motive."

That was how president general of the union, Mr. Basdeo Panday assessed the opposition forces within the trade union over the weekend.

Mr Panday, in addressing the 46th annual conference of the union knocked some of his officers for not performing; reviewed the economic situation in the country and gave a breakdown in wage talks between the union and a number of companies including Caroni Ltd.

Harping on problems within his own trade union, Mr Panday told a wide cross section of the membership at Rienzi Complex, Couva, that he was accused of not having people of a particular ethnic group in the leadership.

"What am I supposed to do? Abandon elections and return to the position where the leader nominates them to office? Or rig the elections so that they are elected?" he asked.

Mr Panday who is leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives predicted that Prime Minister George Chambers is going to impose a wage freeze starting with all workers in the State Enterprises.

'START FROM TOP'

At the top of the list, he said, is Caroni Ltd. To that effect, the

sugar manufacturing company has offered nine per cent, broken down at three per cent per year over the next three years for the sugar workers.

The union leader asked, "Which other State-owned enterprise has offered an increase of nine per cent over three years since the People's National Movement came to power in 1956.

"The Prime Minister has called for belt tightening but he has to start first from the top — bring back John O'Halloran, explain the rackets in Caroni Racing Complex, King George V Park, South Korean housing contract, Tesoro scandal, DC 9 affair, Leyland scandal among others," Mr Panday said.

"They must bring those responsible for corruption to justice before calling on the nation to tighten its belt — to pay higher taxes, higher prices for everything, to endure unemployment, lack of roads water and housing."

The trade union leader urged unity and change. "There is need for reforms," he said.

The newly elected officers were installed by Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo.

CSO: 3298/086

PANDAY SEEKS CONSULTATION WITH CHAMBERS ON BUDGET

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Oct 83 p 3

[Text]

MR. BASDEO PANDAY, Leader of the Opposition, has called on Prime Minister George Chambers for bipartisan consultations regarding the 1984 Budget to be held "well before preparation of the Budget". He said this would not only give the Opposition an opportunity to have a meaningful input into Budget formulation but would also reduce the bitterness and antagonism, born of frustration, which have attended every Budget Debate since Independence.

Submitting that this would allow Opposition Members to provide "the kind of representation which is the right and duty of each and every Member of Parliament to render his/her constituency", Mr. Panday blamed existing Budget tradition upon colonialism.

'NO INFLUENCE'

In his letter to the Prime Minister calling for a national Budget, Mr. Panday pointed out that "the present political system conduces to the attitude of the Government. It is a system which was designed effectively to exclude duly elected representatives of a colonial people from any meaningful participation in the decision making process. We must bend the institutions to suit our needs".

Describing the Opposition's experience, Mr. Panday stressed that "Experience has shown that the contribution of the Opposition during the Budget Debate has no effect or influence on the outcome of the Debate or on the final form of the annual Budget.

"Surely it would be unreasonable to conclude that over the past seven years the Opposition has not made a single valid proposal during such Debates. Yet no Opposition proposal has ever been accepted by Government during this period".

CSO: 3298/098

UK TRADE MINISTER COMMENTS ON RISING 1983 EXPORTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 83 p 22

[Text]

LAST year Trinidad and Tobago exported £65 million (TT \$234 million) worth of goods to the United Kingdom and it is expected that this total will increase for this year's trading.

Speaking at a Press conference held at the Trinidad Hilton on Wednesday morning, British Minister of Trade, Mr. Paul Channon, said figures available for the first six months of 1983 showed that this country had already exported £37 million (TT\$133.2 million) in goods to the U.K. which was the total figure recorded for 1981 exports.

He said at the end of the year, local exports to Britain is expected to match the first six months or show a slight increase giving a total of £74 million (TT \$266.4 million) for 1983 or "a little bit more."

Commenting on his two-day official visit here, Mr. Channon said he held warm and fruitful talks with government officials, local and British businessmen.

He said there was potential for greater trade between the two countries noting that local exports rose sharply last year while British exports to this country reflected a modest increase.

Citing a number of areas in which the two countries could work together for their mutual benefit, Mr. Channon said there were pos-

sibilities of joint ventures in housing like the manufacture of housing components and construction needs.

He said this would lessen this country's reliance on imports and provide a "great deal of scope for local contractors."

Mr. Channon also noted that the tourist industry here could be exploited further and pointed out that there were only about 17,000 first class hotel rooms between the two islands which could be expanded from a joint venture on hotel room construction.

He said he was told by local authorities that there were plans to improve the terminal and runway at the Crown Point airport in Tobago and the possibility of Britain being associated with this project was discussed.

Mr. Channon said he was also informed that a tourist office will be opened in London in the next 12 months and that a team from the Trinidad and Tobago Export Development Corporation will be visiting London soon.

Mr. Channon said the latter's visit was important because it was necessary to let British businessmen know of opportunities that existed here.

According to the British Trade Minister, ever since Britain abolished its exchange controls, trade has

been provided with a stimulus.

Mr. Channon also told members of the Press that a double taxation agreement signed between the two governments last year is expected to be ratified by autumn or before the end of the year.

CSO: 3298/099

MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLY INDUSTRY MAKES QUARTERLY GAIN

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 18 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Saturday (CANA) — TRINIDAD and Tobago production of motor vehicles in the assembly industry during the first quarter of this year totalled 4,900 units — a 17 per cent increase on the corresponding period in 1982, according to the Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank.

The Bank, in its latest quarterly report, also said vehicle production in the final quarter of 1982 was down 12.5 per cent on the previous three months to 4 200 units. However, this figure was 17 per cent higher than that for the final quarter in 1981.

Motor vehicle sales between October and December 1982 amounted to 4.5 thousand units, which were partly met by stock crackdowns of 300 units, the report covering the three-month period April to June said.

Production of radio and television sets reached its peak in 1982 during the final quarter when 7,800 units were assembled. At the same time, the Central Bank said sales were high, reaching 10,400 units reflecting strong consumer demand at Christmas.

All the 1982 production and sales figures have been released for the first time.

However, radio and T.V. production declined to 6,100 units between January and March this year, the Central Bank report said. The figure was still 22 per cent higher than that for the 1982 first quarter.

Sales dropped to 3,900 units over the same period, reflecting what the Central Bank called the seasonal law usually experienced in the three months following Christmas.

Data on the production and sales of gas cookers and refrigerators were not given for the fourth quarter of 1982 or the first quarter of 1983.

The quarterly reports of the Central Bank are regarded as a barometer of Trinidad and Tobago's economic performance. The twin island republic has been experiencing difficult times.

CSO: 3298/086

BRIEFS

ONR CONSTITUTION--IMPORTANT amendments are expected to be made to the Constitution of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) today when the party holds a conference of constituency delegates at 10 Albion Street, Port of Spain. The all-day conference at party headquarters is a follow-up of extensive research and discussions under the direction of Mr. Neville Hordatt, Education Officer of the ONR, and a special committee appointed to revise the Party's Constitution. All 34 ONR constituencies in Trinidad and observers from Tobago will spend the morning and afternoon sessions considering the amendments recommended by the special Constitution Review Committee and where necessary, making additional proposals. By the end of the day the party will have arrived at a significantly revised constitution that more immediately relates to the changing conditions, today and the importance of simplifying the work of the party organisation. The new Constitution will serve also as the ONR's guideline including specifically the party's national annual conference which comes off in November. New officers will be elected at that time to run the affairs of the organisation until November, 1984. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 83 p 21]

ELECTIONS COMMISSION HEAD--RETIRED Chief Justice Sir Isaac Hyatali has replaced Sir Alan Reece as chairman of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, sources close to the Commission disclosed yesterday. It was also revealed that Dr Norbert Masson, former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education who is on pre-retirement leave, has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Commission created by the death of former High Court Judge Karl De la Bastide. The replacement of Sir Alan brings to an end an association with the Commission which began when the body was established in 1961. Sir Alan who is in his seventies, was the first chairman appointed. Others members of the Commission are Dr Stephen Moosai-Maharaj, Mr Simeon Alexander and Mr Oswald Wilson. Sir Isaac retired as Chief Justice earlier this year and was recently appointed to the board of Trade Confirmers Ltd. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/099

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT--Grand Turk Turks and Caicos Sunday (CANA)--A surge in imports, mainly from the United States, pushed the Turks and Caicos trade deficit up by 46.5 per cent to US\$18.3 million last year over 1981, the government has reported. It attributed the deterioration in the balance of visible trade to rising imports and falling exports. Imports last year rose sharply by 37.5 per cent to US\$20.9 million with the United States taking \$3 out of every \$4. The U.S. was the main supplier of manufactured goods, tobacco, food and beverages and raw materials while Commonwealth and other countries provided most of the fuel needs. The government said total exports dropped from \$2.6 million in 1981 to \$2.5 last year. In 1981 the Turks and Caicos islands exported 932 147 pounds of cray-fish conch and related goods which earned \$2.6 million. Last year the volume of these exports were down by 132 792 pounds and their value was \$2.5 million. [as published] The United States, the islands' main source for imports, provided \$15.6 million in goods. Exports to the U.S. were worth \$2.5 million. Purchases from Britain almost doubled last year to \$1.2 million. There were declines in all areas of the fisheries industry, except for frozen conch meat. Exports of this meat rose by four per cent to 559 803 in 1981 with value increasing by 11.7 per cent to \$1.1 million. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/087

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