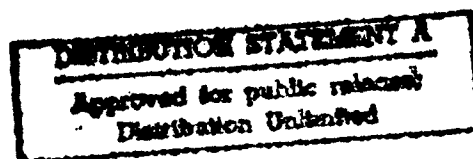


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31 July 1985

Latin America Report



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31 July 1985

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31 July 1985

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ TO SEEK SUPPORT DURING VISIT

PY271941 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] Nicaragua is going to ask Brazil for economic aid and that it inject more dynamism into the Contadora process. This request will be made during a meeting Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez will hold with President Jose Sarney at Planalto Palace at 1500 on 14 July. Itamaraty is arranging Ramirez' visit.

Ramirez, who is a writer, a promoter abroad of the Sandinist revolution during Somoza's administration, a former member of the government junta, and a civilian member of the Revolutionary Command, was elected vice president in November 1984 when he ran as a Sandinist candidate on the slate headed by Daniel Ortega. A previous attempt by the Old Republic to get Ramirez to visit Brazil failed. A preliminary contact was made by Vice Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talayera in mid-1984.

The New Republic agreed to the visit encouraged by the fact that before coming to Brazil, Sergio Ramirez will visit Argentina and Uruguay, both of which have adopted more progressive diplomatic stances toward Nicaragua, the Contadora Group, and Central America. According to the first information Itamaraty has received, Ramirez is going to suggest that the Sarney government awaken the Contadora Group by using its influence in the continent. Many Latin American countries--among them Nicaragua--believe that the Contadora process is becoming exhausted and cannot make any further progress because of the resistance of the United States and its Central American allies--El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Nicaragua also hopes that Argentina will use its political force and Uruguay its great moral force achieved through the democratic opening.

In addition to political aid, Sergio Ramirez is going to seek economic aid. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry is aware that the Nicaraguan vice president and government would like to see the promises Jose Sarney made in May to Rodrigues Reys, a sort of minister of the Sandinist government's civil cabinet, materialize. On that occasion Sarney said that he would discuss the possibilities of increasing economic aid to Nicaragua with the New Republic's economic team. Ramirez will also invite Sarney's government to send an official delegation to Managua to take part in the revolution's anniversary celebrations on 19 July. The Brazilian Government's decision to accept the invitation would be considered very important by the Sandinist government at a time in which the U.S. Government is increasing its military, economic, and political pressure on it.

In Brasilia, Ramirez will host a reception for the Brazilian authorities and will probably hold a press conference. On the morning of 5 July [as published], he will travel to Rio de Janeiro.

Yesterday, speaking before representatives of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, President Jose Sarney reasserted the Brazilian Government's decision to fully support the Contadora Group's effort to find a solution to the armed conflicts in Central America; that is, a peaceful and negotiated solution seeking the autonomy of the countries of the continent. The subject of the Central American conflicts, especially the Nicaraguan conflict, was brought up by Sinesio Bohn, bishop of Novo Hamburgo (Rio Grande do Sul), who opposed "any attempt by an imperialist power, irrespective of its ideology, to interfere in the independence of the countries of the continent" since he fears the same might occur in South America.

CSO: 3342/209

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARICOM LEADER HITS CBI; NEW SCHEME PROPOSED FOR CMCF

Rainford Call for Review of CBI

FL041608 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] Bridgetown, 4 Jul (REUTER)--The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) has failed to achieve balanced economic development in the Caribbean and needs to be reviewed to find ways of assisting smaller states, Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Roderick Rainford said.

The CBI has been a useful experiment but it cannot be seen as a panacea for development and needs to be reviewed to ensure more equal benefits for all countries in the region, he said.

The CBI, a trade and aid package launched by the Reagan administration in 1983, last year generated 154 million dollars in new foreign investments and contracts.

Rainford said, however, that Caribbean countries were hit by exclusions from duty exemptions of certain products, especially garments and leather goods, and that other items allowed access often faced difficulties with U.S. Department of Agriculture standards. The CBI provides for 12-year duty exemption for a range of Caribbean products, effective January 1984.

Rainford said any review of CBI regulations needs to open up access to more Caribbean goods and also ensure that its benefits are extended to smaller states that lack the infrastructure to attract U.S. investment.

Rainford, who is attending the Sixth Caribbean Community (Caricom) Heads of Government meeting here, said also that measures will be considered today to offset a 25 percent decline in intra-regional trade between 1981-1984.

Caricom trade accounts for only around five percent of the region's exports, less than when the organisation was formed 12 years ago.

Obstacles to stimulating trade include Jamaica's floating exchange rate, which other Caricom countries whose currencies are pegged to the U.S. dollar say makes its goods unfairly competitive. Trinidad, which accounts for 40 percent of Caricom trade has established import barriers to combat this.

Rainford said efforts are still being made to revive the 100 million dollar Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility, which collapsed two years ago due to around 60 million dollars in debts owed by Guyana to Trinidad.

Guyana's President Burnham said the debts could be paid over a period of five years through rice, timber and fish products. But officials said there has been no agreement on this and the CMCF could remain in limbo as a result.

Finance ministers have accordingly drawn up a scheme for a new trade credit facility to help promote exports in and outside the region. It would involve equity financing from Caricom countries and foreign loans which could be channeled through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Rainford said.

Export Credit Facility

FL041515 Bridgetown CANA in English 2158 GMT 3 Jul 85

[By Tervor Simpson]

[Text] Bridgetown, 3 Jul (CANA)--Caribbean Community (Caricom) finance ministers today agreed in principle to the establishment of a new export credit scheme, but failed to find a workable formula for refloating the debt-ridden Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), suspended two years ago, official sources said.

The ministers, most of them Caricom heads of government, took a break on the third day of their summit here to reexamine the feasibility of providing renewed credit facilities for intraregional trade, which has been in decline since 1982.

They approved but deferred for later refinement and further analysis broad proposals from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for establishment of an Export Credit Facility (ECF) to help develop trade in specific commodities.

The proposals envisage a self-financing scheme to provide medium term credit--two to four years--for Caricom exports in agriculture, agro-processing and manufacturing.

Under the CDB plan, preference would be given to regional goods with the potential to become internationally competitive in quality, volume and price, the sources said.

But while recognising the vital importance to trade of restarting the CMCF, a shorter term credit scheme for intraregional exports which collapsed under the weight of Guyana's debt, the finance ministers could not agree on how to get the mechanism resumed.

While Guyana acknowledged its more than U.S.\$70 million indebtedness to the CMCF, including interest, it said the country's chronic foreign exchange shortage simply precluded any meaningful cash repayment in the immediate future. Georgetown, however, committed itself to at least attempting to repay some of the interest on the debt accumulated over the past two years, the sources said.

Barbados, the largest creditor in the facility, felt it would be helpful if Guyana, as agreed to previously, leaves the proceeds from some of her intra-Caricom exports, especially sugar, in the CMCF, to help reduce Georgetown's indebtedness.

Jamaica has agreed to clear its U.S.\$2 million CMCF debt, the sources said, and the ministers agreed that restarting the facility would require new rules, to prevent a recurrence of the crash, the sources said.

The finance ministers will tonight report to the latest caucus of the heads on the outcome of the talks on the credit schemes and discussions will continue in that forum, the sources said.

CSO: 3298/849

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE

FL022207 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Text] Bridgetown, 2 Jul--A two-member delegation from the Bank and General Workers' Union (BGWU) of Trinidad and Tobago was leaving for home tonight, after four days of lobbying Caribbean Community (Caricom) government leaders and officials meeting here to do something about the precarious financial position of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). The BGWU is the bargaining agent for CARDI's Trinidad headquarters staff.

Wade Mark, the BGWU's education and research coordinator, said he had raised the problems facing CARDI, stemming mainly from the non-payment of contributions by member governments, with at least two heads of government...Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers and St Vincent and the Grenadines' James Mitchell--who had both promised to see that something is done.

Mark said Caricom governments owed CARDI six million dollars (one TT dollar: 41 cents U.S.) and the cash flow problem facing the institution was so serious that workers at the Trinidad headquarters were receiving salaries irregularly. CARDI's annual budget is around TT seven million dollars.

The defaulters he listed were: Barbados: TT1.3 million dollars; Jamaica: 1.3 million; Dominica: 200,000 dollars; Guyana: 178,000 dollars; Grenada: 150,000 dollars; St Kitts-Nevis: 100,000 dollars; and Trinidad and Tobago: 450,000 dollars.

Apart from the inability to pay workers on time, Mark said CARDI was unable to pay employees gratuity and other emoluments on their retirement.

CARDI was set up by Caricom governments in 1975 to push the development of regional agriculture. The status of the institute is an agenda item for the Caricom heads of government summit underway here.

CSO: 3298/849

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CONTADORA GROUP PROPOSED--Madrid, 2 Jul (EFE)--In Madrid today, Honduran Foreign Secretary Eduardo Paz Barnica proposed that the Dominican Republic and Argentina join the Contadora Group as a way to revitalize the peace group, which is currently comprised of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. In a statement to EFE, Paz Barnica stated that the expansion of the Contadora Group and the internal reconciliation talks between Nicaragua's Sandinist government and the opposition are the basic requirements for overcoming the Contadora Group's stalemate and achieving peace in the region. [Text]
[Madrid EFE in Spanish 1843 GMT 2 Jul 85]

EC DEVALUATION DENIAL--The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank yesterday denied rumors suggesting the EC dollar, currently worth 37 U.S. cents, would be devalued. The bank issued the denial in a prepared statement that says any change in the external value of the EC dollar requires the unanimous decision of all seven governments participating in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Agreement. Members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States include Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, and St. Lucia. The board expressed concern over the rumor and said there was no basis for believing a change in the external value of the currency is likely. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Jul 85 FL]

CHILE BUYS ECUADOREAN OIL--Cesar Valdivieso, Ecuadorean ambassador to Chile, reported yesterday to EL MERCURIO that Chile will buy 5,000 barrels of petroleum daily from Ecuador. He said that talks between the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] and the National Petroleum Enterprise [ENAP] are at a very advanced stage. Valdivieso said that Ecuador is thus resuming the sale of petroleum to Chile after a suspension of some years. He explained that there were several reasons for the interruption of this trade, and one of the main ones was the "distortion of the market following the Middle East conflict which brought about, in a certain sense, a loss of control." He added that "by this decision things will return to normal." He also said that ENAP and CEPE are in full agreement as to the price and quality of the petroleum. The only items which remain to be settled are transportation and the date for the agreements to go into effect. He added that the official price is \$26.50 a barrel. He said, "Our desire is to increase trade between Ecuador and Chile both of which have proven to be good Latin American partners." [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 May 85 p C-1] 9204

ARGENTINA

LEFTISTS VICTORIOUS IN RADICAL PRIMARIES

PY022309 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Jul 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The Co-ordinating Board has won sweeping victories in Sunday's Radical primaries in both the Federal Capital and Santa Fe, it was confirmed yesterday.

The left-leaning grouping now has 65 of the 112 party committee seats in the capital with allied groupings accounting for another 20. The more conservative wing of the dominant Renewal and Change faction, to which the Board also belongs, has 12 seats, the Convergence line headed by deputy Guillermo Tello Rosas has six and the Popular Intransigence line of late deputy Ruben Rabanal five of the remaining 27 seats.

Enrique Nosiglia is to head the Board at committee level while municipal secretary Jorge Gomez will be committee chairman. Meanwhile deputy Jesus Rodriguez won 75 percent of the Radical Youth vote.

The Co-ordinating Board directly won 15 of the capital's 28 districts (or "parishes" as the Radicals are wont to call them) while their allies won five. The rival Renewal and Change line, who call themselves the "Historicals," took three districts as did Popular Intransigence. Independent Rafael Pascual won in Parque Patricios and the National Line in the 11th district.

About 45 percent of the capital district's 220,000 card-carrying members voted. The district's four delegates on the party's National committee will be city mayor Julio Cesar Saguier, deputy Marcelo Stubrin, Juan Carlos Ruiz and Social Security Secretary Emilio Capuccio. The issue was never in doubt since they were the only four candidates.

Turnout in Santa Fe was also about 45 percent of the 208,000 party members. Provisional figures by the province's electoral board showed the White List of deputy Luis Caceres leading the Yellow List of fellow-deputy Roberto Silva by a margin of 60,288 to 42, 373.

The two ran neck-and-neck in Rosario, where only about 23 percent of the 88,000 eligible voters went to the polls, with the Yellow List winning by 11,594 votes as against 11,047, which meant that Caceres retained his overnight lead.

The White List took 16 of the province's 19 departments and 14 of the 16 districts in the provincial capital of Santa Fe. Silva called the results "the biggest fraud in Radical history."

In Chubut, where polling was held up by challenges, the Purple List of Renewal and Change apparently emerged victorious over the Red and White Lists but final results will not be known until tomorrow or Thursday when the situation in Comodoro Rivadavia is resolved. Next Sunday is Chaco's turn for Radical primaries.

CSO: 3300/41

ARGENTINA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SEIZURE OF JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL

Zone Violation

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Jun 85 p 29

[Text] Navy units last Sunday afternoon seized a Japanese fishing vessel that was operating illegally in the ZEEA [Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone] 180 nautical miles (approximately 330 kilometers) east of Puerto Deseado, according to the Navy General Staff yesterday.

The ships that participated in the operation had to fire a warning salvo to keep the Japanese fishing vessel from fleeing, according to the official communique. It was learned that the shots were fired by the batteries of the dispatch boat "ARA Gurruchaga."

The text released yesterday stated:

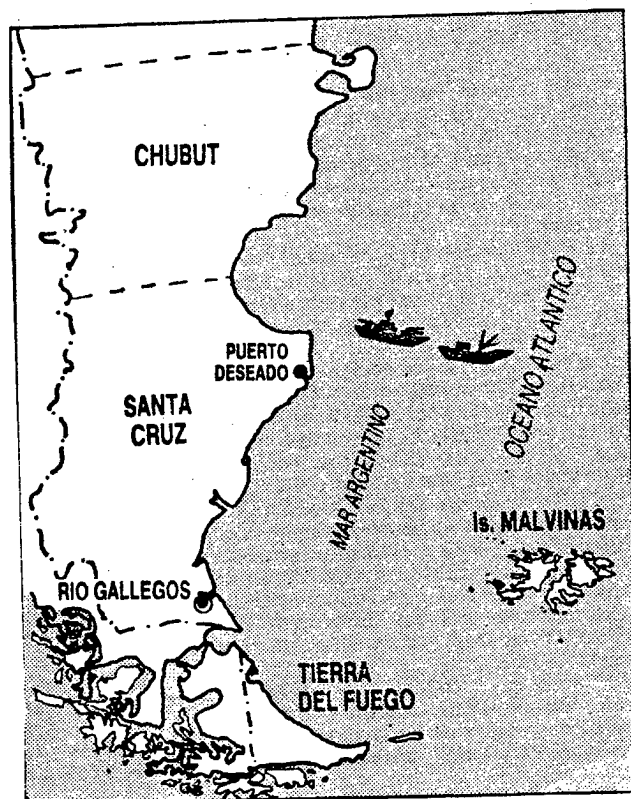
"The Navy General Staff reports that yesterday afternoon (Sunday) during maritime patrol operations carried out by two dispatch boats 'ARA Zóbral' and 'ARA Gurruchaga' and navy planes, the Japanese ship 'Sujkimaru 51' was spotted fishing within the ZEEA 180 miles east of Puerto Deseado.

"After a warning salvo fired when it attempted to escape, this fishing vessel was seized and taken to Puerto Deseado. It is estimated that it will arrive there this afternoon (yesterday) and will be handed over to the authorities of the Argentine Naval Prefecture which will be responsible for the corresponding proceedings.

"The activities of the navy units permitted them to detect other foreign fishing vessels operating beyond the limits of the ZEEA."

Last March the fishing enterprises denounced "the serious situation created for the sector" by the actions of what they called "looting fleets" of Soviet, Bulgarian, Polish, Spanish and Japanese ships in Argentine territorial waters.

The last similar incident occurred in September 1980 when the destroyer "ARA Rosales" captured the Chilean fishing vessel "Mino" and took it to Puerto Deseado. In May 1978 other Navy units expelled foreign fishing boats from territorial waters.



The map illustrates the approximate place where the Japanese fishing vessel was spotted.

Sanctions Considered

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 26

[Text] The Japanese fishing vessel "Sujkimaru 51" was seized by two Argentine Navy ships while it was fishing in Argentine territorial waters 180 miles from Puerto Deseado. It came into this southern port yesterday at 1600 hours. It could be fined \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, according to Francisco Pereyra, director of Maritime Fishing.

The trial for violation of Argentine territorial waters is being substantiated by the Argentine Naval Prefecture. The type of penalty that will be applied to the fishing vessel depends on the degree of confirmation of the violation, according to the official.

Pereyra commented: "The Japanese enterprise can defend itself in the trial that has begun although there is little chance that the penalty will be light."

The director of Maritime Fishing revealed that the applicable fines are contained in Law 17.500 which was partly amended by Law 20.136.

Both laws establish that the fishing resources are the property of the Argentine state which adjudicates exploitation. He explained: "However, fishing by foreigners in national waters is currently prohibited."

In response to a question, Pereyra explained that the legal term applied in this case is "violation of the territorial sea to fish without permission, especially within the ZEEA."

The official stated that other sanctions could be applied if the monetary fines are considered inadequate. The infraction could eventually be punished with a different type of measure, not an economic sanction.

Pereyra added: "If the invasion and fishing are legally proven, the Japanese enterprise could see its nets it uses for fishing confiscated."

The official stated that the Japanese ship has special equipment to fish for squid. It does not have the usual fishing nets.

He commented: "The Japanese ship has a net called a 'potera' that is just for fishing for squid."

Another sanction that could be applied against the Japanese ship would be the seizure of the products caught. In that case, the Undersecretariat for Maritime Resources would take the fish caught during the fishing operations.

Pereyra stated: "This office would proceed to sell all the fish caught and the amount collected would go to the Argentine state."

7717

CSO: 3348/772

BAHAMAS

TUC CRITICIZES PINDLING FOR SUSPENDING HOUSE MEETINGS

Press Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

THE TRADE Union Congress today criticised Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling's five month adjournment of the House of Assembly, saying he has "yet again shown his contempt for the Bahamian people and our democratic institutions."

"With so many areas of our country falling down around our ears and needing urgent Government attention, the Prime Minister ably demonstrated that he and his Government are totally bankrupt of any ideas and can offer no solutions for the many problems which beset our beloved country," a press release from the TUC said today.

While the Prime Minister "fritters" away the people's money and "forces" the representatives of the people to "enjoy a five month period of idleness," the country is slowly falling into a state of anarchy.

Since the Government is "bereft" of ideas and solutions, it should resign so that the people can elect a new Government to deal with the affairs of state, the Trade Union Congress said.

"Because of the Prime Minister's action and the spineless acquiescence by Speaker Darling and the PLP members of Parliament, the Bahamas will

for the next five months be governed by Cabinet Dictatorship."

Says the three page release: "For the next five months the elected representatives of the Bahamian people will not have the opportunity to review, question, criticise or offer suggestions to a Cabinet which at best exemplifies mediocrity."

This, says the TUC, is truly taxation without representation.

The release describes the Prime Minister's actions as "high handed" and "dictatorial."

The Government head's "unilateral" action in suspending Parliament for five months reminds the Trade Union Congress of the statement: "Whom God would destroy, He first sends mad," the press statement said.

"There is madness and irrationality in much of what Prime Minister Pindling is doing and we would like to remind the Prime Minister that although the Bahamian people are long suffering, they are capable of discarding corrupt politicians as they did in 1967."

Bahamians do not want, neither will they tolerate a Prime Minister for life, "particularly one whose image is as tarnished as his own," the TUC says of Sir Lynden.

According to published reports, the Prime Minister claimed that the Government had no business for the House and therefore he saw no need for the House to meet, said the press statement.

"Also according to published reports, there were twenty-five unfinished items on the House's agenda at the time of the adjournment."

If Sir Lynden suspended the House in hopes of silencing his critics, "particularly those in his own party," he "had better think again because while Parliament offers the best forum for wide ranging criticism, there are other readily available means to effectively criticise him and these will be used."

If the Prime Minister's reason was to allow himself "a free hand" to spend as much of the people's money as he pleases on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, so that afterwards, while

"basking" in its "anticipated success and glory," he can call elections, "then let him be warned that if he tries to use the Conference for his own personal glory, ways will be found to 'rain on his parade.'"

Of course, continues the release, the Prime Minister may be right when he says the Government has no more business for Parliament.

"Except for platitudes and pronouncements, the Government has no programme to deal with the epidemic of crime and drug abuse, the persistent and increasing unemployment problem, the lack of development in our Family Islands and with our tourist infrastructure, particularly our international airport, which has already degenerated to the point that it is both a national and international disgrace."

The country has much business for its elected repre-

sentatives but unfortunately it has no Government which is capable of dealing with its problems, states the Trade Union Congress.

"Since, according to Prime Minister Pindling, there is no business for the Peoples Parliament," the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Trade Union Congress asks on behalf of the Bahamian people: "Why are we paying forty three members of Parliament to do no work?"

Continues the press statement: "And while we are talking about money, we would like to find out if anyone can remember the last the Senate met to justify its existence and the salaries paid to Senators?"

The TUC, whose President is Arlington Miller and Secretary-General A Leonard Archer, states: "Such an abuse of the public purse is unrivalled in the annals of the history of Parliamentary democracy."

Mass Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS Trade Union Congress will hold a mass rally at the Southern Recreation Grounds Tuesday, June 25, to protest the closing of parliament for five months.

The TUC have invited all trade unions and members of the public to attend this "People's Parliament" to be held at 8 pm to debate the many ills that "plague our country."

"The TUC," said the union statement today, "is deeply concerned that Prime Minister Pindling has seen fit to adjourn the House of Assembly for five months, and so suspend the business of our nation, in the midst of an epidemic of crime

and drug abuse, persistent and increasing unemployment and many other ills that plague our country."

In a statement Tuesday the TUC criticised the long adjournment - without a vote having been taken - saying the Prime Minister has "yet again shown his contempt for the Bahamian people and our democratic institutions."

While the Prime Minister "fritters" away the people's money and "forces" the people's representatives to "enjoy a five month period of idleness" the country is slowly falling into a state of anarchy.

BAHAMAS

FNM ACTION GROUP HITS GOVERNMENT INACTION ON VIOLENCE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jun 85 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE ACTION Group of the official opposition Free National Movement has charged that the ruling Progressive Liberal Party has done nothing to allay the fears of the general populace in the face of the "most murderous wave of violence" to assault the country.

The Action Group, which will be announcing a series of meetings to be held over the next few months to recruit members and campaign workers and discuss the issues of the day, also asked how many more will die this year and whether Bahamians will demand action.

"Our nation is under seige," the Action Group's statement said. "As Lynden Pindling and his lackeys run about squandering the people's money, trying to impress foreigners, who are truly informed about the 'cut of his jib,' we are ever mindful of the fear and terror that law-abiding Bahmians live in.

"The Progressive Liberal Party has done nothing to allay the fears of the general populace in the face of the most murderous wave of violence to

assault our Bahaland," the Action Group said.

Asking where is the justice, the Action Group declared that "we obviously can expect little from a Government that ignores the laws of the land."

"The Action Group of the Free National Movement demand that the PLP Government address this issue today," the statement said.

The Action Group was referring to a spate of murders that have gripped New Providence over the past few mopnths, the most recent of which were the killing of a pharmacy owner and a Super Value Food Store security guard.

Thomas Ferguson, owner of TomMaes Pharmacies, was shot and killed on Friday, May 24, by masked gunmen outside his Prince Charles Drive store in front of his wife and two children.

On Sunday, June 9, Super Value security guard Othniel Burrows, 33, was shot and killed by armed men outside Barclays Bank, Palmdale. They escaped with \$40,000 which Mr Burrows and three other security guards were depositing at the time.

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

SURVEILLANCE OF FNM--An anonymous telephone caller, who claimed he is a member of the Royal Bahamas Police Force told the Tribune that starting the first week in October. Security and Intelligence Branch (SIB) officers have been instructed to mount surveillance on FNM leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, party chairman, George Wilson, chairman of the FNM Action Group, and political activist Rodney Moncur. "We have been ordered to follow every movement and every telephone call," the telephone caller said. He said that orders have also been given to arrest Mr Moncur on the first day of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in October, "because they don't believe he's out of it." Mr Moncur recently resigned as chairman of the Worker's Party, a political pressure group. The Opposition has announced that it will boycott the Heads of Government Conference and demonstrate against corruption, which the Commission of Inquiry found reached Cabinet level. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Jun 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/827

BARBADOS

WALCOTT AIRS VIEWS, BWU RESOLUTION ON JOBS ISSUE

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Column "The Union Speaks," by Barbados Workers Union General Secretary Frank L. Walcott: "Job Creation," a regular Sunday paid advertisement]

[Text]

The consensus is that there is high unemployment in Barbados. The Government has recognised this fact and has noted that steps should be taken to relieve this pressing social malady before it gets worse. The need for relief from unemployment is urgent and we implore the Government to take early action and organise a team to tackle unemployment.

The Barbados Workers' Union has been in the vanguard in the call for employment opportunities from its inception. It has never failed to point to the dangers that stem from unemployment and has consistently highlighted the need to place in the hands of the workers, greater opportunities for employment and, as a consequence, better economic opportunities for all. We state this because some people try to make out the case, because trade unions are dealing with the employed, that they are not concerned about those who are unemployed. This notion is false and, to put it crudely, senseless.

Trade unions cannot exist unless they are viable and in a society where there is high

unemployment, the workers themselves would be at a disadvantage. Trade unions must, of necessity, operate against the background of full employment and a vibrant and ever growing economy. This is the constant goal of the trade union movement.

We are conscious of some of the difficulties that account for the drop in employment. One of the major consequences was the state of the global economy which hit these small, developing countries with open economies, very hard indeed. Too many of these small economies are forced to make difficult balance of payments charges against imports, such as fuel that they are forced to use, and many of these communities are overburdened by the cost of fuel. We hope that our economy will be so revitalised that some of these costs will be reduced so that funds can be allocated to

other areas that would put more of the hands of the young and other workers to work.

We are especially concerned about the school leavers, who find it difficult to secure employment. This

situation will impose a terrific strain on our communities. It is essential therefore for us to find gainful employment for the young school leavers.

We are pleased to note that training has been given a new impetus. We hope that more of our young people would find varied avenues of training. This flexibility in our labour force would facilitate the worker being gainfully employed in years to come. We believe that training must be given top priority and every effort must be made to help all persons, and all educational institutions to be geared for the task of training. We are satisfied that if an investment is made in providing good training facilities for the young, it would go a long way in securing a sound future for this country.

We cannot sit back and rely on what has been done in the past to satisfy our future needs; we must be prepared to enter into a constant dialogue for change and bring to the fore the best in our society with a view to providing greater em-

ployment opportunities. We do not expect to compete with every nation in the world, but we must make preparations that are appropriate to

Barbados. Sometimes we hear comparisons about competing and we wonder why this term is used. We feel we have a job to do and if we do it well, we will be in the race with all the others.

On the occasion of the celebration of May Day on May 6, we passed a number of resolutions which we would like to see implemented. The resolution on Jobs states:

"WHEREAS the rate of unemployment in Barbados is presently at an alarmingly high rate and

WHEREAS unemployment at this level constitutes a serious strain on the social and economic life of the community and

WHEREAS the incidence of unemployment is high in the local manufacturing sector, and

WHEREAS this high incidence of unemployment in manufacturing has resulted largely from strained relations between the Government of Barbados and

the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Barbados Workers' Union, meeting on May Day, 6th May, 1985, at "Solidarity House," Harmony Hall,

CALLS UPON the Government of Barbados to expedite discussions with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in order to regularise trading and other relations between the two nation states and return workers to much needed jobs."

We hope that the Government will give serious consideration to this request and make sure that we put the hands of the workers back to work as soon as possible.

We see the urgent demand for the Government to set up a National Committee, including all important sectors of the community, as a special Task Force, to make recommendations to ameliorate the plight of the poor. This is urgent and we hope that this recommendation will receive full support from the present administration and other concerned parties in this country.

BARBADOS

WALCOTT, BWU CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PEACE WITH TRINIDAD

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Government has been urged to expedite discussion with its Trinidad counterpart with a view to regularising trade and other relations between the two states.

The Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) said that the high incidence of unemployment in manufacturing results from the strained relations between Barbados and its CARICOM partner.

The union said that "the healing of relations would lead to the putting of the hands of the workers back to work."

In a May Day Resolution, the BWU called on Government to try and expedite discussions with Trinidad and Tobago with a view to resolving the problems between the two states.

Last week, a local garment factory sent its 100 plus workers on indefinite leave, blaming the inability to sell on the Trinidad market for some of the problems it has been getting.

BWU General Secretary Frank Walcott said his union was particularly concerned over the future of the school leavers who were finding it difficult to secure employment.

"This situation will impose a terrific social strain on our communities, and stresses the need to find gainful employment for the school leavers," he said.

Mr. Walcott said the union was pleased that training has been given a new impetus. He noted that if an investment was made in the provision of good training facilities for the young, it would go a long way in securing a sound future for this country.

BARBADOS

ST JOHN COMMENTS ON CARICOM TRADE, CRITICIZES TRINIDAD

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Jun 85 p 18

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Wed., (Cana) — BARBADOS Prime Minister Bernard St John last night implicitly criticised Caribbean Community (Caricom) colleagues who have failed to implement measures agreed on last July to revive intra-regional trade.

Mr St John also accused Trinidad and Tobago, Caricom's biggest market, of practising naked protectionism, in some instances.

The Barbados Prime Minister was speaking in an interview on the State-owned CBC Radio that dealt with issues that are likely to come before the Caricom Heads of Government conference opening here Monday. Trade is expected to dominate the talks.

At the Nassau Summit, Caricom leaders approved a series of measures, including tariff increases on selected non-Caricom goods, to arrest a decline in trading among the 12 members of the Common Market. But only four nations, including Barbados, have acted on the decision.

"We are very disappointed that people go to Caricom meetings.

They agree ... and when they go back home, they seem to have second thoughts," Mr St. John said.

In the Bahamas, he said, Barbados had threatened to retaliate against those countries that discriminated against Barbadian goods but had withdrawn the proposal when given the assurance that the Nassau Agreement would be implemented.

SOME IMPROVEMENT

"Now it seems to me that the Barbados position would be the same as Nassau and we will try to convince our colleagues who are delinquent in this respect that really the best way of getting an improvement in the trading situation in Caricom is for us to recognise the smallness of the Caricom market, the need to protect the sensitive areas of Caricom production — agriculture, some industrial products and the resource industries...

Mr St. John, said the Community should also concentrate efforts on trying to encourage the formation of Caricom companies of a sufficiently large nature, financially and technically, to exploit the preferential agreements negotiated internationally.

On Trinidad and Tobago, Mr St.

John said there had been some improvement in the issuance of import licences but this was only one hurdle to overcome — the other was foreign exchange.

Although Trinidad Trade Ministers had stuck to promises to deal quickly with licences, he said that ECOs (foreign exchange application forms) were not following the licences as a matter of course.

He said the protectionist element in the private sector in Trinidad and Tobago seemed to have taken hold of those issuing the ECO forms and in truth and in fact naked protectionism was in force in some instances.

He cited the case of a local firm with Trinidad connections, being granted a licence for processed flying fish and dolphin by the Trade Ministry with support from the Fisheries Officer in Port-of-Spain. Without giving dates, he said the firm had not yet received the ECO forms.

"I don't know what you call that other than naked protectionism and I don't know what they are protecting because we believe and we have been assured that Canadian sardines and Canadian fish get in. So we have an instance there of a third country being in a better position," he said.

BARBADOS

ST JOHN OFFERS PERSCRIPTION FOR ECONOMIC STIMULATION

Bridgetown WEEKEND NATION in English 21-22 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

ON MAY 7 THIS YEAR, Prime Minister Bernard St. John in what was described as a "jobs creation Budget" announced a series of proposals, designed to stimulate economic activity, create more jobs, restore the island's competitiveness and increase youth training.

In addition, he said, the measures would bring some measure of relief to business and individuals alike.

These measures included:

- A grant of one percent of improved value of commercial properties as building allowance.
- Losses to be carried forward for seven years, instead of five.
- An allowance of 150 percent of expenses incurred in the

development of markets outside CARICOM.

- Investment allowance of 40 percent in the purchase of new capital equipment for companies, 10 percent of whose sales are to extra-regional markets.
- An increase in the maximum rebate of tax allowed on extra-regional sales from 50 percent to 80 percent.
- An extension of withholding tax to payment for certain goods and services.
- The injection of \$32 million into residential and housing for improvement and construction.
- Establishment of a \$1 million revolving fund to finance agricultural exports.
- A grant to the sugar industry.
- Exemption of credit for commercial vehicles, taxis and rental cars from the limit for consumer credit.
- An increase in the limits on bank credit for distribution of 10 percent — the remaining amount being distributed among the banks in such a way as to ensure that each bank would receive an equal dollar share, and
- Reducing the banks' average lending rate from 11 percent to 10 percent.

CSO: 3298/857

BARBADOS

OPPOSITION CENSURE MOTION AGAINST MINISTER FAILS

Criticism of Johnson

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

Opposition MP Mr. Erskine Sandiford said yesterday that his party was not conducting a witchhunt of Transport and Works Minister Mr. Vic Johnson, but was solely interested in protecting the integrity of the political system.

He said nothing short of a public enquiry would erase the public disquiet which he claims has arisen as a result of a disputed road at Trents, St. Lucy.

The Opposition has a motion before the House of Assembly asking the House to express a lack of confidence in Mr. Johnson and calling for his resignation.

It alleges that Mr. Johnson's ministry built a road at Trents Plantation, which is owned by the minister, beyond the legitimate needs of the plantation tenants. It also claims that the disputed road was built in such a way as to facilitate the development of Trents Plantation for the private use and benefit of the owner.

Mr. Sandiford quoted Sir Herbert Duffus, who conducted the Duffus Commission in Barbados in 1977 and who said that the primary purpose of an enquiry was to satisfy the public that a proper investigation has been made into matters which there is a great deal of public disquiet.

He said that it was the view of that Government-appointed commission that the integrity of the

parliamentary system and public life must be maintained.

The Opposition MP said he had visited Trents twice and was still left with a considerable number of questions as to why the road was laid down the way it was with one section serving just two houses, and another section serving only plantation lands.

Mr. Sandiford queried whether Cabinet was presented with any proposals for the development of the road system and had then taken the decision. He also wanted to know whether the Planning and Priorities Committee had been presented with alternative proposals and had decided that what was done was the most effective and efficient method.

He said that Government had to show the taxpayers that there was no cover-up. They must be able to see that the alternative methods were thoroughly canvassed and that what they got was the best value for money, he said.

No vote in Parliament would clear up the matter Mr. Sandiford said. He said an enquiry was necessary not only in the interest of the political system but in the interest of Mr. Johnson himself.

Mr. Sandiford said Mr. Johnson had a reputation of being a man of high integrity and probity and no vote on the Government side would clear his name. "We must have an enquiry," he said.

Exoneration in House

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 26 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

THE BARBADOS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY yesterday exonerated Minister of Transport and Works (MTW), Vic Johnson, of any charges of wrongdoing at Trents Plantation, St. Lucy, when an Opposition censure motion was defeated 12 votes to eight, with one abstention.

Just after 7 p.m., when Prime Minister Bernard St. John concluded his final contribution to debate on the motion introduced three weeks earlier by stating, "we will never support this resolution", Speaker Lindsay Bolden called for the vote.

When the division in voting arose, the names of parliamentarians present were called; 12 Government members voted against the Opposition motion, eight from the Opposition supported it, and Mr. Johnson, who did not speak in the debate, abstained.

The Government members present in the House of Assembly then were Mr. St. John, Mr. Lionel Craig, Mr. Louis Tull, Mr. L.B. Brathwaite, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Aaron Truss, Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw, Mr. David Simmons, Mr. Owen Arthur, Mr. Henry Forde, Mr. Roy Brathwaite, Mr. Leroy Sianett, and Mr. Jack Odle.

Voting for the Opposition were Mr. Errol Barrow, Mr. Erskine Sandiford, Mr. Philip Greaves, Dr. Richie Haynes, Mr. Warwick Franklin, Mr. Keith Simmons, Mr. Lawson Weekes and Mr. Maurice King.

A LAME-DUCK REPLY

Mr. St. John was the last person to speak on the motion through which the Opposition charged that Mr. Johnson built a road at Trents Plantation, which he owns, beyond what was necessary for his tenants with public funds under circumstances that constituted unlawful expenditure of public funds for private purposes and an abuse of ministerial office and public trust. The Prime Minister described the wind-up to the Opposition motion by Mr. King as a "lame-duck reply".

Mr. St. John said it was misleading for the Opposition to bring to Parliament a resolution accusing a minister of unlawfully using public funds, when it was known that no minister of Government could spend public money.

"There is absolutely no law which says that a minister can draw a cheque on the Treasury of Barbados," he said.

He added that the responsibility of accounting in any ministry resided in the public officers in that ministry, with the permanent secretary being chief. In addition, he said the Director of Finance and Planning, as well as the Auditor General, had certain powers in regard to the use of these funds.

However, in his final reply, Mr. King, who had moved the resolution to start debate, said that the Government was in possession of all the facts relating to the building of the disputed road at Trents, and should not have used "technicalities", such as saying that the Opposition had not presented a good case.

"You have the facts. Don't stand on legal technicalities," he told the Government. He also took issue with the Government's position that the Opposition should have shown the public the good things done by the Government, by saying that no matter how much "good" the Government had gone, it could not erase the "wrong-doings" of any minister.

BARBADOS

HAYNES OUTLINES DLP PLAN TO BOOST PRIVATE SECTOR

Bridgetown WEEKEND NATION in English 21-22 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

DR. RICHIE HAYNES, Chief Opposition spokesman on finance and planning, says one priority of a new Democratic Labour Party (DLP) administration will be the immediate implementation of a three-pronged private sector rehabilitation programme.

He said the programme would be directed toward the basic problems facing the private sector, mobilising existing capital to productive use and creating an investment climate in which the private sector could be stabilised and set on a growth pattern once again.

"We intend to dismantle the fiscal and monetary policies of this Government and release the stranglehold which they have placed on business activity," he said, "thereby creating the domestic conditions which are a vital prerequisite to private sector growth and a halt to the process of disinvestment."

Dr. Haynes referred to the DLP's proposals for tax cuts for individuals and corporations announced in the reply to this year's Budget.

He said these would allow profits arising out of a business to be ploughed back into that business

or into other businesses to generate jobs and wealth.

Use of incentives

"Specific incentives and the resources to make use of the incentives will be available to the businesses to create jobs," he added, "particularly for the thousands of unemployed youth."

Dr. Haynes said loan capital would also be made available, and in particular circumstances, the potential of convertibility into a grant would be built into the package.

Another feature of the programme, he said, would be temporary equity participation to introduce an effective balance between owner equity and working capital to tide businesses over this difficult period, but providing for a repurchasing of equity.

"We have completed plans to provide for guarantees, where appropriate to existing creditors and bankers as part of our stabilisation package for the private sector," he said, "and to assist in a meaningful way the

process of switching over to new extra-regional markets."

Dr. Haynes said that over the past two years the DLP has had extensive discussions on, and has now completed proposals to permit the flow of direct aid assistance from international in-

stitutions into, not only large businesses, but small and medium-sized businesses.

This, he added, would include expertise that was not readily available locally.

Levels of production

"Our export credit schemes will be made more attractive and will impact on the entire process at all levels of production, marketing and financing," he said. "These schemes are conceptually different from what exists at present and are designed to influence export-orientation of the productive capacity of the economy in a more realistic and meaningful manner."

Dr. Haynes said the DLP's approach to the public sector would be to encourage it to do what it was best equipped to do with efficiency.

"Its contribution to the productive effort will be to ensure top quality inputs into the private economy: for example, a sound infrastructure, a well-educated and functional labour force, relevant health, welfare and social services, better housing, sound cost structures for public utilities — all of which can be achieved without debilitating imposition on the productive private economy," he said.

CSO: 3298/857

BARBADOS

SUGAR INDUSTRY REPORTS ON RESULTS IN SOME DEPARTMENTS

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 25 Jun 85 p 20

[Text]

BARBADOS' 7 000 SUGAR WORKERS this year earned "way in excess" of \$1 million under the green cane incentive scheme.

According to director of the field section of Barbados Sugar Industry Limited, Mr. Geoffrey Armstrong, the money was paid to the workers on Thursday and Friday last week.

He told the DAILY NATION yesterday: "The amount of money the workers received this year under the incentive scheme is way in excess of \$1 million and this is due to the fact that we lost only three percent of the total crop to fire."

The BSIL official said he did not have, at the time, the corresponding sum paid out last year but he stressed that the 1985 figure was "considerably more".

The incentive scheme, now in its third year, operates on the basis of the quantity of green canes reaped. Only owners or workers who harvested canes of which less than 16 percent of the holding was burnt, are able to

benefit.

The three percent of this year's crop lost to fire means that Barbados has experienced a reduction of burnt acreage by 20 percent over the last four years.

Last year's loss to fire was seven percent; the figure was 6.5 percent in 1983 and 23 percent in 1982.

Said Mr. Armstrong: "The low loss this year shows that the incentive scheme is really working. We believe that workers have realised that they too stand to benefit when the crop is reaped green and they are doing their utmost to help sugar officials ensure that this is so."

He explained that plantations were once the sole beneficiaries of "the great deal of extra money which the country received for reaping a green crop."

"Government and sugar officials realised that workers should also be benefitting from the surplus money and we offered it in an incentive scheme and are very happy with the results," Mr. Armstrong said.

CSO: 3298/857

BARBADOS

SUGAR CROP EXPORT INCOME HIGHER THAN FORECAST

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 10 Jun 85 p 1.

[Text]

THE 1984 SUGAR CROP netted some \$2 million more than the \$62 million that officials had forecast.

A senior member of the sugar exporters group told the DAILY NATION that while all monies for sugar on overseas markets had not yet been collected the sum to date stood at \$64 218 293.80.

"We are still awaiting payment for a small shipment worth about \$17 000, which went to the United Kingdom," he said.

Though figures were unavailable it was understood that the revenue from the 1984 sugar crop was substantially higher than previous years for the decade.

The 1984 sugar crop yielded just over 100 000 tonnes of cane, an 18 percent increase over the previous year of 85 000.

The 1984 figure was the second time since 1980 that the 100 000 mark had been reached.

Meanwhile, sugar officials have not yet projected an estimate for this year's crop which also exceeded the 100 000 production figure. Indications are, however, that because of the extremely low prices being obtained for sugar on European markets, which Barbados is bound by agreement to supply, the income could fall short of the \$60 million mark.

Commenting on how soon officials would know how much money the 1985 crop is estimated to bring in, the official said: "We should know about September ... but I have grave doubts about us reaching the sum we did for last year mainly because of the current low sugar prices."

CSO: 3298/828

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

UNION CALL FOR UNITY--A call has been made for all public workers in Barbados to become members of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), and organise themselves like never before. It came on Saturday from union president Nigel Harper, as he addressed school meals workers attending a one-day seminar at the union's Dalkeith Road headquarters. The NUPW president warned that the union was prepared to fight for the rights of the workers and stated that the NUPW was the only union geared and qualified to represent them. "Organise as never before," he advised. He told the workers that the union would set about its negotiations with peaceful persuasion, but warned that if the workers themselves were not interested, what is happening now in Chile, and Poland and other communist bloc nations, could very well happen in Barbados. "Nothing corrupts like power," he warned, "and if you are not careful, you will have no rights, it is now or never, and by the end of July every public worker should join the NUPW, so that when we speak to the politicians we will have your authority. [Text] [Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 25 Jun 85 p 2]

MISSION BACK FROM GRENADA--A Barbados trade delegation to Grenada returned to the island yesterday with hopes of doing business with the Spice Isle. Although no firm details were made known it is believed that there are prospects for improved trading arrangements between the two countries. The mission was made up of representatives of a wide cross section of local manufacturers. Heading the delegation was Mr Randolph Fields, chairman of the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (BEPC). [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Jun 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/828

BOLIVIA

SOVIET DELEGATION MEETS WITH POLITICAL, LABOR LEADERS

La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 May 85 p 7

[Text] The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will hail the strengthening of the Bolivian democracy, states Nicholas Dybenko, delegate of the Supreme Soviet, during a talk with Julio Garret Aillon, president of the national congress, in the latter's offices of the legislative branch.

The statement was made with regard to the upcoming elections planned for July. The Soviet delegate expressed the view that they would be a means to stimulate the development of Bolivia, the strengthening of the state and the welfare of the people.

When the head of the Soviet mission expressed his confidence that the elections would take place as planned, he also wished the president of the congress every success in his parliamentary activity and in his task of consolidating and preserving democracy in Bolivia.

The Soviet delegation that visited senator Garret Aillon yesterday had arrived in Bolivia last Saturday. It has been meeting and exchanging views on the international situation with the leading organizations of the communist party of Bolivia. Its agenda includes visiting interior districts of the country and discussions with leaders of diverse political and labor-union organizations.

Members of the mission representing the communist party of the USSR are Nicholas Dybenko, delegate of the Supreme Soviet of that country, Igor Ribalkin, assistant chief of the Latin American section of the foreign department of the communist party of the Soviet Union, and Alexander Ignatiev, delegate of the foreign department.

12467
CS0: 3348/747

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

EMBASSY ESTABLISHED IN CUBA--The Bolivian government has established embassies in Cuba and Jamaica, announced Percy Camacho, minister of information. He added that for this the respective supreme decree was approved. Until the corresponding ambassadors are appointed, the charges d'affaires, with cabinet letters, will remain at the head of these missions, Camacho Flores added. The spokesman justified this determination by stating "the advisability of Bolivia establishing diplomatic relations with countries with which it is necessary to increase political, economic and cultural relations in accordance with the national interest." Camacho Flores specified that the decision would constitute "an irreproachable act of sovereignty which should not surprise anyone, because it is based on the need to strengthen ties with all countries, especially with those belonging to the Third World." The statement by Camacho Flores was distributed in a bulletin of the Ministry of Information. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 May 85 p 7] 12467

CSO: 3348/747

CHILE

ECONOMIC COUNCIL PROPOSES MEASURES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 May 85 p A-3

[Text] Various authorities have recently expressed concern over the unemployment problem and the wish to intensify efforts to resolve a situation whose negative effects at the economic, social and political levels are unquestionable.

The Social and Economic Council has devoted its last series of sessions to this subject during which, besides hearing the opinions of the committees assigned to study the subject, they also heard the Minister of Economy and the secretary of the National Employment Office on the official policies which are being brought to bear.

A summary of what has been made public on this matter reveals that there are nine categories of steps to be taken, most of which are suitable since they are technically correct and are in accord with the principles on which the developmental strategy at present being put into effect in the country is based.

Only two of them seem to be completely divorced from reality, one recommending that government enterprises and the public sector increase employment and the other recommending that the budget provide subsidies to private employers who hire additional workers.

The first of these steps should be discarded because it does not in fact solve the problem. This can be seen in what happened between the years 1970 and 1973. In addition, it would lead to public enterprises becoming financially unsound and disorganized, a phenomenon which fortunately has been corrected in recent years. This makes Chile a model among the Latin American countries in this regard.

Nor does subsidizing the hiring of more workers seem to be justified. The wage policy and the reform of the social welfare system have substantially cut the cost of labor while the foreign exchange and tariff policies have raised the cost of capital.

To subsidize employers under these conditions would be to transfer funds to them free of charge. Besides, the treasury is not in a condition to do this since it is going through difficult times.

On the other hand, the other seven categories of measures are adequate to begin to face this serious problem.

The first is the need to maintain a sustained high rate of growth which is in contrast to our recent experience in which growth has been erratic. There is support for the need to maintain stability in the rules of the game so as not to discourage private enterprise; to stimulate the development of the export sector which, according to the principle of comparative profit and our own recent experience, is labor intensive and has a growth potential far superior to that of the import replacement sector; to stimulate the development of small enterprises which by their very nature use much labor; to accelerate the standardization of ownership of enterprises which are at present facing financial difficulties and which cannot recover except through a change of ownership; to maintain a remuneration policy compatible with the nation's true economic situation and the existing high level of unemployment; to improve programs for aid to the unemployed regarding both their productivity and the income received by those participating in the programs.

It is encouraging to see the realism with which the unemployment problem of the nation is beginning to be faced. The mere absence of proposals that had dominated the scene indicates that we are on the right road. For example, no one thinks that to increase tariffs is a long-term solution. Nor has anyone been known to advocate a law against dismissal and much less the obligatory employment of workers in private activity.

If the country continues to look realistically at the problem of unemployment there is no doubt that we can solve it sooner than others who still insist on unworkable solutions.

9204

CSO: 3348/734

31 July 1985

CHILE

DEVELOPMENT POLICY SAID PROMOTING REGIONAL GROWTH RATE

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 31 May 85 p 32

Text Antofagasta--In his statement to government authorities, Brig Gen Alfredo Calderon Campusano, governor of Antofagasta, said that the new national development strategy undertaken by the Chilean government and the regionalization policy have during recent years given an important impetus to activity in the area of large infrastructure projects and a notable improvement in social well-being.

The governor of the Second Region said that as a result of these steps, "the population is stabilizing and in recent years there has been an important increase of 2.1 percent yearly in the number of inhabitants in comparison to the national rate of population growth of 1.6 percent.

In his statement made at the Centenario Hall at Hotel Antofagasta Cristobal Inn, the governor also discussed matters such as drinking water, sewage systems, electric power, housing, urban paving, road infrastructure, health, education, national property, justice, social action, mining, small mining enterprises, fishing industry, agriculture, domestic trade, port infrastructure and increase of employment.

At the opening of his speech the governor said, "The Second Region has 16.7 percent of the national territory and is characterized by its great distance from the main production and population centers of Chile, its extreme desert conditions, the great shortage of water for consumption and irrigation, the lack of lands suitable for agriculture and a great abundance of resources from mines and the sea."

He said that this is a young region which "began to be inhabited and had its first productive activities during the last third of the nineteenth century based primarily on the exploitation of its potassium nitrate and other minerals."

Later he spoke of the importance to the region of the immigration flow attracted by the new and interesting opportunities offered by the area which facilitates considerable development of the service sector.

Accomplishments

The result of the greater attention given by the government to regional problems is that many problems are beginning to be solved or are on the way toward being solved.

As to the specific problem of potable water, "historically considered the region's main problem," considerable progress has been made since at present there is 95 percent coverage.

The governor said that since 1982, in this sector alone, more than 2 billion pesos have been invested and appropriations made for 1986 amounting to 1.8 billion pesos.

Electric Power

The governor said that as to electric energy, there is almost 100 percent coverage. The problem is the cost, "which is one of the main sources of concern for the regional community due to the relatively high cost to the consumer." He pointed out that the electrification programs carried out during recent years provide the communities of the interior with, among other benefits, access to the TV network.

9204

CSO: 3348/734

CHILE

BRIEFS

TREASURER GENERAL APPOINTED--Gabriel Larroulet Ganderats, who has been serving as director of the Civil Register and Identification Office, has been appointed Treasurer General of the Republic by the president. He will take office on 1 June 1985. According to the report, Selim Carrasco, the current treasurer, was appointed Comptroller of the Treasury. He will also take office on 1 June 1985. Text Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 24 May 85 p 4
9204

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COLOMBIA

PROSPECTIVE NEW LIBERALISM CANDIDATE GIVES VIEWS ON ISSUES

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 11, 18 Jun 85

[Article by Juan Mosca]

[11 Jun 85 pp 30-35]

[Text] How to begin an informal interview with Luis Carlos Galan, an affable but solemn individual? I could ask him, for example, why he likes Donald Duck, red shirts and hot dogs, what was the last movie he saw, what he thinks of Simenon, how his finances are doing or how many times he has listened to Cyndi Lauper. But all during our 8-hour conversation Galan exercised his right to be argumentative, not taking a single breather, not giving me a single breather and not giving you readers a single breather. I have to admit it. I tried to take advantage of the sudden arrival of his youngest son Carlos Fernando, of whom his father says, with obvious pride: "This fellow is a genius." But it did no good. Neither did the news that his chauffeur, who might have had appendicitis, decided that it was not appendicitis after all. Neither did the cabbage and pineapple salad, the unsweetened lemonade, or the constant cups of black coffee. Nor did the din of the city that Saturday as it roared through the window with the delight of a Sunday. No, nothing did any good. Galan is obsessed with the country, and no one can cure him. I tried, but it was impossible. Just as it was impossible to get him to talk about the everyday things that interest all politicians. What does he think of Dr Barco or Dr Santofimio, or how does he see things going in the conservative areas. Nothing of that. Galan is above, light-years removed from such matters. More than anyone else in Colombia, he personifies the image of the political expert, the strategist who lets nothing get by him. While others speak of the country as an absolute whole, Galan divides it into 1,000 municipalities, 3,000 towns and 6,000 police districts. You don't know exactly how to react when you learn that he has visited them all, shaking hands, giving suggestions, proposing solutions, taking an interest in local problems. By the time you leave his apartment in the late afternoon on your way to an impossible luncheon (Jorge Alberto Gonzalez exclaimed quite rightly: "What are you doing here at this hour?!"), you don't know whether you've been with a

flesh-and-blood human being like everyone else or with a computer who knows, examines, weighs and analyzes everything, to the point of bowling you over with facts, figures, ideas, analyses, proposals, reports and solutions. But as I said, Galan speaks another language. It is thus difficult to gauge him by the same criteria that uncouth, local politicians who are here today and gone tomorrow have been selling us for centuries. The activity of human beings is marked by their language. The country is not surprised by the "concepts" of the people who have served as ministers, governors or in any position of responsibility, because they are cut from the same cloth, because they speak disrespectfully to a country that is used to being manhandled. Galan does not. Galan speaks a different, distant, higher language. It is not the dogmatic language of the groups that have taken up arms and that speak only nonsense when they are not shooting their guns. Nor is it the language of the ordinary Liberal, Conservative or communist lawmakers. It is not the language of the gray government figures or of businessmen. It is the language of an individual who cannot be categorized, a unique and independent individual. Galan has thus undertaken a struggle to the death with the traditional politicians who are still up to their old tricks in our midst. It is, I repeat, a struggle to the death, in which there will be a winner and a loser. There is no middle ground. When you look at things from the standpoint of the concepts that Galan deals in, the information that Galan uses, the approaches that Galan takes, you realize that there can be no compromise. He might wind up flat on his back and he might not. But the fact is, even if he does not admit it, even if he says that things are otherwise, the fact is that no alliances are possible. Galan, and I say this with respect and at some remove, is a visionary, a 15th century mystic, a trailblazer, an ascetic, a man who is convinced of the rightness of what he proposes, what he says, what he plans to accomplish.

Saying What he Says

So then, what am I supposed to do with the 56 pages from our conversation that I have worked on bleary-eyed so many nights this week? This is a major problem. If I transcribe them as they are, no one, not you or you or even I will read them. Because Galan says what he says to the country that he dreams about, a country that reflects, that thinks, that meditates, that draws conclusions. That is the country that Luis Carlos Galan is going to create (he has been at it for some time). The country today, in contrast, will pick up this magazine, open it to the back, take a close look at the social pages, read the comics, read the titles, toss it onto the newspaper rack and ultimately forget about it. Galan had a few things to say to this country, the real-life country. What sort of things? I read and reread those 56 pages, looked at them under a magnifying glass, culled some out and weighed them carefully. I know that Galan will never forgive me for publishing the following list, because the thoughts are taken out of context, but here they are:

--The dialogue with Dr Barco has no future, in my opinion.

--I think that Dr Barco might withdraw his candidacy.

--I am 100 percent determined to run for president in 1986.

--Drs Barco Vargas and Gomez Hurtado do not represent options for change, because of both their behavior and their track records.

--As far as large segments of domestic public opinion are concerned, the congressional elections belong to the politicians and the presidential elections to the nation.

--They are not going to wipe me out and the people in power know it.

--The traditional parties survive thanks to traditional local bosses and organizations that rely on featherbedding.

--The groups that have taken up arms are afraid of putting up candidates because they realize that they will be defeated by the inertia of the system in any sort of election.

--Our nationwide organization is taking aim at the ruling party's organization and the Conservative Party's organization.

--We are going to create what we want the Liberal Party to be.

--We are not vying for the administration's constituency. We are creating a new organization.

--In 1982, New Liberalism had 221 councilmen. In 1984, we were up to 544, an increase of 323.

--There are all kinds of people in New Liberalism. Those who have left did so because they thought that when we won a governorship, we were going to act just like the traditional groups. When we told them that we were going to make government more efficient and not trample on the rights of others, they said "You're crazy" and left.

--In Cundinamarca I asked the deputies not to vote for the reelection of the comptroller. So we missed the chance to get 400 jobs.

--Antioquia is not politically developed. Just look at who is running some of its regions.

--Our staff includes some extraordinary people, some good people and some so-so people.

--News reporting in Colombia is superficial, biased and lazy.

- Our political reporters are gossip-mongers, and their articles are examples of verbal aggression, not analyses of social developments. Everything is about personal squabbles, insults and the manipulation of power.
- The nation lets off steam by insulting Congress. Such psychological compensation enhances the mental health of the Colombian people.
- I think that the traditional campaigns are being run on the basis of publicity stereotypes. This is an extremely serious mistake.
- This administration's big mistake was not having resolutely begun the adjustment process in 1982.
- We can see a quickening capital flight because of the lack of confidence in our economy, society and politics.
- For a while now I have been saying that this administration is improvising.
- We need a political agenda to lend some rationality to the country's destiny and to give meaning to the efforts of the Colombian people, and this administration has not had one.
- It is cynical to think that New Liberalism is a continuation of the Betancur administration.
- The people in the ruling party have had the most influence in this administration; it's just that since they don't have an organized party, in the long run they can't feel responsible for what its officials are doing.
- I disagree with the administration's makeshift economic policy, with its delays in starting the adjustment process and with its confused decisions on government spending, in which it failed to calculate the consequences of the fiscal situation.
- I regard as inappropriate the administration's slowness in submitting and defending the democratic reform bills.
- The administration is right with its peace policy, but not in the peace process.
- Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the existence of institutions that prevent such conflicts.
- Violence also has cultural and social components that go beyond the problem of a few groups that have taken up arms against the government.

--When the government creates false hopes about peace and identifies peace with just part of the problem, the people are perplexed when violence persists in the other segments that reflect social pathologies.

--I do not deny President Betancur's good intentions in addressing the peace problem, but his strategy has been incomplete and superficial.

--Precisely because it has improvised, this administration has been inefficient in running the government.

--Relations with Venezuela have remained at a very modest level.

--Another thing this administration can be criticized for is its poor communication with the parties.

--Only in the Justice Ministry, in the Bank Superintendancy and during the last stage of INCOMEX [Foreign Trade Institute] have we felt involved in what the administration has been doing.

--If a party does not practice internal democracy, it cannot promise democratization to society. If a party cannot manage to organize itself, it cannot promise to organize society.

--The parties have made the mistake of reducing their ability to influence society to their ability to maneuver in and influence the bureaucracy.

--I am not an enemy of the political class. I am an enemy of the concept of politics, which I feel society has transcended.

--Lopez's "flirting" with me is part of the speculation about the political changes that the country is undergoing today.

--We do not want to take revenge on anyone. We want to transform society, transform politics, introduce a new system of politics, a new way of looking at the country's problems.

--We have defended Liberalism with the masses; we have enabled it to have influence in areas of society in which it did not have a presence.

--From the time of the National Front, bureaucratization and the impact of political patronage, the Liberal Party lost touch with the Center-Left groups. These groups are looking for someone to represent them in Colombian politics, and I think that this is one of the explanations for the louder voice of public opinion.

--We are in the crucial year of the crisis. This will politicize the Colombian people, show them that they cannot remain indifferent and lead to a huge voter turnout that will decide the country's course in 1986.

The Crisis of the State, of Society and of the Political Parties

These statements for the normal, everyday country contrast starkly with the ideas that Galan voiced throughout the interview. Should I transcribe a section? Alright, I'll transcribe a section.

"At present the country is faced with a crisis of the State, a crisis of society and a crisis of the political parties. The first two have undergone sweeping qualitative and quantitative changes over the past 30 years, changes greater than any that could have taken place during any other period of the country's history. I could cite some examples, though it might be out of place to bring in statistics to support ideas. Consider this. Life expectancy is up sharply in Colombia. In 1950 it was 43 years; in 1985 it is 62 and heading towards 67. This used to be a society in which women had an average of 7 children by the time they were 50 in 1950. Today the average is 2.5 and before the end of the century it will stand at 1.5. When a family's size and needs change, human beings and society change.

"But the size of the State has changed as well. Our State spends almost 4 billion pesos a day on functions and services that have been accumulating without anyone bothering to organize them systematically so that the efficiency of resource allocation can be accurately gauged and the involvement of all in administering these funds guaranteed.

"This society has no notion of the State; it does not understand the State that governs it. What is more, though, the State does not understand the society it is running. The vehicle for communication between them is supposed to be the political parties. Their *raison d'être* is to convey society's demands to the State and to explain the State's decisions to society. In order to fulfill this mission, the parties have to be able to interpret society, they have to study and observe it."

Colombians in the 17th Century

"To interpret society is to analyze all its elements, its economic structures. Let us look at an example that is close to all Colombians: the farm sector. Why are our peasant farmers as they are? Because there is not just one type of peasant farmer; there are several, depending on their behavior. One is the peasant farmer on the large coastal estate who lives and works under a feudal arrangement in Sucre and Cordoba; another is the one from Narino and Boyaca; another is the plainsman; another lives in the colonization areas; another lives on the Pacific coast, isolated and out of the mainstream. But there is something else. In Colombia there are more than just economic classes or different segments of society coexisting; different historical eras also coexist. Today we have Colombians from 1985, 1960, 1920, last century and from the 18th and 17th century. The nation is all of them, the sum total of all these elements. It is

very difficult to find and interpret the nation. It is a complex matter to find common purposes in it. And keep in mind that we have been talking only about the countryside and overlooking the city. There are huge differences in income among peasant farmers. The average family income of a laborer in the coffee-growing area is at least 50 percent greater than that of a family on a small sugar cane or other farm. There is an upper class, a middle class and a lower class among peasant farmers. This is why agrarian modernization is so difficult in Colombia. General legislation is not enough if the cultural realities of each region, of each human being have not been uncovered. Legislation that orders the redistribution of land in Sucre or Cordoba is completely valid on top of a desk. But such laws could well remain just pieces of paper, as they in fact have, when an attempt is made to apply them to peasants who have a feudal outlook of dependence. Much of the problem consists of figuring out the values and mentality of the Colombian people, the mentality of each of the cultures that coexist in the country.

"These cultures have a historical explanation that has never been looked into in Colombia. Regional history does not exist among us. A youngster in primary school or even college in Antioquia does not know the history of Antioquia. What is even more serious because it does not show up in school or training programs, is that this cultural heritage is somehow being transmitted and influences the behavior, the interests, the attitudes and the mentality of each region of Colombia."

A Problem of 4 Billion a Day

"For all these reasons, reform of the regional system is a basic point today. There were two approaches to such a reform. The first was the constitutional amendments of 1968. This approach is open from a legal standpoint but not from a political one. Legally speaking, functions and funds can be redistributed among the nation, the departments and the municipalities practically without restrictions. I'm talking about theory, because it all became dead letter, and except for the fiscal subsidy and the sales tax during Dr Lleras Restrepo's administration not much got done in this regard.

"The problem must be approached, of course, on the basis of the 4 billion pesos a day that we were talking about. Who spends them and for what purpose? In 1981 New Liberalism conducted a study that showed that 80 percent of the decisions concerning these funds are national, 16 percent are departmental and 4 percent are municipal. Bogota is included in the second category. Medellin, Barranquilla, Cali, Bucaramanga, the other large cities, are in the third category. Just think! I'm not talking about the intended use of the funds being apportioned around the country. I'm talking about the decision-making. We live under a gigantic central government that defies the understanding, the analysis, almost the imagination of the people charged with running it.

"But there are other imbalances. We also have to analyze the branches of government. The Executive Branch suffers from the biggest imbalance because it is concentrated in the national authorities. If it were organized on three levels, there would be some distribution of power. This is essential in a democracy. In Colombia power is concentrated in the Executive Branch and on the national level, from which the Executive Branch acts against everything else. The national government's machinery is interminably vast. And to make matters worse, many departmental and municipal authorities wind up following the instructions of the president of the republic on specific issues, not because the president has a political agenda for Medellin, Cartagena or Bucaramanga but because a specific and immediate social contingency has arisen and the chief executive has decided to become involved without knowing what it is all about, often riding roughshod over regional decisions."

Our Philanthropic Ogre

"So we need government reform. Relations between the three branches of government in Colombia have to be redefined, strengthening the legislative and judicial branches. What does this mean? It means improving the legislature's monitoring systems, mainly the comptroller's office and the attorney general's office, as agents of Congress, agents that today do not really communicate, that are plainly and simply a bureaucracy. Allow me to make an aside here. When the political parties became bureaucratized, they lost touch with government and society. Incapable of understanding them, they went about running the bureaucracy like a stronghold for prefabricating the collective will. Today the collective will is not the result of genuine, unfettered reflection; it is conditioned by the manipulation of the bureaucracy. Now then, each of the organizations in the Executive Branch has its own organization in turn. This is more or less what Octavio Paz was talking about in "The Philanthropic Ogre." But here we have the same old problems, the problems of freedom and justice. We hand over the government to a group of people for 3 to 5 months a year so that they will return us our money in the form of public utilities, social services, so that they will run our foreign relations for us, so that they will give us security, justice, recreation, development.

"In a presidential system like ours the chief executive is supposed to run the show. He thus accumulates great political and administrative power. I approve of the former, from the standpoint of the nation's unity, but not with the latter, because the administration of government suffers and the president becomes either a very poor administrator or a very poor politician. Here is where the party ought to come into play. There can be no talk of a savior, a messiah in either Colombia or any other functioning democracy. I don't believe in messiahs. I don't want to be called a would-be messiah, because that would be deceiving the country and shirking the responsibility that we all have to assume. The transformation of Colombia does not

hinge on finding someone to redeem it; it hinges on society's taking up the responsibilities of guiding this process, which involves and affects everyone. To me, the vehicle for organized, collective work is the political parties, which are the ones that have to act at the moment of truth in our institutions. Congress is not to blame. Congress is the stage on which the parties act, and depending on what the parties are like, we can expect Congress to work or not to work. If the political parties are well organized, there is no need for major reforms in Congress."

Party Reform

"Now then, I have chosen this approach. The other is the one that has been taken in Colombia over the past 20 years: changing the institutions, not the parties. We move from reform to reform. On 29 May the government minister was here and handed me a letter proposing more major reforms. I think they're necessary, but I also think that they're not going to work as long as we don't change the parties. The 1968 constitutional reform was extremely important but remained just a piece of paper because the parties lacked the political will to enforce it. As far as I'm concerned, the political party crisis remains the key. The parties have to first secure a regional presence, which is extremely difficult in a country with 1,000 municipalities. People tell me: 'You have your views but you have no one to garner votes for you.' I don't think my problem is getting someone to win votes for me. My problem is how to see to it that the party gains a regional presence and, instead of just picking up votes, achieves communication between society and government where it operates, in the neighborhoods, in the municipal capitals, in villages, in towns and in big cities too.

"So we have to go about creating irreversible factors for change in the political conscience of the Colombian people. I have always said that the key is political education. The important thing is to build a society with the ability to analyze itself critically. This makes it free. There can be no such ability if society does not become aware of itself and of its institutions. I want to help bring about a qualitative change in our people so that they understand their rights and duties. I think that the problem begins in the municipality. This is why we have placed so much emphasis on the issue of local democracy. If a citizen cannot have a say in what is around him, his village, his water supply, his streets, his services, then he will have that much less of a say in the national government. If there is no democracy in the municipality, there can be no democracy in the nation. This has been one of our arguments. And why democracy in the municipality? As a form of political education, as a way of getting a person to come in contact with his society, to take up his rights and duties in society, to act. This will provide a better chance of building a true democracy, a democracy for every day, not just an electoral, periodic, cyclical, ritual democracy in which leaders are chosen. A day-to-day democracy.

"I don't think that politics is just the art of governing. It's much more than that. Politics is the science that studies the destiny of human beings. This is what justifies it: how collective resources can be organized and decisions on problems that affect us all can be made as intelligently as possible and with the involvement of the community. A learning period is needed to achieve this. Man is not born democratic; nations and cultural values are brought in line with democracy. We need to create a system for this in Colombia. Our citizens are not familiar with the institutions of democracy but they are always calling for political decisions on social and economic problems without grasping the relationship between the two. Thus, New Liberalism's obsession is political education. There can be no democracy, no freedom, no collective improvement without it. The parties are vehicles for a democratic awareness. We come from groups that had become ends in themselves, that were little more than symbols 30 years ago. They are more complex today. They are becoming a network of interests, with scholarships and positions, though they are still somewhat primitive and egoistic and deal with intertwined private matters instead of reflecting a social consciousness. This is where patronage has remained: handling private interests. The parties have not worked to develop a collective consciousness, which is what really builds a nation, leads to development and brings about genuine change so that the country can overcome its contradictions."

The Lords in Their Fiefs

"The overwhelming majority of leaders in Colombia do not know the country; they are locked up in their regions. This is a feudal concept of politics. The 'lords' take care of their constituency. Nothing else exists. It stands to reason then that they do not understand Colombia or that their ideas about the country are extrapolated from the local surroundings. What is the reason for the crisis besetting the Liberal Party today? Among other things, because it has no national leaders. And why not? Because the leaders holed themselves up in their fiefs. A notion of the State has not developed among political leaders; there has been no notion of nationhood. One has to be developed. This is why a collective consciousness must take shape. But the people who have to push for one are part of the ruling class.

"We feel that we have an obligation to establish a political agenda. What is a political agenda? It is three things: objectives, organization and the political will to achieve the objectives through organization. We already have the political will. We have been determining the objectives, which are the objectives of an organized force, not a person, through forums, assemblies and training periods in public bodies. These objectives, which were set forth in 1981 and will be further specified and tailored to 1985 at our national assembly this July, are essentially the same: an organized democracy in the social, political and economic spheres; national independence, which mainly has to do with Colombia's role in the world today; the

modernization of society and government, to achieve the first two; and a new development strategy. We want to explain to the country what options it has for boosting its growth rate and carrying out its social reforms within the present world economy, in keeping with our ability to be competitive in certain areas, in light of the opportunities that the energy sector can afford us and within the limits imposed on the government by the adjustment process, which will last for at least 2 years into the next administration."

[18 Jun 85 pp 32-36]

[Text] For decades (centuries?) now Colombia has waited until the very last minute to make decisions. Perhaps it all began with General Santander, a boring fellow who Luis Carlos Galan says was the administrative architect of Bolivar's triumphs. Perhaps the habit developed later. The fact is, though, that Colombian society, the ladies and gentlemen who drink tea, waits until it can no longer take anymore before making a change. And I am not talking just about elections; I am talking about marriages, fried eggs or soft-boiled eggs, jobs. I am also talking about political decisions. In 1930, after the Conservative predominance that was on the verge of destroying the country, Colombians chose Olaya when they were up to here with Santa Fe chocolate and snacks at the table of Abadia Mendez. And when they were up to here with violence, they wildly applauded the coup by Gen Rojas Pinilla, who soon made them fed up with dictatorship until, when they could not stand it anymore, they opted for the National Front, which quickly began looking like a joke to them. So they went for Lopez, who started a second liberal republic (Turbay's description) that by dint of short-sightedness and patronage lasted only 8 years, after which, just as the bubble was about to burst, they threw themselves into the arms of the miracle-peddler, of whom they tired in the twinkling of an eye. So now, exhausted and beaten, their tongues hanging out, the Colombian people find themselves at another crossroads. This time, say Galan's friends, they are going to choose between the old and the new. Because, they add, Colombia can take no more, suffocating amid the marijuana and gasoline fumes, crumbling with age, intolerably stricken with Parkinson's disease. To them Galan represents a new generation, something different. And although the 60 or so birthdays of the wonder-worker mean nothing in a country that lived and died under the Sanclemente regime, just as the 60 or so birthdays of Dr Barco or the 70 or so birthdays of Dr Gomez mean nothing, Galan's 40 years-even represent to his followers a desire for changes in methods, in dealing with problems, which could tilt the election in his favor. The day will dawn and we shall see, or at least the day will dawn and Colombians under age 60 shall see. Because the rest of us (good God!) are doddering old fools.

"In Any Event I Will Be a Candidate"

But can we quantify the matter? What are the facts and figures that indicate that Galan has a real chance of becoming president in 1986? According to the candidate, there are several. But first, will he run? "Yes," Galan says. "In any event I will be a candidate. I am one hundred percent determined to confront the situation, because I think that this is my duty to our country, which is at a crossroads, and because I have a responsibility to go through the entire political process."

[Question] And what will happen with Barco's candidacy?

[Answer] I think he might withdraw. Although the reasons that would prompt such a move are still lacking, I feel that if sees us as a growing, decisive force, he will wind up withdrawing. And it seems that this is quite possible. [end of answer]

Galan is confident of victory. "I think that given the factors at work in the country today, I have the best chance," he asserts. Why is he so sure? "The voter turnout in 1986 will be 40 percent higher than in 1982. These will be new voters, not because they stayed away from the polls before, but because they are young people, the overwhelming majority under age 30, politically nonaligned and almost hostile to political parties. Aside from this, we are in the midst of an economic and social crisis that has changed political attitudes in a fundamental way. People who have so far had specific preferences in this area have begun to reconsider them as a result of the crisis, looking for a change. They are not going to resign themselves to what either Dr Vargas or Dr Gomez Hurtado have to offer. Both because of these two men's attitude and their track records, they do not offer real change. The election outcome will also be influenced by the politicization of this period in the nation's history, inasmuch as social realities will be more important than what the leading candidates might do. Lastly, New Liberalism's level of organization is much higher than in 1982. Today we have the experience of our uninterrupted political work nationwide. The country has observed us, has seen us operate and acknowledges us as a clear-cut alternative."

The Kingdom of Blithering Idiots

"We are in the midst of an economic and social crisis," says Galan. But the fact is that we have been in one since 12 October 1492, if not before. Of course the country has never before seen times like these. This is the kingdom of blithering idiots. The Betancur regime has no parallel in our history. Perhaps the regime of Amar y Borbon with his taxes comes close to it; perhaps Jose Solis Folch de Cardona with his ravings and his bridge; perhaps Jose Miguel Pey, the summa cum laude graduate of the "Patria Boba"; perhaps Francisco Javier Zaldua, who "in spite of his good will could not govern"; at worst, it can be compared to the regime of Jose Manuel Marroquin, who was

given one country and gave back two; at best, the regime of Abadia Mendez, described by Rendon in all its foolish short-sightedness. But no. May Amar, Solis, Pey, Zaldua, Marroquin and Abadia forgive me, because this one is worse than all of them put together. So it is not easy to understand how Galan can be seeking the presidency when political circles say that he is in complete agreement with many of the government's programs and that if he is, he better forget it.

"No," says Galan. "For some time now I have been saying that this government just improvises. Although I feel that every chief executive must be able to improvise, he still needs a program to forge the country's destiny rationally and to give meaning to the efforts of the Colombian people. President Betancur has not had one. I have profound disagreements with how economic and political affairs have been handled. If it's alright with you, we could summarize them as follows:

- Improvisation in economic policy;
- Delays in beginning the adjustment process;
- Confused decisions on government spending, without calculating the consequences on fiscal conditions;
- Delays in submitting and defending democratic reform bills;
- Administrative instability in handling the institutional modernization;
- Lack of serious, specific conclusions from this modernization effort;
- The peace policy is fine, but the peace process is not in earnest;
- Inefficiency in the administrative realm;
- Disregard for many fundamental foreign policy issues, such as relations with Venezuela, Latin American economic integration and the modest level of relations with Europe;
- Intermittent communication with political parties, which have remained on the sidelines as the country's overall situation has been examined.

"Only in the Justice Ministry, the Bank Superintendency and the last period of INCOMEX have we felt involved in what the government is doing. In everything else, no, because we have had no say in decision-making and we have not been opportunely informed of the considerations in making them."

Peace: Incomplete and Superficial

[Question] What does peace mean to you?

[Answer] The existence of institutions that are respected by all and that can handle the conflicts that inevitably arise in society. This demands a political democracy, and we still have a long way to go to achieve one. Peace is not the absence of conflicts; it is the existence of institutions to prevent such conflicts. Let us ask ourselves, rather, why there is violence. Violence exists not for political reasons alone. Violence breaks out when there are law and order problems stemming from the economic and social crisis. There is violence in the form of terrorism, which is different from the problem of guerrillas, inasmuch as guerrillas act in accordance with political programs, while terrorism is the action of fanatics against the State merely as an expression of protest. There is violence by organized crime, such as drug trafficking. And there is plain old violence, which is part of our culture, part of the Colombian way of life, which has a barbaric element to it. Suffice it to say that while 400 to 500 people die as a result of law and order problems, there are about 600 murders and 10,000 homicides during the same time period. When we restrict the problem of peace to the guerrillas and bringing subversive groups back into the mainstream, we are looking at just one side, albeit a very important one, of violence.

[Question] All of this could lead to frustration in the country, so that we might be headed for a serious explosion in the immediate future, don't you think?

[Answer] I wouldn't predict an apocalypse, but I do think that frustration could arise, because when false hopes are created about peace and when peace is equated with just part of the problem, then the nation is going to be upset, because the violence is going to continue in the other groups that are engaged in this social pathology.

[Question] From a more general standpoint, the president of peace could wind up being the president of war.

[Answer] I don't deny President Betancur's good intentions in this regard, but his strategy in dealing with the problem is incomplete and superficial.

Police on 19th Street

The country knows that Galan was education minister, ambassador to Italy, a senator and a presidential candidate. But it is not aware of the little details that have made him the political phenomenon of the 1980's. There are a countless number of them. He is, for example, a perfectionist. In 1969, and this is just an anecdote, a year before he joined the cabinet, a company hired him to put out a magazine about the voyage to the moon. Well now, Galan undertook

the project with such enthusiasm that he acquainted himself with the most sophisticated scientific equipment and the most insignificant details, the universal implications of the voyage and the most innocuous stories, the structure of the spaceship, its orbit, the reaction in the most remote corner of the earth, the life story of the astronauts, the repercussions, previous attempts, budgets. He has never admitted it, but I am certain that NASA hired him as a consultant when it was planning its second manned lunar launch. And if it did not, NASA was a real fool!

Galan has gone about organizing his movement with the same thoroughness. He is working mainly on educating Colombians politically. "New Liberalism," he says, "has fought in government institutions for many of the reforms in what was later baptized the 'democratic opening.' From the outset the movement has stressed the much-needed credibility of the electoral system, open campaign-treasury books, equitable access for all political groups to the mass media, career civil service and the independence of government employees from parties. Political party financing must be regulated to eliminate irregularities, favoritism or privileges, because some political groups use congressional funds in their campaigns or make deals with government contractors who make campaign contributions in exchange for the inside track on contracts. I think there ought to be ground rules assuring all political groups truly modest but indispensable sums of money to analyze permanently and earnestly what is going on in the country. There is another point to be considered in this regard. Voters are concerned about campaign financing because they associate it immediately with vote-buying. We obviously have to uproot this vice in our democracy. This requires more than education; it takes closer monitoring of the election system and by the police. The authorities are customarily very strict about access to 19th Street during elections, but they are quite indifferent about and even acquiesce in really serious infringements of citizens' political freedom in many regions of the country."

[Question] Why don't we get down to political brass tacks. You spoke of a 40 percent rise in voter turnout. I would think that if there is such an increase, it will be in the presidential, not the congressional balloting.

[Answer] Right. This is unquestionably a major problem. Large segments of the public are skeptical, have misgivings about government bodies. These segments see the congressional elections as belonging to the politicians and the presidential election as belonging to the nation. New Liberalism seeks to make the electorate aware of the interrelationship between the two. Congress must support the next administration. If the country wants the next administration to meet the political expectations of the Colombian people, then it must have guaranteed backing from Congress.

"They Are Not Going to Wipe Me Out"

[Question] But that would bear out those who say that the ruling party is going to wipe you out so badly in the congressional elections that you will be forced to withdraw your candidacy.

[Answer] They are not going to wipe me out and they know it. They also know that many of their officials around the country are dropping out, that the traditional political devices they used in 1982 will not be as effective this time, that the urban electorate is going to be an ever larger factor and that it is much more independent than the rural electorate. We are witnessing a massive social mobilization of new forces, not an election between traditional forces.

[Question] All of this is just talk unless your political movement does something concrete to make the outcome of the next election different.

[Answer] We are trying to organize nationwide. Our country is too big; it is hard to organize politically. As we were transforming our party, we began to think what we had to do to counteract the political forces that have been in every corner of Colombia for six or more generations out of sheer inertia. We decided to visit every municipality. There are 1,000 of them, comprising 3,000 villages easily and between 5,000 and 6,000 police districts. Whoever wants to organize a truly nationwide political force has to visit every one of them. The priority, of course, is urban centers because most of the population lives there. And here arises a problem even more complex than the previous one. In Bogota, for example, there are more than 2,000 neighborhoods, more than 200 in Bucaramanga, 700 in Medellin. Regional organization is therefore a long and difficult process. Up to now its place has been taken by local bosses. The traditional parties survive thanks to traditional local bosses and organizations that rely on featherbedding. They have not organized as forces that represent political ideas, that have an ideology, a concept of society, of the State. We intend to shatter the hegemony of these groups, and I have devoted a great deal of my energies over the past 5 years to this. I have set up regional organizations all over the country. The effort is worth it. To give you a good example, why do you think the subversive groups are afraid of competing at the ballot box. Simply because they realize that they will be defeated by the inertia of the system in any sort of election.

[Question] All indications are that your regional organization is taking aim at the regional organization of the ruling Liberal Party.

[Answer] And at the Conservatives. We have organized another system for engaging in politics. It has not been easy, but I see no other way.

[Question] In other words, this regional organization is going to create a new party.

[Answer] It is going to create what we want the Liberal Party to be. We want to absorb the entire Liberal electorate. We are in the process of doing that.

Vying for Constituencies?

[Question] In other words, you're after the ruling party's constituency or are you trying to create a new one?

[Answer] Nothing of the sort. We are creating a new organization. A constituency is a primitive form of organization. We want to incorporate a new approach that does not involve manipulating people's immediate needs, that sees to collective needs.

[Question] Practically speaking, it does not seem likely that the leaders of your movement can supplant the traditional strongmen of Liberalism.

[Answer] Look at what has happened. In 1982 New Liberalism had 221 councilmen in Colombia. Over the next 2 years we sought a stronger regional presence and moved up to 544 in 1984, a gain of 323, if we include the National Territories, 339.

[Question] And is it on the basis of these numbers that your people feel that Galan can defeat Drs Barco and Gomez in the race for president?

[Answer] Yes. It's not like a ladder. You don't have to climb first to here, then to there and then further up. The process could be better described as a spiral that keeps on gaining strength.

[Question] Let's try to quantify this spiral.

[Answer] I am convinced that there will be a huge voter turnout next year. Let's look at the population's age breakdown, specifically in Bogota. According to the informal DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics] census of 1981, the capital had an estimated population of 3.7 million. Today it must be around 4.3 million. And look at the age breakdown. The group that was 15 to 19 years old in 1981 will be 20 to 24 in 1986. This new segment will be decisive. We are talking about a new nation that has not been really involved but that will be more and more so because social and economic developments are politicizing it. All indications are that the voter turnout will top nine million. This is the quantitative element, which is very important. But there is also the qualitative element. Not only are there more voters, but they are voters who are more interested, more broad-minded, who have a different outlook, who will necessarily be creative, demanding, innovative. Here is where the big question mark about the next elections lies.

[Question] With one additional factor: that from 1982 to 1986 the Betancur administration has created a series of expectations.

[Answer] Yes. It has politicized the country, created controversies, frictions...

[Question] In what way? Because the dangerous thing about all this demagoguery and populism is that it might have pushed these new segments of public opinion closer to armed revolt than to the in-depth changes you are proposing.

[Answer] This is a fundamental question. There are three possibilities. The one that you have mentioned, stemming from the mistakes by the groups in arms, which have presented an intransigent image, and from the improvisation in the peace process; resignation, which runs counter to the expectations of this generation; and our approach, which is what the young people want: responsible discontent, a sincere discontent, not a demagogic, pie-in-the-sky discontent.

In the Country of Promises

[Question] That is the best promise in the country of promises: not to make promises.

[Answer] In so many very different places, but especially among low-income groups, I have come across people who tell me: "Don't promise to solve our problems, because we know that's impossible. Promise us that you'll be responsible in making decisions." I have the impression that people are becoming more mature than political leaders think. And I also think that the traditional campaigns are being run on the basis of publicity stereotypes, which is an extremely serious mistake. The leaders do not understand the country. One says "I'm going to win on the strength of a protest vote" so he can move towards Dr Lopez and because he thinks that this a simple, obvious and elementary strategy for winning an election. I think that the philosophy should be different. I would like to win on the strength of a hopeful vote. People should vote for me not as a protest against someone else but because they hope I will represent them.

[Question] You mentioned Dr Lopez. Are you trying to court his favor?

[Answer] I know nothing at all about such courting. I think such talk is part of the speculation about the political evolution the country is now undergoing. In any event, though, I should point out that Dr Lopez is much better informed about the nation today than he was in 1981.

[Question] Everybody, both your friends and your enemies, says that you are an opponent of the Colombian political class.

[Answer] No. I am an opponent of an approach to politics that I regard as obsolete. The political class must undergo a renovation, just as the society and the State have undergone a renovation. There are all kinds of people in Congress: very competent people, incompetents who have gotten there in shady ways and people who represent the norm in society. I think that Fortunato's judgment was accurate. He described the Italian Parliament 90 years ago as if he were talking about ours today. According to him, the legislature consists 20 percent of outstanding lawmakers, 20 percent of incompetents and 60 percent of average people like the rest of society.

[Question] But the political class that has a constituency is afraid of you coming to power because it feels that you are going to be vindictive. Is that true?

[Answer] That is a very petty view of New Liberalism's political objective. We do not want to take revenge on anyone. We want to transform society, transform politics, introduce a new way of looking at the country's problems. We have defended Liberalism with the masses; we have enabled it to have influence in new segments of public opinion. Otherwise it would have remained stuck in a vicious circle, with a captive constituency, without the ability to develop and expand and without the ability to represent society. We think that even the Conservatives are watching us and that this is a process of mutual influences. We are pleased to see that some areas of the ruling party are trying to adopt a new approach to politics. For example, I have the highest regard for the work of Hernando Gomez Buendia, though I feel that he is in the wrong place.

Right- or Leftwing?

[Question] Where is New Liberalism on the ideological spectrum? There are those who say that it is a rightwing movement, while others are worried about its closeness to the Patriotic Union and, in general, to the Left.

[Answer] That is to be expected from a Center-Left political group. I think that we have a clear idea today of the principals who represent the Right, such as Dr Gomez Hurtado, and the Left, such as the Patriotic Union. They are at the extremes. But where the overwhelming majority of Colombians are is the Center, which is mainly shared by Dr Barco Vargas and us. The difference is that Dr Barco, from the Center, is seeking the support of right-of-center groups, while we, also from the Center, are looking for backing from left-of-center groups. The Liberal Party has always been like that. Nevertheless, from the time of the National Front, bureaucratization and the impact of political patronage, the Liberal Party lost touch with the Center-Left groups when it made power an end in itself and not a vehicle for representing the interests of low-income groups. I think that the Center-Left is one of the major sectors seeking representation in Colombian politics. Needless to say, the Center-Left is an alliance

between the constitution and social change. Colombia needs such an alliance; it must support the interests of the masses, the rise of the underprivileged classes, income redistribution among the Colombian people, and the use of government powers to help the weak, but it must do so in accordance with the constitution.

[Question] That is all well and good. Yet the electorate, the man in the street, has a series of key concerns. They are still waiting for programs like General Rojas's "peace, justice and freedom" or Dr Lopez Michelsen's "Health, education, homes and jobs" to go into effect. What is your platform's slogan?

[Answer] I would like the campaign debate to combine two elements. In the first place, the people must be duly informed so that they realize that the process is complex and has a great many simultaneous ingredients and that the fundamental national issues are interrelated and interdependent and cannot be addressed individually. Secondly, in spite of this complexity priorities must be set in keeping with the clear and simple sentiments of the nation, priorities that will be the following for the next government: jobs, education, health care and social security, the organization of urban and rural workers, oil and coal, the administrative reorganization of government, the internationalization of the country within the context of Latin America, agricultural modernization for higher food production, a national transportation system, and regional development with emphasis on the Atlantic Coast. [end of answer]

Interview with the Country

Throughout my interview with Galan, which filled 56 pages the first week and another 14 the following one, he also spoke of Colombia as a part of Latin America, the political scene until the presidential election, political democracy, Latin America's foreign debt, boards of directors, political party reform, news reporting, and justice-system reform, explained in minute detail the adjustment process that the government and the nation must undergo, clearly outlined what responsible dissent consists of, and exhaustively spelled out his programs for the country's main concerns. An agenda that long would be enough for the next 59 issues of CROMOS. By the time that many weeks have passed, however, it will already be 7 August, and then it might be the country that will be doing an interview with him.

8743

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COLOMBIA

FARC'S PATRIOTIC UNION HOLDS OPENING POLITICAL RALLY

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 3 Jun 85 pp 22-25

[Article by Rodrigo Pardo]

[Text] It was as if the peace process were not up against the major obstacles it currently faces. As if everyone had forgotten about the terrorist attacks in Cali, the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Theater, filled to the rafters, was the scene of a unique event. The UP [Patriotic Union] was celebrating its founding and commemorating the first anniversary of the signing of the peace agreements between the government and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] on 28 May 1984 in La Uribe.

The participants had to wait on line for hours, as the drastic security measures and careful searches caused the event to begin 1 hour and 12 minutes late. At 7:12 the curtain at Jorge Eliecer Theater rose, revealing a long table at which a large contingent of Colombian political figures were seated.

Adelaida Gives Opening Remarks

The diversity of the people seated at the table was striking. There were members of the Conservative Party and of the two major Liberal Party factions. There were some representatives of guerrilla groups and of the Communist Party. Several of the members of the peace, verification and dialogue committees had also been invited.

On the wall behind them, dominating the stage, were a large portrait of Simon Bolivar and a map of Colombia with the word "peace." In the audience, dozens of yellow and green flags of the UP overwhelmed the banners hanging from the mezzanine, all of them with references to peace.

After the long wait had been punctuated by several pieces of music, concluding with Beethoven's Fifth, the ceremony was opened by Adelaida Nieto, the well-known stage and screen actress, who amid UP announcements and slogans moderated the nine speeches that night.

It all seemed like a fairytale. The "Super" radio network broadcast all of the speeches live. No one was thinking about the difficulties of the peace process. The various leftwing groups did not attack each other. The speeches lasted no longer than scheduled, and terrorism was condemned to a man. Anyone attending the coming-out of the UP last Tuesday would only have had to stop reading the papers to conclude that the peace process was moving full speed ahead.

A Prattle Mill

If the individuals seated at the main table covered a wide spectrum of political ideologies, the speakers offered no less variety.

There was some common ground, however. They all defended the peace process and denounced terrorism; to a man, they voiced solidarity with Antonio Navarro Wolf and his M-19 comrades who were wounded in Cali last 21 May.

According to observers at the function, it was noteworthy that so many leftist groups had gathered together. Not only were the FARC there; there were also representatives of ADO [Workers Self-Defense], Firmes, the M-19, and the Communist and Socialist parties. Even the ELN [National Liberation Army], which has rejected the government's offers to enter the legal mainstream, sent a message hailing the launching of the UP, though it underscored its opposition to the cease-fire pacts.

The traditional parties were also widely represented, though this is not as unusual as it is for the Left, which for decades has proven its total inability to unite. In attendance were a member of the National Liberal Board of Directors, Councilman Ernesto Samper Pizano, and a New Liberalism senator, Emilio Urrea Delgado. Also there was presidential hopeful Alvaro Uribe Rueda; a representative of his group, German Morales, took the floor to assert that the creation of the UP "is a fine step towards ending the two-party stranglehold, which has proven to be a failure."

Of the nine speakers who addressed the large audience, a few stood out. The most poorly received was Fabio Valencia C., a Conservative who backs the candidacy of J. Emilio Valderrama and who attempted to defend the performance of the current administration.

As soon as Valencia made a laudatory reference to Belisario Betancur, the first whistles were heard, and someone in the audience shouted: "You're with the CIA, old boy." Valencia continued his unpopular defense, however, and when he asserted that the "amnesty this administration has declared is comparable to Rojas Pinilla's," the whistles grew so loud that they drowned out his speech. Only the timely intervention of Adelaida Nieto prevented a breakdown in the proceedings.

Fabio Valencia was going against the grain. There had been frequent, implacable criticism of Betancur, the president who tried to make room for the Left. According to Hector Fajardo, the first speaker of the evening, a nationwide work stoppage should be undertaken against "the pro-oligarchy government that Belisario Betancur is running," while the ADO's Carlos Efren Agudelo felt that "the government is letting its last chance to opt for peace slip away."

Some of the people in the audience noted with surprise that long-time champions of the armed struggle spoke out against violence. Even the secretary general of the Communist Party, Gilberto Vieira, said that "this is the time for action by the masses, not for senseless terrorist attacks." Others went even further. Jorge Riberos, the representative of the Firmes group, said for example that "the rallying cry is democracy, not social revolution," noting: "We are not enemies of the army."

These ideas were also shared by FARC commander Braulio Herrera, a man who has been mentioned in some circles as a likely UP presidential candidate. Employing fine oratorical skills and effective techniques to capture the audience's attention, Herrera asserted that in spite of the snags in the peace process, "there are powerful democratic reserves in Colombia."

The representatives of the traditional political groups, with the exception of Fabio Valencia, conveyed messages that in general did not deviate from the line followed by those who spoke on behalf of the leftwing groups. New Liberalism's Emilio Urrea agreed with German Morales in the sense that avenues for the participation of all groups ought to be opened. According to Urrea, "the FARC are complying with the agreements" and there is reason to have faith in the peace process. However, he noted, "I do not see the pardon as the last word for peace," inasmuch as the process is a lengthy and complex one.

Also taking the floor was Councilman Ernesto Samper Pizano, who a couple of months before had introduced the book "Cease-Fire" by FARC commander Jacobo Arenas. Reiterating what he had said on that occasion, Samper asserted that "the guerrillas were invited to cross the river, but their horse was taken away in midstream," a harsh criticism of the Betancur administration, whose inconsistency has hurt the peace process. As far as Colombia's negotiations with the IMF are concerned, he said that Betancur "negotiated nothing and handed over everything."

Samper Pizano also said that we must clearly distinguish between the various kinds of violence: "One is social and political violence, and another is the violence of drug trafficking." Towards the end of his speech he harshly criticized Luis Carlos Galan, without naming him, for his political strategy of seeking Center-Left coalitions with an eye towards the upcoming elections. Such coalitions are,

in Samper Pizano's words, "marriages of convenience" that endanger peace because in order for peace to prevail "our sights should be set on a change in politics, not on elections."

An Anniversary Without Belisario Betancur

Some observers have pointed out that the criticism leveled at President Betancur for not taking responsibility for the peace process has been substantiated by his behavior on the first anniversary of the signing of the La Uribe accords.

Betancur did not make a single public reference all day to the event being commemorated, nor were any messages known to have been sent to the celebrations at the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Theater or in La Uribe, where a simple ceremony was attended by several members of the Peace Commission.

On the contrary, Betancur spent the day in meetings with education ministers from other countries, during which he never mentioned the issue of peace, as he could have.

The flood of criticism that the leftist groups hurled at the administration during the event at Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Theater confirms the wide gap between Betancur and the guerrillas and reaffirms the shift of the responsibility for the peace process to the "phantom commission" of which former President Lopez Michelsen spoke in Manizales. But the people who gathered in Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Theater last Tuesday 28 May were not thinking about this.

8743

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CUBA

CASTRO ON LATIN AMERICAN DEBT, PRC'S ECONOMY, NICARAGUAN AID

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12, 13, 14 Jun 85

[Interview with Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, by Lourdes Alvarez on 7 June in Havana; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[12 Jun 85 pp 1, 19]

[Excerpts] This newspaper, EL DIA, sent correspondent Lourdes Alvarez to cover the Meeting on the Current Situation of Women in Latin American and the Caribbean, held in Havana, Cuba on 3-7 June. During her stay there, she requested an interview with Cmdr Fidel Castro.

The president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers agreed to the request, and granted to EL DIA the exclusive interview which we are publishing here today.

Havana, Cuba, 11 June--"It is not enough for Latin America simply to cancel the debt and achieve the New International Economic Order; it must also seek economic integration, without which real development and survival as independent nations would be impossible," claimed Fidel Castro during the interview.

The Cuban head of state indicated that three types of factor make payment of the debt impossible: economic, political (because it is impossible to apply a restrictive policy so that the creditors can collect the debt), and moral. Among other reasons, the money that was lent returned to the borrowers through different channels.

Castro added a fourth factor, that of force majeure: "We should not pay because we cannot."

"I understand that the word /cancellation/ is very strong," he said, "but that word doesn't necessarily have to be used; we can use the word moratorium, for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years; we could even begin with 10, and then prolong it indefinitely," added President Castro.

In essence, he indicated, that amounts to the same thing as cancelling it; he stressed: "I have said on other occasions that the moratorium is an old and respected tradition of Roman law. Why get so upset about a moratorium?"

Emphasizing his idea again, he said: "When I speak of cancelling, I mean simply not paying the debt, starting again from scratch, forgetting about the debt, that is what I mean."

Going into another issue, still within the sphere of economics, Castro mentioned the desperate situation that has emerged in the United States with respect to its trade relations with Japan. He noted that he had recently read that the U.S. Congress was trying to pass a package of 86 measures designed to put up barriers against Japanese products. He explained, "The Japanese are more frugal than the Americans, and in the past 25 years they invested their money not in battleships, not in aircraft carriers, not in missiles; nor are they dreaming of star wars, because among other reasons, they have been prohibited from dreaming of such things. Therefore, they have spent their money on technology."

Taking up the issue of U.S. economic difficulties again, the Cuban president recalled that that country will spend \$2 trillion on weapons over the next 8 years.

He warned, however, that as "Reagan's miracles run out" because the U.S. economy is grinding to a halt rather than growing, the world's economic situation will take a turn for the worse, "if it is possible to be any worse than it already is."

Regarding the problems of building the new society, Fidel Castro declared: "We need not invent capitalism to resolve the problems of socialism; what we must do is overcome a certain idealism, a certain extremism, certain illusions, certain errors and a certain inexperience; we must arrive at the proper mix of moral and material stimuli, and we must also apply the socialist formula."

[Question] What can you tell us about the experience in China? Is it really opening up to capitalism, or not?

[Answer] Well, I think the Chinese first went over to the extreme left, and generally when errors of leftist extremism are committed, the next step is a swing to the right. I have no doubt that the Chinese had good intentions when they carried out these extremist measures in their desire to advance toward communism, and all revolutionary movements have made these mistakes at a given moment, even our own. We committed errors of idealism by trying to skip historical stages. All of this has its price, but fortunately, we have not had to swing to the opposite end of the spectrum. We have rectified our idealism, and we have found a happy medium, applying the principles of socialism.

I think that the errors of extremism committed by the Chinese also brought them to a change of position in which they are opening up too much to the West. They are trying to accelerate their development to make up for lost

time, even at the price of introducing elements of capitalism. But I do not believe that the Chinese have renounced their socialist objectives; I even believe that many of these reforms fit within a socialist perspective. It appears to me that in one way or another, they will also seek their happy medium. They used to speak only of moral stimuli; now they are also mentioning material stimuli. They used to speak only of socialist enterprises; now they speak of socialist enterprises, mixed enterprises, and even some private capitalist enterprises, both national and foreign.

What do I think of all this? In the first place, we should let the Chinese develop their own experience and see what the outcome is. We should not be pessimistic; I have no reason to believe that they want to march toward capitalism, although there have been a series of broad reforms and a certain rapprochement with capitalism. But the system is not capitalist, it is socialist; the government is not a government of capitalists, but a government of workers and peasants, undeniably. That is what defines a system.

If you ask me my options or my personal preferences, I have great confidence in socialism and not very much confidence in capitalism. I believe that socialism offers fabulous possibilities for development, as our country's experience has shown. What we need to do is to perfect socialism. I have no hopes for capitalism, nor do I believe in capitalism in the slightest. Sometimes men encounter problems because of subjective errors in the process of building a new society, and they may begin to invent capitalism all over again.

Capitalism was invented a long time ago; there is no need to reinvent it. Capitalism represented a progressive society in its day; it provided a tremendous impetus to the forces of production, but it eventually became a drag on those forces. Capitalism has experience, it has formulas, and sometimes it is easier to administer. By this I mean that in capitalism, the blind laws of the market and competition are unleashed, and the reserve army of workers emerges; it is easier to organize production when there is a reserve of unemployed workers and when people are anxious to work, because they depend almost exclusively on their wages to solve vital problems such as health, education, food, housing, and the like. They get nothing from society. I am talking about an extreme case of capitalism, as it was during the early days.

When our Revolution triumphed, we ourselves found that we had a half a million people out of work in a population of 6.5 million. It was very easy to organize a sugar harvest; it was a cyclical job that provided employment for 300,000 workers in the cane cutting operation. When we implemented measures of social justice under the initial programs of the Revolution, when labor became humanized and many new jobs emerged, this reserve of workers began to disappear. Then it became very difficult to organize a harvest, because it was no longer enough simply to advertise that the harvest was about to begin for everyone to show up with a machete to cut cane. Then you had to organize the harvest, because there were no more jobless workers, and you had to mobilize industrial workers, you had to mobilize students, soldiers, volunteers of all types to harvest the sugar.

Under capitalism here, the sugar harvest was much easier than it is now for us. Now we have brought in technology and mechanization, and we no longer need 350,000 cane cutters as we did in 1970. We only need 70,000 cane cutters, because the machines are doing the basic work; mechanization is solving the problem. In an underdeveloped country without mechanization, it is very difficult to solve this problem; that is a difficult period. Now those 70,000 workers who remain in the non-mechanized areas are the ones who used to cut the most cane; they are much better paid, and their living standards are much higher because there are 70,000 of them and not 350,000. That period is tough, but we have already solved the problem through technology, mechanization.

Now, when the Revolution did away with unemployment and the sugarcane had to be cut by hand, organizing a harvest was much more difficult under our circumstances than under capitalism. Now that is not the case; now it is much easier than under capitalism, because the mechanized or manual worker is much more productive, and many fewer people are needed.

Well, then, there is no need to invent capitalism to solve the problems of socialism; what we need to do is overcome a certain idealism, a certain extremism, certain illusions, certain errors and a certain inexperience; we must arrive at the proper mix of moral and material stimuli, and we must apply the socialist formula.

At a given moment, we tried to apply the communist formula, and pay wages in an egalitarian manner. Thus, the person who loaded 10 tons at a port would be paid the same as the one who loaded 3; the one who yielded three times as much would be paid the same as the one who yielded a third as much. These were some idealistic errors that we made. We eliminated those errors and began to apply the socialist formula of paying according to the quantity and quality of work. Consequently, we began to find solutions to our problems without resorting to capitalism. I have a great mistrust for capitalism; it stimulates selfishness and corrupts people. It does not develop a spirit of solidarity and fraternity among men, but rather promotes selfishness, individualism. That is why I prefer the socialist formula, even within an underdeveloped country.

If Marx conceived of socialism as one step beyond developed capitalism, and life obliged us to follow the socialist path to development, then we must really forget about capitalism and follow the socialist path to development. In my opinion, that is the only way for the countries of the Third World.

If you ask me about Latin America, I do not want to provide recipes for that. I already admitted that there can be development and integration with capitalism, but that is not my favorite option, of course. Moreover, social justice can never be achieved that way; capitalism is a decadent system in history, and it will have to be surpassed by socialism, even though socialism still has a lot of flaws and deficiencies. The deficiencies lie not in the system, however, but in mankind. That is what I can tell you about that.

[13 Jun 85 pp 1, 16]

[Excerpts] Havana, Cuba, 12 June--"I always cite the example of Mexico, because it exhibited exemplary behavior toward Nicaragua. It provided generous assistance, more economic aid than we ourselves have given," said Cmdr Fidel Castro in an exclusive interview with EL DIA.

The president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers added: "We have given more aid in other areas, but Mexico gave them significant and decisive economic assistance. The Nicaraguan people will always be grateful for that, and we ourselves also owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Mexico for the generous assistance it lent to the people of Nicaragua."

Referring specifically to the kind of assistance provided by the Cuban Government to the Sandinist Revolution, the leader emphasized aid in the areas of education, public health, technical assistance in different fields, development projects, and loans (such as the one for the construction of the Tipitapa-Malacatoya sugar complex, a debt that was later forgiven by Cuba).

"We have also provided some military assistance, with regard to training cadres and troops in the mastery of certain techniques."

Regarding the site of this training, Castro asserted that "we have trained civilian and military cadres in Cuba, and we have helped to train military cadres there in Nicaragua, as well."

With reference to the invitation he extended to Ecuadorean President Leon Febres Cordero to visit Cuba, the first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party explained that the basic aim of this kind of contact is to coordinate ideas and to join efforts for the improved defense of the overall interests of Latin America and the countries of the Third World. He stressed this point: "What I can say about this is that none of what we are doing is for our own country's benefit, because we are the ones with the fewest problems in this dramatic crisis."

On the latter point, the Cuban leader summed up: "This is a confirmation of the notion that ideas do not create crises, but crises generate ideas. This profound and extraordinary crisis, the worst we have seen in the history of our nations since independence, has generated many ideas. It has generated awareness, it has generated unity, it is generating programs for struggle, and it is generating united action to solve Latin America's problems." He commented that "these expressions of unity are coming about without regard for ideology, religious beliefs, even without regard for social differences."

Regarding the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean women that took place in Havana, Castro stated, "Never, in 26 years of revolution, have I seen an event of this nature, so far-reaching, so united." Commenting on the participation in the event and the speeches that were made there, he said that they reflected not just the economic and social tragedy, but a more profound tragedy, in the case of the speeches by the delegates from Chile, Paraguay, Haiti, El Salvador and Guatemala, who told of the bloody drama that is unfolding in their countries.

"They reflected that enormous economic and social crisis that has no solution," emphasized Castro, "except through the formulas that are being proposed."

[Question] Commander, what assistance is Cuba providing to Nicaragua at this time?

[Answer] We have provided broad-based assistance in a variety of areas: education, public health, technical assistance in different fields. We have helped out in some projects, some development programs, some loans, such as the one for the new sugar complex. It was built with Cuban credit, Cuban plans, and much of the equipment was built in our country. In the end, as a result of all the aggressive acts by the United States, Nicaragua began to have problems and we forgave Nicaragua's debt for that industrial project. In other words, we have provided some economic aid and technical cooperation, and we have also given some military assistance, in terms of training cadres and troops in the mastery of certain techniques.

[Question] Does that training take place here in Cuba?

[Answer] Well, both. We have trained civilian and military cadres in Cuba, and we have helped to train military cadres there in Nicaragua as well.

But Mexico has also provided a great deal of aid to Nicaragua, and I know that Mexico has helped that brother nation tremendously. It is one of the countries that have helped the most, more than we have in the economic sphere. But then Mexico has more resources than we do; it is an oil exporting country, and one of Nicaragua's greatest problems for years was obtaining fuel. I know that Mexico provided 50 percent of its fuel for more than 5 years; it also provided major payment facilities until recently, when Mexico's difficulties grew worse and it was too hard to continue supplying petroleum under those conditions. But during that time, it supplied more than \$500 million of oil on credit.

I always cite the example of Mexico, because it exhibited exemplary behavior toward Nicaragua. It provided generous assistance, more economic aid than we ourselves have given. We have given more aid in other areas, such as the types I mentioned; but Mexico gave them significant and decisive economic assistance. The Nicaraguan people will always be grateful for that, and we ourselves also owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Mexico for the generous assistance it lent to the people of Nicaragua.

[Question] Why did you invite the president of Ecuador to visit, and for what purpose?

[Answer] I will explain it to you: We have normal diplomatic relations with Ecuador. The president of Ecuador was elected constitutionally; he is not the product of a coup d'etat, obviously. He won the elections. In the interest of developing economic relations between the two countries, delegations have been exchanged, primarily trade delegations. On the occasion of the visit of an Ecuadorean trade delegation to Cuba, I met with them and talked extensively with them about these economic problems in Latin America, above all those

related to the foreign debt. We also talked about our points of view. They showed a great deal of interest in my analysis of the problems and conveyed it to the government. That was what made it possible for Febres Cordero to visit Cuba. We invited him specifically in the interest of analyzing with the Ecuadorean Government the economic problems that all our countries have in common, and of developing bilateral relations in the economic sphere. We also want to pursue a strategy that we have been following in Latin America and the Third World, of establishing contacts and exchanges in order to seek common criteria on the way we should confront this economic crisis, the foreign debt that has put Latin America in a truly desperate situation.

From my standpoint, the visit was useful. The exchanges of opinions were important and interesting, and they are in absolute agreement with the ideas we have been putting across with regard to the crisis. We feel that internal unity within and among the countries of Latin America is necessary to deal with this problem. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, as is only natural. I think that in countries like Chile, internal unity between the opposition and the Pinochet regime is impossible; I think such internal unity is impossible in Paraguay.

[Question] Just in those two countries?

[Answer] I think there are more, but it is better not to make too long a list.

I think that under the current conditions, if a negotiated political solution to the internal conflict is not achieved first, it is very difficult to apply this solution in countries such as El Salvador, to cite another example.

I will simply say that there are exceptions to this principle, but I see no reason why Ecuador should be excluded from this principle of internal unity and unity among Latin American countries to cope with the problem of the economic crisis and the Latin American foreign debt.

The Haitians will also say that it is very difficult to accept a formula like this under the current conditions in Haiti, but I say that here we are defending a general principle that applies to the vast majority of Latin America countries as a political formula for joining internal and external forces to wage that great and decisive battle against the economic crisis, to solve the problem of the foreign debt, to establish the New International Economic Order, and to implement a policy of economic integration in Latin America.

No doubt there are problems in any country, and sometimes there are harsh confrontations. There are also passions, which influence the citizens' state of mind, naturally. I understand that; I do not want to analyze internal situations, but I can see perfectly well why some who are friendly to Cuba and who oppose Febres Cordero's government do not fully understand the objectives and terms of that visit. I also know that many people who did agree with the visit thought that it was useful, since we broke the ice.

What I can say about this is that none of what we are doing is for our own country's benefit, because we are the ones with the fewest problems in this dramatic crisis. We are not suffering from economic stagnation or recession; on the contrary, we are progressing at a magnificent economic pace. Our hard currency debt is small, our economic relations with the socialist countries are excellent, the prices we receive for our products are satisfactory, and nothing we are doing is in response to a national economic interest or any political goal of breaking the ice. We are fighting for loftier goals than mere national economic interests or political interests; we are really fighting for the interests of Latin America and the Third World, for the interests of our peoples. We are not motivated by any national reasons in this regard.

[14 Jun 85 pp 1, 14]

[Text] Havana, Cuba, 13 June--"There is no cause for concern: After Fidel there are tons of people better than Fidel, and the Party is with Fidel. The Revolution is not based on any 'caudillo' ideas or a personality cult; the Revolution is based on principles."

This was Fidel Castro's response, during an exclusive interview with EL DIA, to a question about his eventual retirement from the political leadership of Cuba.

On this same point, he asserted: "None of us could rest easy if we thought that when we died or retired the Revolution would be in any danger."

At another moment, referring to the drop in sugar prices on the world market, Castro indicated that among other adverse factors on the world market are the protectionist policies pursued by the industrialized capitalist countries, and the dumping practiced by the European Economic Community.

He stated, however, that Cuba's situation in this regard is different, "because we have a huge market in the socialist sphere. We have already sold all our sugar," as well as whatever is produced in the next 5-year period, and in the next 15 years, he asserted.

Another factor that has helped drive down prices is the low demand in the United States. The Cuban leader pointed out that until 1981 that country was still importing some 5 million tons, but in the last 3 years it has reduced total imports to 2.7 million tons. In 1985 just 2.5 million tons was imported, and the number is expected to drop to 1.5 million in the next 3 or 4 years.

"It doesn't seem right for me to express opinions on matters that are exclusively the internal affairs of Mexico," answered the Cuban leader in response to a question about his view of the left in our country.

Finally, when the EL DIA correspondent thanked the president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers for the interview, he said: "EL DIA is a newspaper for which we have always had a great deal of respect and admiration. We esteem it highly, and it is with great pleasure that I agreed

to answer your questions when you told me that you represented the newspaper EL DIA."

[Question] In view of the crisis on the international sugar market, what is Cuba's strategy? There is a lot of talk about a sugar glut, with indications that only 40 percent is actually sold, and the remaining 60 percent is a surplus.

[Answer] Part of the sugar that is produced is consumed by the producers, and part is exported. I don't know, I couldn't tell you right this minute exactly how much is exported, what percentage. There is also a certain amount of excess sugar on the market. But there is a surplus not because there are no potential consumers; billions of people in the world eat very little sugar, but they simply do not have the buying power to purchase sugar.

Another factor that contributes to this drop in prices is the protectionist policies of the industrialized capitalist nations and the dumping that takes place. The European Economic Community, for example, which used to import millions of tons of sugar, now wants to export millions of tons on the basis of subsidized sugar. That is bringing dozens of countries to the brink of ruin and starvation.

Cuba's situation is different, because we have a huge market in the socialist sphere. We have already sold all our sugar.

Whatever we produce in the next 5-year period, and in the next 15 years, is already sold, primarily to the socialist countries. Since the Cuban Revolution began, those that had programs to step up sugar production moderated those programs, channeling their investments into other products and reserving a major portion of their market for Cuban sugar exports.

This can be done and is done in socialist countries. The capitalist countries do not do this; on the contrary, as a consequence of the system's contradictions and of national selfishness, they carry out policies that are often demagogic, even uneconomical, producing goods at a very high cost. Not only that, but they produce surpluses with high subsidies, forgetting that many countries in the world depend on that product for their survival.

That was not the formula the socialist countries applied to our country, and for that reason Cuba has sold all the sugar it can produce. In addition to its quota on the world market, it has sold all the sugar it will produce in the next 5-year period, in the next 15 years, to the socialist bloc. Consequently, we are developing sugar production, and are even building new sugar mills.

Now, as for the sugar we sell to the world market, of course, we have not managed to improve the prices. We are suffering all the effects of that problem, you understand? But that is only a small part of the sugar we export.

[Question] What percentage is it?

[Answer] It must be around 25 percent of our exports.

[Question] It is said that in the United States, for example, they are using /fructose,/ which is something like a . . .

[Answer] Yes, what they are using most is corn syrup. Since they have a corn surplus, they also convert it into syrup to sweeten soft drinks and foods. And that product is competing with sugar, because of the U.S. policy of protectionism and subsidies, of course.

In addition, in 1981, for example, the United States was still importing 5 million tons of sugar. At one time, much of that imported sugar came from Cuba. When the Revolution took place and it imposed the economic blockade on us, the United States took away our sugar quota and divided it up among the other Latin American countries. It even used our sugar quota, which was around 3.5 million tons, to bribe many Latin American governments, which traitorously supported the economic blockade against Cuba.

There were some countries, such as Mexico, that were allocated part of our sugar quota but nevertheless maintained diplomatic ties, because they held firm. They received the quota, of course, which was part of what had been stripped from Cuba, but they did not break off ties. Many other Latin American governments broke off relations, like merchandise that they sold to the United States in exchange for the Cuban sugar quota.

Despite that, now the United States is taking the quota away from all of them, reducing it gradually, even though no revolution has taken place in those countries. Thus, in the last 3 years, the United States has cut its total imports from 5 million to 2.7 million tons. In 1985 it has cut them to 2.5 million tons, and continues to reduce them. At this rate, in 3 or 4 years the total will be down to 1.5 million tons.

In this way, many Latin American sugar producing countries have suffered huge losses, and some sugar mills are shutting down in Latin America. This is one more proof of their selfishness; it also shows how the devil pays those who served him well at one time. I don't want to offend anyone, but I have an obligation to tell the truth.

[Question] What is your view of the left in Mexico?

[Answer] Well, you will understand that I prefer the left to the right, but I would not venture to make a value judgment at this time, because really, in the last 2 months, I have been very involved in this problem that we are talking about. I do not have enough facts to evaluate how the Mexican left is progressing. For example, in years past during the Echeverria and Lopez Portillo administrations, when I visited Mexico or when Mexican leaders visited here, I had the honor of seeing the Mexican presidents in Mexico or in Cuba, along with the comrade who represented the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the representatives of the left. I think that in the last 10, 12 or 15 years PRI has had relatively close and good relations, if you will, with the left.

I have heard that the right is gaining strength. That concerns me, naturally, although I understand that it is a consequence of the profound economic crisis that our countries are undergoing. Nevertheless, it doesn't seem right for me to express opinions about these issues, which are exclusively the internal affairs of Mexico. In discussing all these ideas and all our proposals, we are trying above all not to get involved in internal affairs. If we are advocating a policy of unity within and among countries, any statement regarding an internal matter, any interference or analysis of internal problems or measures, would not be seen as merely theoretical; it would really be detrimental to the unifying purpose that lies behind the ideas and principles that we are proposing.

Therefore, I cannot help you. Let us leave that question for another time in the perhaps distant future, when one can act not as a politician or statesman, but rather as a theoretician, and in that capacity analyze the problems that are involved in the internal processes of each country.

[Question] Very well. There is one very broad concern that we hear in the streets when we talk to Cubans about the leadership of Fidel Castro.

[Answer] You say there is concern here? And why haven't I seen it anywhere? I see everyone very calm, very confident in the Revolution, in the Party, in the continuity of the revolutionary work.

[Question] Not concern, in the sense of a lack of confidence. We always ask, when we talk with people . . .

[Answer] What do you ask?

[Question] How are you? Are you happy? We see happy, contented people, contrary to much of the propaganda we get there . . .

[Answer] And what are they concerned about?

[Question] We wonder: After Fidel, what?

[Answer] There is no cause for concern: After Fidel there are tons of people better than Fidel, and the Party is with Fidel. The Revolution is not based on any "caudillo" ideas or a personality cult; the Revolution is based on principles. What is the key to guaranteeing the Revolution? The fact that the ideas we defend have been the ideas of the entire nation for a long time now.

When an idea is accepted by an entire nation, by the masses, when the revolutionary idea becomes the conscience of an entire nation, then there is no risk; when these principles also become the conscience of the entire nation, then no one can violate them. I stated this in a phrase that I said once: "Men die; the Party is immortal." We could add: "Men die, the people are immortal; men die, ideas are immortal, they are perennial, they are even renewed, enriched, developed."

Therefore, I can assure you that there is not even the slightest cause for concern, and there is no concern among the people. They may be sad, of course, if we die or retire. There may be some sadness, but that would not produce a lack of confidence, or fear, or insecurity.

[Question] Commander, we thank you very much for granting this interview. It means a lot to us to have an opportunity to talk with you and listen to you. We could listen to you all night long.

[Answer] I couldn't talk all night long, because I gave a 2-1/2 hour speech at the conference.

[Question] Of course. That's why we don't want to impose on you.

[Answer] But you said you represented the newspaper EL DIA, and that is a newspaper for which we have always had a great deal of respect and admiration. We esteem it highly, and it was with great pleasure that I agreed to answer your questions after the ceremony this evening, when you told me you were representing the newspaper EL DIA. I promised you not a long interview, but a 1-hour interview, and I almost fulfilled my promise. Maybe I went over by a minute.

[Question] Thank you.

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CUBA

REVIEW, DEFENSE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

Havana CUBA SOCIALISTA in Spanish May-Jun 85 pp 38-93

[Article by Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba]

[Excerpts] Nuclear Energy in Cuba: Prospects and Realities in Today's World

Cuba's current program to master the many peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity, is one of the most revolutionary objectives and one with the greatest future impact that has been proposed in our nation since 1 January 1959.

The proposed goal is truly one of great importance. Just in the field of energy production alone, the most important area, it will mean the transfer to nuclear power plants of over 25 percent of our electricity production within approximately 15 years.

The fact that this program is being undertaken by a small country, a Third World nation fighting for development under difficult conditions, and above all, a socialist country, justifies the growing attention being paid to this program by observers from a variety of countries, as well as by specialized agencies of the international community and by institutions of an academic, technical, and scientific nature.

The goal Cuba has chosen for itself reveals the advantage that our nation enjoys because of its social system and its membership in the socialist community. These factors are the very ones which have enabled Cuba to strive for solutions to its problems, which, as they are so complex, lie outside the reach of over 100 nations of the underdeveloped world, whose vicissitudes and problems our nation shared in the past. These nations, net importers of energy resources, with the abrupt increase in fuel prices in the early 1970s, found their dependence on the international market converted into a deadly web of circumstances. Combined with unfair exchange rates, the onerous terms imposed by the finance capital system, and the other tools of exploitation wielded by imperialism, this has destroyed their shaky standards of living,

is destabilizing their economic activity, fostering explosive situations of widespread hunger, unemployment, and poverty, and is clouding the future with uncertainty and gloomy prospects.

As is true in many of these countries, our territory is energy deficient: we lack coal reserves, we are without significant water resources, and to date we have relied on imports to meet about 67 percent of our total energy consumption, which is rapidly rising.

In such circumstances, can there be any question about the suitability, and even the inevitable necessity for Cuba to master nuclear energy on a massive scale?

Of course not, especially as these technologies already have a lengthy history, have moved from an experimental phase, and are now safe and reliable methods competing favorably in terms of production costs with conventional sources. These technologies are now making a significant contribution to stable energy supplies and are giving a good balance to electricity systems. They are now widely used in both the industrialized capitalist countries and by members of the socialist community.

Proof of this is the fact that, at present, taking together the areas of North America, West Europe, Japan, the Soviet Union, and other European countries which are members of the socialist community, there are already 301 reactors in service producing electricity, with a capacity of over 180,000 MW. This is 75 times the present capacity of Cuba's thermal power plants. If we add to these countries the list of 10 Third World nations which have nuclear power plants, then the number of reactors in use comes to a total of 317.

All the industrialized nations are planning on a strong expansion in the use of nuclear power in the coming years. Even those countries at the very heart of capitalism, despite their financial difficulties, the effects of the economic crisis, and the opposition to nuclear programs coming from some political and social groups in their countries, are moving ahead with very ambitious plans.

As we said earlier, Cuba is not the first country of Latin America, Asia, or Africa that is planning to use nuclear energy industrially. Ten Third World countries have already begun to do so. In most such cases, these are countries with an average level of industrial development which have sizeable natural resources, extensive territories, and a certain economic potential, such as Argentina, Brazil, India, and Pakistan. In other cases, the nuclear power programs are being planned in small Asian countries, such as Taiwan and South Korea, which have become appendages of the multinationalized economy of imperialism, which has relocated to these areas a large number of manufacturing and chemical industries which use outdated technology requiring large amounts of labor, and which pollute urban environments.

If these countries have managed to make use of nuclear technology, Cuba will certainly be able to do so. Cuba is a nation which has created a strong foundation of infrastructure, education, and scientific-technical potential. In addition, it is a socialist country, capable of making rational use of its resources to aid its development and of maintaining an extensive and beneficial international cooperation.

On this topic, we should recall that our country has at the present time over 130 units and areas dealing with science and technology. We have approximately 12,000 university graduates directly engaged in research and development, and a total of over 35,000 workers in scientific fields. Cuba has 65 university graduates working in research and development activities for each 100,000 inhabitants. This places us in a strong position in relation to our continent, where Argentina has 31, Brazil 21, and Mexico 15.

In addition, our country devotes 1.5 percent of its gross national product to research, which puts us in a good position to undertake development.

Cuba has already pointed the way toward the conquest of full political independence; it then confirmed that in our age only socialism can open up the way toward a legitimate economic and social development; Cuba has given undeniable proof of its agrarian, educational, and health-care revolution, and is now offering impressive achievements in the field of the material, ideological, and cultural transformation of life. Now, in addition to these achievements, Cuba can offer the Third World countries the experience of its energy revolution and its progress toward the mastery and development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses. We can already see that, at the dawn of the 21st century, this will be another modest contribution Cuba will make to the struggle of the underdeveloped countries, for the universal practice of socialism, and for the entire revolutionary movement.

We Didn't Start from Zero

The introduction of nuclear technology in Cuba is the exclusive result of the revolution, which made this both necessary and possible, precisely because of the economic, political, social, educational, and scientific-technical gains achieved by Cuba during the past 26 years.

It seems strikingly symbolic that the first reference to such a development, albeit sketched in a visionary form, appeared in the statement made by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to the court in which he was being tried for the attack on the Moncada. Then, still about a year before the Soviet Union was to put in operation the world's first nuclear electricity plant, Fidel pointed out that "the possibilities of transmitting electricity to the farthest corners of our island are now greater than they have ever been before,

as nuclear energy is already being applied to this branch of industry; this will make the cost of generating electricity far cheaper."*

Of course, at that time the achievement of such possibilities came as a shock to each and every one of the links of that neocolonial society.

Without even mentioning the political factors--both internal and external--which then oppressed our nation, it would be sufficient simply to list the realities of economic underdevelopment and of the system of capitalistic exploitation prevailing in Cuba in those days, to confirm the difficulties that such an idea would necessarily face. A nation whose principal industry produced only a semiprocessed raw material, which was sunk in industrial backwardness, with an outdated system of agriculture, plagued by illiteracy, a nation in which only about 50 percent of the population received any electrical service. What was nuclear energy needed for? This was a country which in the age of cheap oil--at \$1.80 per barrel--had only developed a generating capacity of 397 MW; why should anyone even think about nuclear electricity? And even more to the point, on what foundation could it really be developed, since there were no national, unified electrical system with high capacity lines, no industrial base needed to incorporate this technology, no scientific institutions, and no skilled workers capable of taking on such a job?

In reality, between those dreams and their transformation into a practical reality, the revolution intervened.

Throughout those years, despite the difficulties, the embargo, and the aggressions which we all know so well, the first foundations for our nuclear science and technology were gradually being put into place. This process was closely linked with the development of our manufacturing, energy, and communications infrastructure, with the creation of modern industry and agriculture, with the extraordinary surges in education, health care, scientific research, and culture in general.

If in recent years we have managed to move forward quickly with the introduction of a variety of nuclear technologies in our country, with more complete and systematic standards, this was made possible because we did not start from zero, because the leaders of our revolution were always aware of the importance of developing this field, and because even with our limitations and deficiencies, we were already clearing a path that would allow us to move forward, when the time was right, toward a qualitatively superior stage in terms of concepts, policy, content, leadership, and organization of nuclear matters in Cuba.

* Fidel Castro, "History Will Absolve Me." Ciencias Sociales Publishers, Havana, 1973, p 83.

The first nuclear technology applied in Cuba, on a very limited scale, consisted of the use of radioisotopes for therapeutic purposes. This was begun some years before the revolution.

In 1962 the Oncology and Radiobiology Institute was founded, which developed the use of ionizing radiations for treatment and research in the field of nuclear medicine.

In 1965, with the establishment of the National Scientific Research Center, new steps were taken toward the application of nuclear technology to medicine and other research areas.

During the following year, what was then known as the National Commission of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba initiated contacts with the corresponding institutions in the Soviet Union, in order to plan for the establishment in Cuba of a laboratory enabling us to learn and use radioisotope techniques, and to do experimental work with nuclear reactors. This was to be used to begin training Cuban specialists, with full realization of our need to advance toward the most important of the applications of these technologies: the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity.

It was not by chance that early in the revolution, or to be precise, on 19 April 1968, at the time of the 7th anniversary of our victory at the Bay of Pigs, Fidel Castro said that "the energy of the future, the fundamental energy, the energy on which human beings in the future will necessarily come to rely most strongly, is nuclear energy."*

In early 1969 the Nuclear Physics Institute was opened, which some years later was renamed the Nuclear Research Institute. Its equipment, supplied by the Soviet Union, consisted of a natural uranium-light water subcritical reactor, auxiliary equipment needed to operate this reactor, facilities for the work done with radioisotopes, the corresponding electronic equipment, and a radiation protection service.

This institution has now been in operation for 16 years, and as we shall see later, its primary focus has been shifted. It has become a center for the application of nuclear techniques with much more precisely defined research objectives, yielding a growing number of specific results.

During the 1970s, work continued in a variety of fields of nuclear science and technology. Then, over 10 years ago, the first agency designed to coordinate these activities was established: this is the National Commission for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy. This was an important step. The commission has done some useful work, although, given the limitations

* Fidel Castro. Speech given on the 7th anniversary of the victory at the Bay of Pigs. Playa Giron, 19 April 1968. CDR Publications, no 7, Havana, 1968, p 20.

existing at that time, it could not yet clearly grasp the importance of having a solid infrastructure for the assimilation of nuclear energy. For this reason, some work was scattered; there was no integral, centralized plan for development on a national scale; there were delays in training staff; and it was not possible to make optimum use of the facilities, personnel, and external cooperation which we had, which we did begin to do some years later.

In April 1976 an important agreement was signed with the Soviet Union, covering the construction of our first nuclear power plant.

Radioisotope techniques and the use of ionizing radiation sources were then extended to other centers, such as the Endocrinology Institute, the Hydro-economy Institute, and the Agricultural Sciences Institute, expanding their work toward other fields of medicine and economic activity.

Departments of Nuclear Physics and Nuclear Energy were established at the Schools of Physics and Electrical Engineering, respectively, at the University of Havana.

Cuba began to take part in the meetings of the standing commission of the CEMA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Based on this participation, Subprogram 12 of the Plan for the Accelerated Development of Science and Technology in the Republic of Cuba up to 1990 was later signed.

In a similar way, the first technical assistance projects began with the collaboration of the Ordinary Program of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program].

Our country also began to benefit from its cooperation with scientific organizations and institutions of the socialist countries, such as the Unified Research Institute in Dubna in the Soviet Union, the Central Nuclear Research Institute at Rossendorf in the German Democratic Republic, and CEMA's International Collective in Hungary.

At the end of 1978, the government leaders made a complete evaluation of our nuclear activity and then decided to assign control of our nuclear activities to the recently created Nuclear Group of the Executive Committee Department of the Council of Ministers.

Later, in early 1980, as a result of the strong level of organization and maturity achieved by Cuba, and the requirements created by our economic and scientific-technical development, our nuclear sector was reorganized, and the CEAC [Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba] was created--headed by a vice president of the government--along with the SEAN [Executive Department for Nuclear Affairs]. This organization was given responsibility for implementing in a professional and systematic way the national policy drafted for this field.

This step of course marked a new phase in our work, indicating the appearance of a catalyzing and unifying force for all the elements involved in the management of Cuban nuclear activities. This has been made quite clear by our experience over the past 5 years.

Progress of the Nuclear Energy Program in the 1980-1985 5-Year Period

Starting in 1980, our nation's efforts to develop nuclear technology concentrated on five fundamental areas:

1. nuclear energy
2. basic and applied research
3. application of nuclear methods to medicine, the economy, and other fields, and the creation of a radiation protection system
4. personnel training and advancement
5. international relations and the promotion of cooperation plans

These five areas are closely interrelated and all converge toward the objective of developing nuclear power plants in Cuba, and carrying out the widespread introduction of nuclear techniques used for therapeutic purposes and for aid to agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, construction, and other sectors of our national economy.

The most important aspect is, of course, nuclear power plants.

The construction of Cuba's first nuclear power plant in Juragua, in Cienfuegos province, is not only the center of our activity, but also one of the most important projects which our nation has undertaken in its entire history. This investment has been given top priority by our party and government leaders, and is receiving special attention from all the state organizations involved with its construction, start of service, and operation.

The execution of this project was one of the points contained in the bilateral agreement between Cuba and the USSR, which was signed by our party's First Secretary during his visit to the Soviet Union in April 1976.

In 1979 the engineering and geological research was completed, and after some preparatory work at the plant's site, construction of the first reactor began in 1983, while work on the second one started in 1985. The goal is for this nuclear power plant to begin to operate during the next 5-year period.

Along with these first units, work is also being done on the hydroelectric facility that will operate in the mountainous region of Escambray. This facility will use the surplus electricity that will be produced for several hours a day, when demand declines to its minimum level. During this time,

the surplus energy produced by the reactors will be used to pump the water and store it high in the mountains, so that it can again be converted by hydroelectric turbines into electricity during the peak hours. In this way, optimum use will be made of the energy produced at Juragua.

When the Juragua plant is completed, it will have four VVER water-pressurized water reactors of the B-318 type; it will also have an antiseismic design. Each reactor will have a generating capacity of 417 MW, so that the plant as a whole will produce over 1,600 MW. This means that by itself it will provide over 4 times the total of the electrical capacity in Cuba at the time of the victory of our revolution.

To get an idea of the quality of the technology to be used at Juragua, let us say that this type of reactor--known all over the world as PWR [Pressurized Water Reactor] is the most widely used and tested (it produces 56 percent of the nuclear energy produced in the world), and together with the BWR [Boiling Water Reactor], which produces 26 percent, it generates 82 percent of all the nuclear electricity on our planet.

As our comrade Fidel explained at the First National Forum on Energy, each reactor at full capacity will provide an annual savings of 600,000 tons of oil. This means that this plant, when the four units are all in operation, will provide a savings of 2,400,000 tons of oil a year. At today's prices, this is a savings of about \$500 million.

Along with the plant's construction, plans have been made for social projects to provide suitable living conditions for people working on this project. Many housing units have been begun since 1980. In addition, other construction projects are also underway, including: a primary school with a capacity for 600 students, a shopping center, a clinic, communications center, public services center, daycare center, sports areas, etc. All this is part of a general project for our "nuclear city," designed as a modern urban area offering the best possible conditions for its residents.

In the foreseeable future, up to the year 2000 and even somewhat beyond that date, nuclear energy will be an ongoing task for our revolution. Our present goal is to develop a program for the gradual construction of three power plants, including the one now being built in Cienfuegos. They will be similar in size, but with even more powerful reactors than the ones at this plant. We must start to work now with our eyes fixed on that goal. The second plant will be located in eastern Cuba, and the third in the west. Juragua is already, and will continue to become even more, a huge school offering practical, hands-on training, in which hundreds of engineers and thousands of technicians and skilled construction workers will learn to build, assemble, and operate such plants.

We must pledge to ourselves to learn as much and as quickly as possible from the experience of the specialists from the USSR and from other socialist

countries who are now serving as advisers on this project, so that in the future our trained personnel will be able to handle the essential requirements for such projects. For the day will come when our nuclear specialists and technicians, given our country's potential, may provide assistance to other fraternal peoples who need our help.

Extensive Possibilities in a Variety of Fields

Another fundamental area in the nuclear field--the second in importance--is found in basic and applied research.

Progress has been made in this area already, and some encouraging results have been obtained. One positive move was the reorganization of the Nuclear Research Institute and the reorientation of its staff, making it a center devoted to applications of nuclear techniques and to research in other scientific areas, pursued with greater rigor and clearer objectives.

Although we are not yet fully satisfied, already we can see some results from this work. The institute's objectives are better defined; it has become part of our system of institutions involved in the nuclear field; and workers at this center have already made some specific gains, adapted to what our level of development requires, and based on our resources and practical possibilities.

One far-reaching project of the Cuban nuclear program is the creation of the Nuclear Research Center. This project and the Juragua power plant will be the two essential construction jobs to be done during this phase. Work on this project began in 1980. An intergovernmental agreement has been signed with the Soviet Union to cover its financing, planning, and execution.

The Nuclear Research Center will have an atomic research reactor with a power of 10 MW, a model to study the characteristics of the core of reactors of the VVER type, labs for research in neutron physics, for the production of radioisotopes and marked compounds, and for radiological safety, as well as information and computer centers, and a variety of other facilities needed for scientific research and for training the specialists who will be responsible for the operation of the nation's nuclear facilities and technologies. It may be said that the construction and use of the Nuclear Research Center will be one of the most difficult, responsible, and demanding jobs to be performed during the next 5-year period.

The third direction in which we are moving is the use of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, and other sectors of our economy, while at the same time giving due attention to radiation safety.

In this area we must put particular emphasis on applications related to medical sciences. As we know, modern medicine makes widespread use of

nuclear techniques in both the diagnosis and treatment of a large number of diseases. Our country intends to become one of the world's leading medical science centers. This means that we must master nuclear techniques which are becoming increasingly complex and effective. This has many implications in terms of the import and national distribution of radioisotopes, the organization of the radiation protection system, and other matters which are demanding increased attention. The Executive Department for Nuclear Affairs has established close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, and no efforts are being spared to provide the support needed for these areas related to the health of our people.

One of the major factors related to Cuba's mastery of nuclear medicine is the establishment of a laboratory at the Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology, equipped with a Gamma camera and other equipment provided by the UNDP. This lab is used for oncology and for 10 other medical specialties. Work is underway this year on a project applying nuclear techniques to cardiology; technologies are being investigated for the preparation and control of radio-pharmaceuticals; specialists have been trained in visualization and radio-immunoanalysis techniques; nuclear techniques have been extended to labs in the interior of the nation; and finally, there is now a nuclear medicine department at the Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology, which has served as a stimulus and a basis for research in this field.

Another application of nuclear techniques is the irradiation of foods. This enables a variety of agricultural and meat products to be preserved for a lengthy period of time. At a more advanced stage, this could replace refrigeration, opening up this space for other products for which cold storage is essential. The procedure is completely harmless for people, as the ionizing radiation used has a low energy and does not create any residual radiation in the products treated by this method.

Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of the Food Industry, a pilot plant is now being built. This is the first large-scale radiological facility that will begin to operate for production purposes in Cuba. The plant, of Soviet manufacture, was donated to our country through an IAEA technical assistance program approved in 1979. At the present time the construction work for this facility is being done at the site of the Food Industry's Research Institute.

During its first phase, the facility will be used to irradiate potatoes, onions, and grains. It has been calculated that it will be able to irradiate about 6 tons of these products per hour. In addition, there is a research plan designed to determine what other products may be irradiated for preservation in our environmental conditions.

The Gamma Cell-500 irradiator will soon begin to function at the CENSA [National Center for Agricultural and Livestock Health]. This will be the

major piece of equipment used by this institution's Irradiation Techniques Laboratory.

The Gamma Cell-500 equipment is a self-shielded irradiator made in Canada, donated to Cuba through the UNDP program.

Because of its high power, this equipment can reach doses that will inhibit plant germination within 1 to 1.5 minute. It can also be used to sterilize materials, which requires doses from 5,000 to 20,000 Gray (500 to 2,000 kilorad) and irradiation times from 1 to 4 hours.

Because of its small capacity, the equipment can not be used for production. It will be used initially for research, in order to establish the radio-inhibition or radiosterilization doses required for different products and materials.

This lab will also offer a centralized facility for the rest of our national institutes and organizations requiring its services.

The prospects that nuclear techniques offer to industry and our general economic development are also quite promising. They can be applied successfully in construction and in water management systems. During the next few years we will have to explore the possibility of extending such techniques to other areas, to provide increased savings and greater economic efficiency.

For radiation protection, through our Decree-Law 56 and the other regulations which have been drafted, we have moved toward the creation of the legal-regulatory bases to ensure the safe utilization of nuclear energy and protection of people and the environment from radiation. To control and operate this system, the Radiation Protection and Hygiene Center has been established. It will be the coordinating and directing center for all radiation protection services in Cuba.

The importance of this work is easier to grasp when we recall that Cuba now has 1,228 nuclear devices in use, distributed among 163 centers staffed by 808 specialists, and over 1,100 workers exposed to radiation on the job.

Training of Cadres and Cooperation

The fourth fundamental area for nuclear activity at this time is related to the training and upgrading of cadres, especially midlevel technicians and skilled workers. As can easily be understood, this is a decisive undertaking, since in the end the most important thing is and will always be the capability, experience, and level that our labor force has attained. This is our principal resource, and that is why this job is so important.

Special attention is being given to the careful selection of cadres, to their level of scientific and technical preparation, to their spirit of self-discipline and above all, to their appropriate political and ideological training.

Before the creation of the Atomic Energy Commission and of the Executive Department for Nuclear Affairs, the training provided for higher level cadres in Cuba was poor and fragmented, while the number of specialists being trained in the Soviet Union was down. At present, with a well equipped and staffed Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Technology, and a Nuclear Electricity Polytechnical School in Juragua, the number of higher level students has grown approximately 20 times, while the number of mid-level technicians and skilled workers has already reached high levels.

Today Cuba sends its mid-level specialists and technicians not only to the Soviet Union, but also to the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

During this 5-year period, many specialists who had already graduated were able to upgrade their professional skills by taking part in international and national programs. Among these we should mention the first school for Current Problems in Nuclear Sciences, held at the Academy of Sciences of Cuba in 1980. This was attended by representatives of a number of institutions involved with nuclear energy. High level foreign specialists took part in this program, giving lectures in order to bring Cuban knowledge up to date.

The second school, to be held at the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Technology this year, will certainly produce even better results in all areas.

In this context, we should also mention the work done by the Preuniversity Institute Specializing in Exact Sciences, whose establishment was encouraged by the Atomic Energy Commission. Since its inauguration in 1980, this center has become a magnet attracting excellent students from all over Cuba and for the nuclear field in general. About 80 percent of its graduates have chosen nuclear specialties; they have received a good education and strong political training here. The decision to expand its enrollment and increase the number of these centers to three in the immediate future, and also to convert vocational schools into preuniversity centers specializing in the sciences will be an extraordinarily meaningful step in training the cadres our nuclear program and all the other branches of scientific development in Cuba need.

This shows that the mastery of nuclear energy and the introduction of nuclear techniques in a country in their turn become factors promoting high standards of quality and of educational achievement, as well as scientific and technical development in general, due to the multidisciplinary and multisector nature of this field.

Of course, we can't overlook another aspect of importance in this development: the need to provide current information to our specialists, to promote the dissemination of nuclear information in our mass media, and to monitor the quality and scientific accuracy of everything published on this topic in Cuba. With this in mind, the Nuclear Energy Information Center was founded. Starting practically from zero, in barely 2 years it has increased its publications collection to about 140,000 documents.

The center also receives 159 titles of specialized journals and publications of the major research centers throughout the world, and has reproduction equipment so that information of interest can easily be printed and distributed.

This gives specialists access to materials of importance for keeping up to date in their field, and extends these services to other related centers and institutions, thus promoting a more effective and rational use of scientific-technical literature. In a similar fashion, the center has encouraged the press to publish dozens of articles so that little by little, and still in a quite rudimentary way, we are moving toward developing in our people a more objective and indepth knowledge of the realities of nuclear technology. This will help to dissipate some myths and prejudices that the capitalist film industry and sometimes the skillful propaganda of our opponents have tried to promote. In this context, we should point out that just in 1984 alone, our media prepared and distributed over 60 reports on this topic.

The fifth major area in our nuclear development is international relations and cooperation. Its importance is beyond any question, as everything that Cuba is doing in this field is the result of different forms of international cooperation.

At the same time, relations involving this area are acquiring growing political importance.

We should make it clear that, despite being one of the newest fronts of the revolution, Cuba has already attained a solid position, understanding, recognition, and broadbased support for its plan to apply nuclear technologies on a larger scale.

Cuba plays an active role in the IAEA and in the UNDP. These organizations give us technical assistance with various development projects. Between 1980 and 1984, Cuba received over 70 percent of all the aid given us by both organizations in the nuclear field during the past 25 years. In addition, our country, for the first time in the 28 years of the IAEA's existence--of which it was a founding member--was chosen in 1983 to be a member of the Board of Directors. From this vantage point, and in different committees and regional groups, it is making an effective contribution to the organization's work.

In the multilateral context of the CEMA, Cuba has participated in 83 programs between 1982 and the present. In addition, we participated in 45 meetings of working groups. Cuba's membership in the CEMA's standing commission for the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes has become more systematic, thorough, and has gained in quality.

Bilateral cooperation with counterpart organizations of the socialist countries and with other states with which we maintain relations in the area of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes also plays an important role in our country's nuclear development.

To make the above cited cooperation possible, agreements have been worked out between the CEAC [Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba] and the agencies responsible for atomic energy in the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, the Peoples Republic of Hungary, and the German Democratic Republic. Final details of a new agreement for scientific-technical cooperation are now being worked out with the Soviet Union's State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy. Drafts of an agreement for scientific-technical cooperation between the CEAC and the Czechoslovakian Atomic Energy Commission, the State Agency for Atomic Energy of the Peoples Republic of Poland, and the State Committee for Nuclear Energy of Rumania have been presented and analyzed with the Czech, Polish, and Rumanian parties, respectively.

These bilateral ties have enabled over 100 specialists to pursue training in recent years, the equivalent of about 300 man-months. An important part of these agreements covers the program for the construction and start of service of the Juragua power plant.

Cuba has also done intensive work within the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries' Group of Coordinating Countries for the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes. Two years ago, in 1983, this group's second meeting was held in Havana with great success. The meeting was chaired by our country. Cuba, in its dual position as a socialist country and a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, because of the prestige and the strength of its international positions, can do a great deal from this vantage point to strengthen solidarity among Third World countries, to tighten the ties of these countries with the socialist community, to denounce the discriminatory and exploitative policies of the imperialist nuclear powers, and to promote the establishment of a climate of peace and effective cooperation throughout the world. In this context, Cuba's participation in the first international conference on the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, to be held in 1986, takes on particular importance.

During the present year, which began with the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba and of the Executive Department for Nuclear Affairs, our country will be visited by a number of persons involved with nuclear energy throughout the world.

Cuba will also serve as the site of four important events, demonstrating the growing reciprocal interest on the part of the socialist countries, other independent states, and Cuba in developing exchanges in the nuclear field. These meetings include: the 48th meeting of the CEMA's standing commission for cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the exhibition of the International Economic Union, entitled "Interatomoinstrument," the second school for Current Problems in the Nuclear Sciences, and the preparatory meeting of the socialist countries prior to the 29th session of the General Conference of the IAEA.

It is characteristic of our country, a characteristic rooted in our internationalist mission, our solidarity with the fraternal peoples of Latin America and with the underdeveloped world in general, that we can not separate the efforts we are making for Cuba's internal development from our militant commitment to the struggle of peoples to achieve progress and full national independence.

The Third World: a Future Without Energy?

In light of this situation, it is easier to understand the current tragic situation and the terrible prospects facing the Third World nations.

According to recent data, the 317 nuclear power units now in operation, which generate about 12 percent of the world's electricity, are located in 25 countries. Nonetheless, over 97 percent of the energy produced by these plants belongs to 19 developed countries.

Of the 200 new nuclear power plants being built throughout the world a year ago, only 32 were in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The distribution of these new power plants is significant: two on the African continent, located in the Republic of South Africa, the racist police state supported by the United States and NATO; five in Latin America, located in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba; and 25 in Asia, distributed essentially among Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India, and the Philippines.

From this we can conclude that not a single one of the approximately 145 poor and backward countries of the Third World were able to use this energy source. So it is not strange that only 1.4 percent of the world's total nuclear electricity capacity is located in the developing nations of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and southern Asia.

We can understand the pessimism of the forecasts made by international organizations, to the effect that in the Third World, nuclear electricity capacity until the year 2000 will grow in the 10 countries of this area that already have nuclear power plants either in operation or under construction. So there will be no new members of the "nuclear electricity club" among the developing nations during the coming years.

We should ask ourselves what the future of these countries will be. In raising this question, we have to remember that a variety of studies all agree that the trend toward increasing fossil fuel shortages will continue during the coming decades, as it will be more difficult to obtain these fuels. The rate of extraction will remain high, and so the reserves will constantly diminish.

If right now there are a great many Third World countries that can barely pay for a minimum of imported energy, just enough to survive on, how will they be able to meet these growing costs?

We also have to take into consideration the fact that the largest oil, coal, and gas reserves are not found in the Third World, and still less do the Third World nations possess the technological knowhow needed to make use of such reserves. This area of the planet only has a third of the conventional sources, and the oil-importing states--the net majority--have an even lesser proportion: just a sixth of total reserves.

We must also realize that 75 percent of the world's population lives in the 155 countries of the Third World, and the world's population has already reached the level of 4.5 billion people.

It has been estimated that by the year 2000 the world's population will have increased to 6.4 billion human beings; this is a growth rate of 55 percent in the last quarter of the 20th century. This means that in the 25 years between 1975 and 2000, the human race will have increased as much as it did in the first 1,950 years of our era. This growth, though, will not be distributed evenly. The industrialized countries are barely growing at all; they will produce more and have more energy for a population just slightly larger than today's. Over 90 percent of this demographic surge will take place in the developing world. This means that in the year 2000, 80 percent of this planet's population, some 5.12 billion people, will live in the Third World. Without any foreseeable access in the short or mid-term to greater energy resources, how can anyone guarantee that this enormous population mass will have the essential minimum levels of food, clothing, jobs, housing, education, and health care, which they don't even have today? What catastrophes, what convulsions, what explosions will happen then?

Eminent scientists have calculated that the Third World countries would require no less than \$450 billion for their energy programs between 1980 and 1990, in order to be able to meet the challenges facing them on the threshold of the 21st century. But how could they obtain such resources, as they already owe twice that amount, and not only can't pay this debt, but can't even pay their annual debt service charges, which, as we have seen, amount to \$100 million in interest and payments due at maturity.

As President Fidel Castro rightly concluded in his book, *THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS*: "The Third World's foreign debt, considered by

many writers to be uncollectible and unpayable in strict technical terms, is, given its exorbitant amount, its astonishing rate of growth, and the continued worsening of its terms, probably one of the best illustrations of the irrationality and lack of viability of today's fading international economic order."*

And as if all this bad news were not enough, there are other factors as well: the increasing cost of commercial nuclear technology supplied by the industrialized capitalist countries and the highly restrictive terms that those countries are imposing in the name of nonproliferation.

In recent years, even nuclear power programs in the highly developed states themselves have been running into the problem of growing investment costs.

The inflationary spiral is a factor in this, as are high bank interest rates, new safety measures and regulations imposed by law, and the general consequences of the world's economic crisis. Moreover, the price of uranium has increased about 9 times during this period.

In 1970, a nuclear power plant could be built in the United States for a cost of \$200 per kilowatt of capacity. Ten years later, in 1980, the investment cost per kilowatt had increased 500 percent, to \$1,000. During that same period, in the Federal Republic of Germany the investment cost had risen between 300 and 400 percent.

According to some data, this has made business deals already in progress much more expensive. An example of this can be found in Brazil's contract with companies in the Federal Republic of Germany for a plant to manufacture nuclear fuel, and eight reactors. Initially set at \$4 billion, shortly after its start the cost had jumped to \$20 billion, and since then it has increased much more.

The industrialized capitalist countries can afford these financial hazards. But for the underdeveloped countries, they make investments in nuclear power plants prohibitive.

Along with this, the capitalist drive for profits and higher earnings has led to the development of prototypes of high-power commercial reactors which are too large for the Third World countries' actual demand and electrical networks, which in many cases are not integrated systems and do not have the capacity to handle very high loads. So what these countries are asking for is quite logical. Along with cooperation in training specialists, in creating infrastructures and financing, they want the commercial production of small

* Fidel Castro: THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS. Publications Office of the Council of State, Havana, 1983, p 49.

and mid-sized power units--under 600 MW--which could provide a viable future option for small or island nations.

Struggles and Prospects Related to the New Technologies

The developing countries have also found that they are being hurt by the restrictions that the capitalist powers are imposing on the transfer of some specific nuclear technologies, using the excuse that some Third World states might make clandestine use of these technologies in order to produce their own nuclear weapons.

The Third World countries quite rightly claim that nonproliferation, which is essentially a political issue, should not become an obstacle blocking access to technologies with a vital economic impact, such as the production of electricity and heat. Nor should it become a brake on research and scientific-technical progress in the nuclear electricity field on an international level.

The developing countries have made their position clear in a number of international forums. The vast majority of these countries are signers of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, and also signed the safeguards required by the IAEA. But still they have been frustrated in their just expectation that in return they might receive some meaningful assistance so they could benefit from nuclear technologies used for peaceful purposes.

As highly competent specialists have pointed out more than once, the possibility of building a nuclear weapon outside of the facilities of the powers which have the resources, the technology and the experience to do so would be "as unlikely as building a space rocket in someone's backyard."

These criticisms have particular relevance to the position of the United States which, after its 1953 stance as a promoter of the so-called Atoms for Peace program, a position dictated by propaganda, political and economic interests, and after losing its nuclear monopoly because of the heroic and admirable efforts made by the Soviet Union, has now decided to try to play the role of a police agent and controller of the spread of nuclear energy and technology throughout the world.

The Carter administration gave an example of how this position clashes with necessary technical and scientific development, when it halted work on the breeder reactor project and put pressure on its allies to have them stop work on this advanced technology, because of its implications in terms of fuel reprocessing. The United States argued that it had enough uranium to supply 135 thermal reactors for 175 years, and for that reason, work on the plutonium cycle, on which the breeder reactor or fast neutron reactor depend, was unnecessary.

That position, based on the idea that plutonium generated in these reactors might be used to manufacture nuclear weapons, works not only against the interests of the developing countries, but also against the vital interests of humanity.

It is interesting that this position was challenged by the U.S. delegates attending the 1977 Nuclear Energy Conference in Salzburg, where nuclear scientists from the United States said that their country "could not allow itself the luxury of doing without plutonium," for if it did not reprocess fuel to get plutonium, "that might endanger our energy resources in the future."

To get a better understanding of this problem, we must realize that the present generation of thermal reactors uses only a very small part, about 1.5 percent, of the caloric potential contained in the uranium rods used as fuel.

Fast neutron reactors, the second generation now being tested, make a much greater use of uranium fission, using up to 15 or 20 percent of the energy content. In addition, these reactors not only regenerate the plutonium they consume, but also produce an additional 40 to 70 percent of plutonium. This means that a solution for the future's nuclear fuel needs can be found in fast neutron technology.

This type of reactor is quite important. Uranium, in addition to being expensive, is a relatively scarce fuel. Despite new geological prospecting and the development of more complex technologies for obtaining uranium, it has been calculated that worldwide uranium resources, based on the rate now scheduled for the increment of nuclear energy, will be depleted at the latest in the early decades of the 21st century.

What needs to be done during the same period is to find adequate supplies from the thermal and fast neutron reactors so that from these and other sources, we may be assured of a better use and production of the fuel needed.

Two countries--the Soviet Union and France--are already operating large industrial-scale fast neutron reactors. This technology has still not reached its commercial stage, although work to improve it is now in progress, and the results are quite positive.

As an example, the Soviet Union plans for most of its future nuclear power program to be based on the use of fast neutron technology. Soviet scientists have calculated that by the year 2000, 30 percent of the nuclear energy produced in the Soviet Union will come from these reactors. A large part of that energy will be used to produce heat for industry and to heat cities, as well as for other purposes, such as desalinization of seawater. By the end of the century they expect the nuclear electricity development in the

European part of the Soviet Union to rely on fast reactors. This will enable the thermal reactors to be put on a semipeak production status, for use when energy demand is at its highest level.

Nor will nuclear energy stop at this point. Already we can foresee the technical option for the third generation of reactors, thermonuclear reactors, which will make it possible to have unlimited amounts of energy to generate electricity, since hydrogen isotopes, which are quite abundant in nature, will be used as fuel, along with deuterium and tritium. These reactors are now in an experimental, research phase; the start of their preparation for industrial use is expected at the end of this century or in the first decades of the 21st century.

Another possible future option is what are called gas-cooled nuclear reactors, which could be used to produce heat at high temperatures. This form of energy would be used for a variety of industrial purposes, such as in metallurgy, chemicals, the production of ammonia, coal gasification, and other purposes. The possibilities of also using this heat to produce hydrogen, which would be an ideal fuel from the viewpoint of environmental protection, and which could be widely used for automotive and aviation fuels, are also being investigated.

So humanity does possess potential solutions to meet the future's major challenges. The obstacle lies in the persistence of the relations imposed on much of the world by imperialism.

The studies we have already mentioned, by the World Energy Conference, show that by the year 2020 the industrialized countries will have managed to reorganize their energy systems, based on a radical reduction in petroleum consumption and a strong increase in the use of coal, which will come to serve as their principal fuel, followed by nuclear energy, which will also show an impressive growth. This in turn will be followed at some distance by what are called the new energy sources--geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, etc.--which will approach, and may even equal, the level of hydroelectric production, which will remain stable.

In the meantime, the Third World, based on these statistical projections, will be left abandoned to its fate, unless--as we must continue to hope--the struggles of the developing countries, combined with the influence of the socialist states and of the democratic forces of the capitalist countries, manage to change the framework of international economic relations. Firewood, which in 1960 provided almost 40 percent of the energy used, by the year 2020 will have dropped to about 5 percent; forests will have disappeared. Nuclear energy will barely have increased from the 1.4 percent of the energy supply that it provides now to a meager 3 percent. Coal will remain at virtually the same level, a little over 20 percent of the energy supply.

And the bulk of their--hypothetical--capacities to be created will remain subject to a no less hypothetical supply of petroleum, which these countries can obtain--we don't know how or where or at what price--to meet about 30 percent of their energy needs.

In light of this reality, it is infuriating to see how, in a number of studies or books published in the scientific literature of the United States and of other capitalist industrialized countries, they exaggerate the difficulties and the supposed dangers that the growing expansion of nuclear technologies would have, and try to justify the excluding and restrictive positions of the western powers, claiming to demonstrate that nuclear energy would have a counterproductive effect for the Third World countries.

Ideological Struggle As It Relates to the Nuclear Program

For some time the nuclear issue has been a part of the ideological confrontation. The industrialized capitalist countries, with the United States at their head, have a vast number of journalists, writers, economists, and scientists in their pay, whose sole purpose is to discredit the nuclear programs, concepts and policies of socialism and of the independent Third World countries.

Obviously, Cuba has not been spared such attacks. We can even say that our country, quite logically, is becoming a target of growing interest for all sorts of "Cubanologists" and "experts" in Latin American affairs.

Among their gratuitous remarks, they promote the idea that, in the **developing** countries--including Cuba--the introduction of nuclear technologies has little or no relation to economic and social needs, but has motivations of a political and military character, is animated by such purposes, and given the weakness of the infrastructures and the widespread political instability, the mastery of nuclear energy by these countries poses a danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in addition creates a threat of pollution because of the low level of radiological safety in these facilities.

Let's take a look at one point in this argument--the alleged lack of adequate radiological protection.

Let's overlook the fact that the United States, the major source of these campaigns, was responsible all by itself for over 300 of the approximately 500 explosions conducted in the atmosphere until the signing of the treaty banning these tests in 1963. These explosions amounted to the equivalent of 650 megatons and dumped into the atmosphere over 10 tons of vaporized plutonium and tens of tons more of highly dangerous radioactive substances, such as cesium-137, strontium-90, iodine-131, and others.

What level of radiological safety will Cuba's nuclear facilities actually have?

In response to this question, let us say that the Juragua plant and the future Nuclear Research Center, our two major nuclear projects in the current decade, reflect the lengthy experience acquired by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries with the use of nuclear technology. Radiological safety is guaranteed by a series of very strict measures covering the projects, the assembly techniques, and the operation of the reactors, so that the cooling of the active zone and its seal will be maintained under any circumstances, including risks as unlikely as the accidental impact of a plane against the plant's buildings, an earthquake or a tidal wave. All the radioactive gases and aerosols are specially filtered before being released into the atmosphere. Liquid and solid wastes are properly treated in order to avoid any contamination and are stored in special containers for a long time, in conditions such that there is no danger. There is systematic monitoring of the purity of the water, the atmosphere, and the soil within a radius between 30 and 50 kilometers around the reactors.

As we now know, in many of the industrialized countries thermoelectric plants using coal, oil or gas consume more oxygen during combustion of their fuel than what is produced by plant photosynthesis. This is only compensated by the additional amounts of oxygen released into the atmosphere in the equatorial regions. In global terms, these plants, frequently located in urban areas, dump into the air between 200 and 250 million tons of ash and about 60 million tons of sulfur dioxide each year. Unlike these plants, nuclear power plants are built outside of urban areas, and around them is established what is called an exclusion radius or a sanitary protection zone. In the United States this radius is approximately 1 kilometer. In the Soviet Union it is 2.5 to 3 kilometers. At Juragua, it will be 2.5 kilometers.

Very large-scale medical analyses conducted in the Soviet Union of people who operate nuclear power plants, who are obviously the ones most at risk to receive the largest doses of radioactivity, show that this level is below the level of permissible doses, and that there is no type of disease related to the effect of this radiation. In the 30 years the Soviet plants have been operating, not a single case of job-related illness has been reported in the workers at these plants. This is illustrated in the table on the following page, which gives a comparative evaluation of the total damage to the health of the personnel and of the population for both the nuclear fuel cycles and the coal cycles used to obtain 1,000 MW.

The data in this table show that the total health risk caused by the coal cycle is higher than the risk caused by nuclear fuel. As we explained earlier, in coming years coal will occupy an increasingly important place in the industrialized countries. That is why this comparison is of such great interest. We should point out that the level of the risk of premature death to the population as a result of exposure to radioactive effluents from nuclear power plants is equivalent to a probability of only 0.01 of the total risk. The rest corresponds to the risk to the population from fuel processing plants and from occupational risks incurred by the personnel during the

production process, and from other risks. From this table we even find that the risk to the population of premature death from effluents containing natural radionuclides from thermoelectric power plants burning coal is apparently somewhat more than 5 times higher than the risk to the population from exposure to radioactive effluents from nuclear power plants operating to produce the same power.

In addition, there is not the slightest possibility that the nuclear facilities that Cuba is building could create any risk to the nation's population, or to the people of any neighboring country, including the United States. Nor could they in any way cause any maritime or atmospheric deterioration.

Table: Comparative Evaluation of the Total Damage to Health Caused by the Nuclear Fuel Cycle and the Coal Cycle, as used to obtain 1,000 MW of Power

Type of Damage	Nuclear Fuel Cycle	Coal Combustion Cycle
Number of cases of premature death	1.0 (0.01)	370 (0.055)
Total loss of ability to work	20	1.10*

* The levels of damage to the population caused from irradiation by effluents from nuclear and thermal power plants are indicated between parentheses.

Source: V.A. Knishnikov and O.A. Pavlovsky: "Comparative Evaluation of the Damage to Health of Personnel and of the Population during the Production of Electricity in CEN [Nuclear Power Plants] and CTE [Thermoelectric Plants]." Proceedings of the Conference on Experience with Nuclear Energy, volume 4, pp 573-579.

The VVER technology used in the Soviet reactors, which will be used at Juragua, has demonstrated that it has higher safety levels than those of similar facilities of a commercial nature supplied by the western powers. The Cuban program, though, is not relying just on this fact. Along with it, and benefitting from the ample flow of cooperation that our country receives, we are developing the institutions and trained personnel to handle our own radiological control and protection responsibilities. Cuba will observe strictly all the norms and regulations specified by the international community's specialized organizations for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Our people, whose technical and scientific educational levels are constantly improving, not only understand and support this nuclear program, but they will also be able to make an active contribution to its execution.

Moreover, any supposition of military motivations behind the development of nuclear energy in our country is absurd. Such nonsense, lacking any objective, moral, or scientific foundation, can only be used by those persons who are trying, under the guise of an apparently superior technical background, to exploit people's confusion, misinformation, and ignorance.

Cuba's enemies use as their argument the fact that our country did not sign the 1968 Nuclear Arms Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Treaty of Tlatelolco making Latin America a nuclear-free zone (1967).

As we know, Cuba refrained from signing these international treaties, even though it does not question their importance, due to considerations of principle related to the continuing hostility, threats, the embargo, and aggressions of various types which it has endured for 26 years on the part of the only power in this hemisphere which possesses nuclear weapons, the United States. In addition, this country is still illegally usurping, against our will, a piece of our national territory. Clearly, so long as these specific circumstances remain as they are, it would be neither proper nor acceptable for our country to make unilateral concessions.

Nevertheless, in agreement with the universally accepted practices and principles of international law, Cuba has signed safeguard agreements with the IAEA for each of the nuclear programs being executed here.

There are other factors that must be considered if we are to begin to understand some political aspects related to nuclear energy. As students of this topic now realize, the Nuclear Arms Non-Proliferation Treaty was dictated by the level of maturity these technologies had attained in the 1960s, by the need to control atmospheric explosions, the growing awareness of the danger created by an uncontrollable spread of nuclear weapons, and the urgency of reaching agreements that would set limits on the arms race. But as we have found during the past 2 decades, each state or group of states signing acted with very different objectives in mind.

The socialist countries supported the treaty, motivated by their concern for peace and for preventing the spread of the arms race. The Third World countries, seeking safety and in the hope that their renunciation of the right to possess nuclear weapons, something which in any case was practically unattainable for them, might rebound in their favor in terms of getting aid and cooperation for the development of their own national programs for the peaceful use of nuclear technologies: as we said earlier, this aspiration has resulted in bitter disillusion. On the other side, the United States and the powers of West Europe that had their own atomic weapons saw in this treaty support for their monopoly. In the end, we find a group of highly industrialized capitalist countries which, under the shadow of the U.S. strategic "umbrella," supported the treaty in order to gain for themselves some important economic objectives related to the nuclear industry.

As for the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Cuba appreciates the effort made by Mexico and other nations of our continent who thereby proposed the laudable objective of making Latin America a nuclear-free zone. But as has happened in other parts of the world where such a goal has been pursued, the purposes of Tlatelolco have been blocked primarily by the arrogant, unfair, and bullying position of the only nuclear power in our hemisphere, the United States.

On this point, we will draw the reader's attention to the attitude of the Cuban Revolution's detractors, who claim to have doubts about Cuba's position, a position that is upright, clear, and principled. And yet they don't question at all the ambiguous position of the United States, which waited 13 years before finally ratifying Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, even though this document--as was recognized during the U.S. Senate debates--made no changes in the existing status quo, nor did it oblige the United States to do anything, or restrict it in any way.

At the present time many people--including the Senate of Puerto Rico--are wondering about the U.S. government's true degree of commitment to and respect for this treaty.

These are the reasons behind Cuba's position, particularly as our enemies are engaged in distortions and misrepresentations of the facts, using the media they control in order to manipulate public opinion.

What is true is that Cuba, because it has held fast to its position of principle, has not benefitted from free and unrestrained access to the various nuclear techniques necessary for our development, as have most of the highly industrialized countries, even some which were not known in the past for their pacifism, and a number which are still using their military power to impose policies by force on other nations.

Another excuse used by our adversaries is that the high investment cost of nuclear power plants would be a burden that Cuba's economy could not support, and that the high generating capacity of these units would be excessive for our country's energy needs.

What we have to say about this is that the construction of our first nuclear power plant will not only not be a burden on our economy, but will instead be a major factor promoting efficiency and savings that will allow us--as we said earlier--when it is operating at full capacity, to replace petroleum purchases costing about \$500 million a year. By itself this would be enough to pay for the investment in just a few years. Furthermore, all the generating capacities planned correspond to the requirements of our economic and social development projected for the coming years, which will reach an even greater intensification of the process of industrialization and electrification of our country.

In addition, the financing for our nuclear power plants, as well as the supply of technology, technical advisers and skilled personnel have been fully guaranteed by the Soviet Union, with the participation of the other socialist countries. This is in harmony with the relations of equitable exchange and broad multilateral cooperation existing between our two countries, and within the socialist community as a whole.

The detractors of the revolution also wonder about the capability of our infrastructure to handle a project like this one, which requires that a number of industries all work together, and also that a number of other factors, including both materials and human resources, be present.

To this we can answer that Cuba has developed a construction capability, a technical labor force skilled in industrial assembly, the production of materials, and other types of work which, together with the highly skilled personnel sent by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, fully guarantees that the Juragua project will be executed with the highest standards of quality.

For the facilities, institutions, and cadres specially involved with the nuclear sciences and technologies, our best refutation of these speculations lies in these ten points which summarize the work performed within the Cuban nuclear field during recent years.

1. The creation and consolidation of an organic system for our institutions and for a large part of the nation's nuclear infrastructure.
2. The reorganization and strengthening of the organization handling the construction of the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant, and the recent establishment of a local delegation of the Atomic Energy Commission in Cienfuegos to give more complete attention to this project and to the radiological protection of our territory.
3. The reorganization and conversion of the present Nuclear Research Institute into a center for the application of these technologies, and for research in different fields related to science, with more specific objectives and duties.
4. The progress made with the establishment of the Nuclear Research Center. Much work has been done in the areas of investment, microlocation, technical work, and planning for this center.
5. The development of a broad-based plan for training and upgrading the skills of specialists, mid-level technicians, and skilled workers, and the establishment of new institutions devoted to such purposes.
6. The creation of the Nuclear Energy Information Center, as a vehicle responsible for documentation and dissemination of this information.

7. The formation of the Radiation Protection and Hygiene Center and the preparation of a nationwide system of legal regulations and norms covering radiological safety.
8. The development of the applications of nuclear techniques to medicine, industry, agricultural production, and other fields in Cuba.
9. The consolidation of Cuba's system of international relations in the nuclear field, within a solid framework, with due recognition granted to the merits of our program.
10. The accelerated introduction of automated control systems and of computer techniques, as fundamental working tools.

Nuclear Energy: Key Link for the Future

As we have just shown, Cuba's position stands in radical contrast to the restrictive trends predominating today in the capitalist world with regard to the promotion, financing, and transfer of technologies for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Such restrictive policies are becoming an icy blast, chilling the Third World's nuclear power programs.

Experts on economic and scientific problems from the capitalist world have prepared reports marked by pessimism. According to these reports, the underdeveloped countries would have nothing to gain from a pursuit of nuclear power, given their lack of financial resources, their weak infrastructures, and their lack of skilled personnel. These "experts" try to use these arguments to show that the nuclear energy programs adopted by some Third World countries are in reality motivated by considerations of prestige, and that far from contributing to the economic development of these states, they are actually becoming a heavy burden, and a factor inducing even greater stagnation.

Cuba's program strikes at the very heart of these positions, which are dictated in essence by an egotistical, exclusionary policy which attempts to silence the true causes of the problems overwhelming the Third World, and which are fed, in the end, by an unconcealable underestimation of the capabilities and potential of our peoples.

Cuba's position is that while the introduction of nuclear energy requires specific industrial, organizational, technical, and human foundations, this at the same time becomes, because of its multidisciplinary nature, a stimulus leading to more advanced, more rapid and integral development of the entire interlocking system of society, which includes production, scientific-technical research, and education. It is a fact recognized and understood internationally that it also includes the beneficial impact of nuclear energy on the reduction of spending for fossil fuels, and their strategic preservation for more important, varied, and rational uses.

The experiment our country has undertaken offers conclusive proof of the advantages of socialism and of the significance of the social revolution as a prerequisite to development for peoples who have been shut out from historic progress.

This is a demonstration of what can be achieved by cooperation on authentically new bases between a high level, industrialized state such as the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and a small country with limited resources like Cuba, which is working for development against the economic embargo of the United States, and against the difficulties ensuing from the instability and crisis of the international capitalist economy, a crisis that has been going on for years, and from whose effects we are not immune.

In this way, Cuba will be able to prove that what some technocrats and politicians of the western industrialized countries consider the lack of viability or inappropriateness of nuclear energy for the underdeveloped countries is not in itself a deficiency or a negative quality intrinsic to this type of energy, but rather an expression of the inability of capitalism, stemming from its class nature, to respond to the need for cooperation and the creation of infrastructures required for the introduction, operation, and future development of nuclear technology.

As Lenin once said: "At each particular moment in time, it is necessary to know how to cling tightly to one particular link, in order to gain control of the entire chain and prepare securely for the move to the following link."*

For our country, which has carried out a thorough and exemplary social revolution, today that link is, in a very special way, the application to the economy of the gains of the contemporary scientific-technical revolution. This entails the transformation of science into a direct productive force. The conquest of nuclear energy, like that of computer science, telecommunications, and biotechnology, is a decisive step. Given the rapid rate of the progress of science and technology, climbing up that step is equivalent to ensuring control of the key levers governing our future economy and life.

Our country has just drafted its economic strategy for the period up to the year 2000, which emphasizes the maximum concentration of resources to meet the tasks of development, a strict policy of priorities, and the intensification of the campaign to save, and to achieve quality and efficiency. The mastery of nuclear energy responds fully to this concept. For this reason, it is one of our national tasks being given top priority, as a guarantee of our nation's future.

* Vladimir Ilich Lenin: "The Immediate Tasks of Soviet Power." SELECTED WORKS, 12 volumes. Published by Progreso, Moscow, 1977, volume VIII, p 126.

The Cuban people, the masters and creators of their own lives, now find themselves in a truly privileged situation, at a time when many backward and impoverished countries are facing an uncertain future. There is no doubt that for those countries, profound changes in political and economic structures will be even more urgent and vital in the years to come.

Cuba, which has already begun and is continuing to build its future on a secure basis, can take on this task as an obligation for which there is no other alternative. It is not a goal to content ourselves with; still less is it an objective chosen from a desire for prestige; it is an essential link in the chain if we are to continue to move forward. Nuclear energy, which is today a vanguard technology, in a very short period of time will become the "conventional" energy of the future. The very new energy of the 21st century, based on fast reactors and thermonuclear reactors, will create new requirements that will be much greater in all respects. Whoever does not start today to own, apply and create the material and human bases for the use of the current nuclear technologies, will be cut off from tomorrow's technology by an abyss. What today might take 10 or 20 years of hard work, might well demand 30 or 40 years or become practically unattainable tomorrow.

Working to master and develop nuclear sciences and technologies, to forge a solid infrastructure with this objective in mind, to prepare the cadres and specialists we need, to master the entire system of knowledge related to this area: this is the challenge we face today.

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7679

CSO: 3248/424

DOMINICA

LABOUR PARTY ISSUES PRE-ELECTION MANIFESTO ON KEY ISSUES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Jun 85 p 5

[For an earlier CANA report on the LPD Manifesto, see the FBIS Latin America DAILY REPORT, Vol VI, No 117, 18 Jun 85 , pages S 2-S 3]

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Wednesday (CANA) — The Labour Party of Dominica (LPD) says it will re-establish an army if it wins the July 1 general election.

Dominica's Defence Force was disbanded by the ruling Freedom Party (DFP) Government after soldiers were implicated in a coup plot.

In its manifesto released today, the LPD said that it would establish a highly trained and disciplined defence force with the purpose of preserving and protecting the national independence sovereignty and security of Dominica.

It said that the army would also be used to "respond to the aid of the civil power in cases of severe breakdown of law and order."

The LPD said that it is conscious that such a force may be misused, and will strictly identify its role.

On the economy, the party promised to support a mixed economy and introduce legislation to encourage off-shore banking, while its foreign policy would be one of non-alignment.

The 24-page document said an LPD Government, the state, private and cooperative sectors will each have an important role to play in the furtherance of economic development.

The key banana industry is one area which the Opposition party says it will seek to strengthen and that one of the first steps would be to accept as a national debt the nearly EC\$20

million (EC\$1—37 US cents) debt of the banana association.

The party has also pledged to set a minimum floor price for bananas subsidised by government below which the price to the farmer will not be allowed to drop.

Brushing aside Government claims that the unemployment had dropped from 25 per cent to 13 per cent over the past five years, the manifesto said that "unemployment in Dominica has never been so high."

The party says that it intends to establish an employment agency aimed at promoting various training programmes for young people, and stimulating and promoting agro-industries, craft and cottage industries.

CSO: 3298/859

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JORGE INAUGURATES IRRIGATION PROJECT IN SANTIAGO

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 May 85 p 10

[Text] The president of the Dominican Republic, Salvador Jorge Blanco, called on the owners who have not turned over the lands required for the Francisco Ulises Espaillat Canal to come to an agreement within a month with the Dominican Agrarian Institute to transfer and turn over the lands via legal process.

Jorge Blanco warned that if the transfer has not been made during the stated time, the armed forces, the Dominican Agrarian Institute and the National Institute of Water Resources will carry out the law of "quota-share."

Jorge Blanco spoke during the inauguration of the first stage of the irrigation project Yaque del Norte in the city of Santiago. The complete text of the speech follows:

The inauguration of this first stage of the canal in the Yaque del Norte project extends--the main canal--some 34 kilometers and bears the name of the patrician Ulises Francisco Espaillat who, as one of the first presidents of the Dominican Republic for a short time, was known for his morality, civism, and perfectionism regarding the nature of the state and the public patrimony.

This inauguration is the result of a great effort of the government of national concentration which on taking power on 16 August 1982 found this project in great difficulty with regard to its execution, budget delays and disagreements with contractors on how to carry out the work. This obliged us to take drastic measures regarding the termination of the contract so that the project would not founder. Finally this first stage was able to have the happy ending that it has today due to the great effort of the government in human, technical and economic terms, which required contributions of more than 20 million pesos.

This canal bears the name of Ulises Francisco Espaillat who, as the engineer Alexis Espinel Tactut has indicated, along with his civic efforts was particularly concerned with the need to begin seeking solutions to the problems of water, of canalization and of dams in the Dominican Republic, once stating in a great sententious phrase: "Let us sow water!"

This canal which bears the name of Ulises Francisco Espaillat will permit the watering, or more than watering, will assure the irrigation of 80 percent of the 150,000 plots of the whole project and will revivify 20 percent of the land that was thirsting for water.

This canal expresses not only the concern of government regarding the farmer's need for a sure source of water, but it is also a coordinated effort with other steps in this regard that we have been taking throughout the country, as is the case of the lands which, because of the canal, the Dominican state must take over in this first stage by application of the law of quota-share, a very old law from the period of Trujillo which was slightly modified during the course of the year 1979.

That law--quota-share--, very well known to farmers, must represent in this first stage control of more than 60,000 plots.

It is not necessary to note the value of these lands, nor that the dimension of what is owned is limited in extension because large extensions are not granted as elsewhere, especially in the south and east of the Dominican Republic.

However, these 60,000 plots that we must gain control of represent a need of the state and of the Dominican government which allows no delay or term--since the social and economic pressures of the farmers are increasing in the country--and which is not contingent upon the motivations and the political leadership which may be behind each take over of land that may occur in the Dominican Republic.

We respond to these pressures circumspectly while, at the same time, revitalizing and strengthening the settlements and making new settlements in the various zones of the country, in spite of considerable budgetary limitations.

On Farmer's Day we announced what remains to be done this year regarding settlement on the quantity of land in the Dominican Republic, including this part where we are going to distribute and settle more than 39 projects on some 350,000 plots which are supplied by the Francisco Ulises Espaillat Canal.

I invite the owners who have not turned over the lands, the families who are listed and others who benefit from the use of this canal to come to an agreement within a month with the Dominican Agrarian Institute to transfer and turn over the lands via legal process.

If this has not been done within a month, the armed forces, the Dominican Agrarian Institute and the National Institute of Water Resources will then carry out the law of quota-share.

I understand that in this matter one cannot be miserly, since the lands benefited by the canal increase their values, their virtues, because the water that did not reach them before will be assured. There will be fewer lands but the increase in fertility more than compensates for the transfer by virtue of the law of quota-share that each owner has to make. Furthermore, owners in this zone should understand that there are also many farmers here without land and that is just, the justice of God, to transfer to them those lands which receive the benefits of the waters of the Ulises Francisco Espaillat Canal.

I hope that during the course of a month, which is certainly an ample period of time, the disagreements, the accommodations and the localizations will be carried out so that the execution of this law can respond to an attitude of social comprehension and an understanding of the economic problems of the country and also of the government itself so that in this month prudence will invite reflection. But if not, when the month is up, the public forces shall intervene and shall execute the law of quota-share.

12467

CSO: 3248/415

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE REPUDIATION OF DIALOGUE WITH FDR-FMLN SUPPORTED

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 31 May 85 pp 3, 19

[Text] Now I will really support President Duarte, because when he states that he repudiates tactical dialogue, he is showing that he is against ploys such as the FDR-FMLN [Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is now directing at the Legislative Assembly.

This, according to Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta, who is a deputy and president of the Nationalist Republica Alliance (ARENA), in a statement yesterday in which he referred to a petition submitted by the FDR and the FMLN through the Catholic prelate, Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, requesting that the assembly intervene with the president so that he will continue the dialogue.

I Agree

D'Aubuisson pointed out that the FMLN petition is just a tactical ploy to gain time. He said, he agreed with the president of the republic that such tactical dialogues should be rejected, inasmuch as the petition by these people is nothing more than a tactical ploy, very typical of the marxists, just to gain time, because they are faring very poorly militarily. They are in full retreat and they need time to recover.

Honorable Assembly

It is significant that the FDR-FMLN should now come to us, the deputies, and address us as the "Honorable Legislative Assembly," after having tried to interrupt and prevent both the election campaign and the election itself. In other words, they do not believe in a democratic system because they are anti-democratic totalitarians, Major D'Aubuisson asserted. And why do they come to us now? he asked. This attitude indicates that they are now in the throes of complete collapse. So much so, that every time Nicaragua's situation gets worse, it invites a Bay of Pigs for the Farabundo Marti people, he said.

The Real Fear

The real fear seizing the Farabundo Marti people is a possible cutoff of assistance from Nicaragua and the danger they will face when the Nicaraguan Sandinist Junta collapses and is no longer able to keep its commitments to supply the FDR-FMLN. Of course, not having that support any more, they now come to us posing as good boys, telling us, look, let's talk. They will reach the limit when they begin nominating candidates and calling for a new election, he said.

To our country's benefit, these people have been utterly defeated militarily. They served those who waged war on us from abroad. When war is forced on a country, the defeat of these people can be the only victory. There is no substitute for victory and the expulsion of these people from our national territory. We must continue to maintain control over our homeland country, governing it, making it productive and returning it to the pursuit of our full potential. We must decline to take part in tactical dialogues with people who have been utterly defeated and are in full retreat.

This is a legislative assembly and we are therefore obliged to receive this item of correspondence, although the rejection of the petition would not be an anti-democratic act, Major D'Aubuisson said, because it is submitted by outlaws who have always declined to participate in the democratic process in which all Salvadorans are highly interested. If their party, the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union] is covertly in the Central Election Council, why do they fear to abide by the will of the people as expressed by their vote, he added.

The President's Policy Is Right

Questioned as to the reaction that he thought the PDC deputies would have toward the FDR-FMLN petition, Major D'Aubuisson said that in view of the PDC's assembly majority, it is a foregone conclusion. If the president of the republic, a Christian Democrat, has already come out against tactical dialogues, then there is nothing more to be said, because it is obvious that the PDC deputies will have to abide by the president's policy, which is the right policy, he said.

The Army

The tactics used by our country to defeat the armed rebels are uniquely Salvadoran; there is no comparison between our country and Vietnam, he added, not only relative to military action, but also as regards political and social matters. In the final analysis, El Salvador will be an example to the whole world when another country falls victim to aggression such as has been perpetrated against us. All the other countries that have been attacked have been succumbing, but we have endured 6 years of it and have stopped the aggressors. El Salvador has used special tactics and we have reason to feel proud of our brave army, he said.

12674

CSO: 3248/420

EL SALVADOR

GROSS ACCUSES PDC OF ABUSING POWER

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 May 85 p 28

[Text] If the Christian Democrats had any sense they would not be arrogantly violating the institutionality of the republic.

This, according to a statement yesterday by Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) deputy Gloria Salguero Gross.

She said that the dismissal of officials who do not belong to the party in power is somewhat anti-democratic and most serious of all, it is unconstitutional and dishonest.

She asked: where then is the pacifist spirit heralded by the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]? Is it perhaps that they only want peace with those who have taken up arms, with those enemies of the country, the communists of the Farabundo Marti front? Is it perhaps that we, the opposition parties, are not deemed by them to be legal institutions within the framework of the democratic process and that we are therefore considered enemies?

They have to think about this. Now that President Jose Napoleon Duarte is away, they are taking advantage of the situation by doing as they please. I would welcome the president's views on this, she said.

Deputy Salguero Gross said that because of this anti-democratic PDC attitude, the country's institutionality is being placed in jeopardy, and even AD Deputy Dr Rene Fortin Magana himself, who shares the executive body with the PDC, has told them that they are acting unconstitutionally.

The following officials might be targeted **for dismissal**: the attorney general of the republic, Dr Rafael Flores y Flores of PAISA [Salvadorian Authentic Institutional Party]; the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero of the PCN [National Conciliation Party]; the chief justice of the Bankruptcy Court of the republic CPA Wilfrido Navarrete of the PCN and his magistrates, Drs Ernesto Recinos of ARENA, Julio Cesar Urbina of the PCN, the 13 magistrates

of the Supreme Court of Justice, Drs Jorge Hernandez Colocho, Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, Alfredo Cuellar, Fabio Hercules Pineda, Eduardo Alfredo Meyer, Marcos Gabriel Villacorta, Mario Adalberto Rivera, Ricardo Avila Moreira, Sanchez Cerna, Ricardo Alfredo Garay, Cordon Cea and Samuel Cardenas.

The PDC's arrogance and abuse of power is causing a great deal of instability to national institutionality, and even though for more than 20 years it has been saying that it has been fighting against presidential officialism, now it is committing greater outrages in public administration by showing the other side of the coin, scarcely a month after assuming power, Deputy Gloria Salguero Gross said in conclusion.

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CSO: 3248/420

EL SALVADOR

MILK PRODUCERS URGE GOVERNMENT ACTION

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 May 85 pp 3, 70

[Text] The Association of Milk Producers of El Salvador (PROLECHE) yesterday issued an appeal to the national government to make an estimate of the deficit and real needs for milk in the country.

The statements were made during a special assembly of the association, held 26 May, in which the principal subject was the excessive supply of powdered milk, which could lead to the collapse of domestic milk producers.

PROLECHE noted that the factors that have contributed to the creation of this serious problem include: 1) The lack of attention by government authorities to the voice of alarm that the producers raised at the beginning of this year about the threat that hung over their industry in early winter if immediate steps were not taken in its defense; 2) The uncontrolled and irrational importing of powdered milk, as well as the indiscriminate acceptance of donations of the same product, which have both created a dependence and practically saturated the domestic market, displacing by a high percentage the consumption of liquid milk from our producers; 3) The use of powdered milk in excessive quantities to mix with liquid milk as well as to make cheeses, drastically reducing the demand for liquid milk; 4) The total lack of concern on the part of public health authorities for preventing and sanctioning abuses in mixtures and adulterations, including those committed by water carriers, endangering consumer health due to the low quality of products added to the liquid milk and the unsanitary conditions under which the mixing is done.

Milk thrown out

The milk producers say they are desperate and may soon find themselves obliged to go out of business, closing production centers, falling behind with their financial obligations, and, worst of all, causing mass layoffs of those who in Salvadoran agriculture are the only permanent and best paid employees.

They stated that some producers have begun to throw their milk out when it has spoiled due to lack of demand, and fear this will happen more and more, unless steps are taken to remedy this desperate situation with necessary and urgent measures.

Corrective measures

PROLECHE considers some of these corrective measures to be the following:

a) Determining the deficit and real needs for powdered milk imports, taking into account the reduction in effective demand for liquid milk and the increase in its production in recent years through new investments in improved livestock-raising technology; b) Taking imported donations into account and adjusting the figures to establish a balance to eliminate the current problem of powdered milk saturation; c) A bigger and better control over the assignment of donations to humanitarian assistance programs, in keeping with their purposes of benefitting the most needy sectors; and d) Adding a coloring agent to powdered milk donations in order to prevent their diversion to other uses and thus keep the consumer from being deceived or defrauded.

In closing, they said that the need for commercial imports of powdered milk should also be estimated to avoid saturation and to save foreign currency, which is so necessary for obtaining other goods indispensable for keeping domestic production going.

12430

CSO: 3248/396

EL SALVADOR

MONETARY BOARD TRANSFERS WHEAT, OIL, GAS TO PARALLEL MARKET

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Jun 85 pp 5, 27

[Text] All importing of non-traditional products from outside Central America have been transferred by the Monetary Board to the parallel market.

The Central Reserve Bank [BCR] President said that this means that, with the exception of the products that form the "family basket", medicines and their raw materials, acquiring dollars for those imports will be in accordance with the change in the parallel market.

He added that to give it greater liquidity, that is, that there be sufficient funds, \$17.5 million of sugar exports and \$90 million of coffee exports as well as loans and grants that they receive from abroad also pass to the parallel market.

Benitez Bonilla said that this is the way the imports and exports have been moving in a staggered form to the parallel market in order to bring up to date the national economic activity, in realistic form, in view of the difficult conditions occurring in the country.

He stated that 50 percent of the imports of industrial inputs in the parallel market are also transferred, but wheat and all the products to make bread, fertilizers, pesticides as well as the raw materials to manufacture these, and fat and edible oil, will remain completely in the official market at 2.5 colones per dollar.

The BCR President concluded that petroleum, gasoline, liquid gas, as well as goods for the industrial and agricultural-livestock sector and tallow for industrial use will also remain 100 percent in the official market.

CSO: 3248/427

EL SALVADOR

DECLINE IN COFFEE PRODUCTION TRIGGERS RECOVERY PLAN

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 May 85 pp 3, 72

[Text] The overall plans for the coffee sector should help bring about the recovery of that sector and indeed straighten out problems in the process, it was announced yesterday by members of the Legislative Assembly's Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Committee, depts Felix Ernesto Canizales, Jim Umaña, and Roberto Angulo, of the ARENA party. Our coffee production, they noted, has already dropped to half of what we ought to be producing, and if the cause of such a decline in coffee production is not corrected, foreign assistance will cause the foreign debt to keep increasing, as has already been happening, leaving us facing the same devaluation and economic inflation, they pointed out.

Coffee Recovery Plan Analyzed

We have analyzed favorably the Coffee Recovery Plan, they said. We believe that any improvement brought about in the worsening economic plight of the coffee grower, no matter how slight, will help the country as a whole.

The president of the republic, the ARENA deputies added, is aware of all the harm that has been inflicted upon coffee growers and which has been the subject of forecasts brought to the attention of all our national leaders since 1980, including the present chief executive.

This has been incomprehensible to those adulators who have spread lies about our aim to deal with the coffee situation in a rational way.

Furthermore, the importance of coffee in the national economy is now being recognized, thus discrediting the disinformation that bad Salvadorans, under foreign pressures and God-knows-what evil intentions, have been spreading nationally and internationally in recent decades, they declared.

The statement by the president that the working capital loan will be increased by 380 million colones, implies that there has been a deficit in the financing of prior years, contradicting the demagogic publicity of the national financial system in recent years, the deputies concluded.

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

COFFEE, SUGAR UP; COTTON DOWN--Coffee and sugar have experienced an improvement in prices on the international market, but not cotton, for which demand has been lower. As reported by Lic. Jose Dolores Diaz Trejo, assistant director of Farm Economy, the price of coffee this week is \$144.60 per quintal, which is up \$1.26 from the average for the previous week. The average price of sugar was \$4.04 a quintal, up two cents from the average the previous week. This situation reflects an increase in demand for sugar on the international market, Diaz noted, helping keep prices up slightly. On the other hand, the average price of cotton last week on the international market was \$64.20 a quintal, which Lic. Diaz Trejo said was 69 cents less than the average quotation last week, reflecting lack of interest in the world cotton market, as demand drops and prices are lowered. Finally, Lic. Diaz Trejo promised more information later on prices in the domestic market in San Salvador for basic grains and farm products. [Text] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 May 85 pp 2, 35] 12430

CSO: 3248/396

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT REPORTS OPERATIONS SURPLUS SO FAR IN '85

FL181951 Bridgetown CANA in English 1930 GMT 18 Jun 85

[Text] St Georges, 18 Jun--The Grenada Government has reported a 3.2 million dollar (one ED dol; 37 cents US) surplus on recurrent operations during the first four months of this year.

A report on 1985 fiscal performance in THE NATIONAL, official organ of the ruling New National Party (NNP), said that between January and April, government collected 30.9 million dollars in revenue, while recurrent expenses amounted to 27.7 million collars. But the weekly said this performance was upset by interest payments on Grenada's 165 million dollar national debt, left by the previous administration.

Interest and other charges for the January-April period amounted to 2.9 million dollars, which when included in the equation, reduced the surplus to 300,000 dollars.

With the repayment of principal sums borrowed and falling due for the period under review--6.6 million dollars--government in fact wound up with a deficit of 12.6 million dollars at the end of April.

The NNP won general elections here last December to return the island to constitutional government after four-and-a-half years of Marxist revolutionary rule.

THE NATIONAL also reported that during the January to April period the financing of capital projects totaled 7.8 million dollars, mainly from external sources, with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) providing 6.1 million dollars of this.

Said the paper: As the difference between the overall deficit million dollars, it means that for the period January to April there was a shortfall or actual deficit of 4.8 million dollars.

This has two results. Firstly, some 3.7 million dollars worth of claims remained unpaid as of the end of April this year, and there was an increase in the consolidated fund account overdraft to the tune of 800,000 dollars.

CSO: 3298/812

GRENADA

ISLAND'S BANANA QUALITY CALLED BELOW AREA STANDARDS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jun 85 p 7

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 7 Jun (CANA)--The quality of bananas from Grenada has been substantially below that of the other three Windward Islands, according to the chairman of Geest Industries (West Indies) Ltd, which markets the fruit in Britain.

Chairman John Hailwood was reacting to comments critical of Geest made recently by Grenada government Paliamentarian Grace Duncan who accused the company of taking advantage of local farmers.

Duncan claimed that boxes exported from the island did not have Grenada printed on them as the island of origin.

Hailwood said in a statement issued here that protection is given by the British government to the Windward Islands banana industry and the boxes are so marked.

"In addition Grenada quality for sometime has been substantially below the other islands and the less attention that is drawn to this fact the better, as we are already experiencing resistance to the purchase of Grenada fruit, which is well known to Winban and the GBCS (Grenada Banana Co-operative Society," Hailwood said.

Duncan also said that despite a decline in banana production in Grenada, Geest boats visited the island on a regular basis, and she wondered whether this made financial sense.

Responded Hailwood: "I find it hard to believe that a responsible person and a parliamentarian such as Duncan could have made these remarks which are so ill founded. She appears to be complaining that Geest vessels call at Grenada on a regular basis. What would she have us do: Forsake Grenada?"

CSO: 3298/812

GRENADA

BRIEFS

DEVELOPMENT AID--St Georges, 19 Jun--The United States, Britain and Canada have all assured Grenada of fresh development aid, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has told a public meeting here. Blaize has told a public meeting here. Blaize was reporting to the rural Happy Hill area on the outcome of his recent talks with government officials in the three countries. In London, we got a commitment from the United Kingdom for certain areas of assistance. In Ottawa, I got a commitment from the Canadian International Development Agency...and in Washington, I got a commitment from the State Department and from USAID (US Agency for International Development) with regards to our programme for development, the prime minister said. He gave no details, but said offers from all three countries will be brought together in a package at the current meeting in Washington of the Caribbean group for economic co-operation, a Western aid consortium. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 19 Jun 85 FL]

CSO: 3298/812

MEXICO

VIOLENT 'FASCIST' GROUP LINKED TO HERMOSILLO ARCHBISHOP

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Jun 85 pp 1, 7

[Text] Hermosillo, Sonora, 26 June--Violence could occur in the elections only from shock groups in a state wherein political problems have been traditionally solved by this type of organization. The archbishop's office, the political parties and the election officials agreed that there are unidentified groups operating behind the scenes, which might contrive a potential clash on 7 July. The only one to mention names is PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], which cites "los Micos," an organization very similar to "los Tecos," operating at the University of Guadalajara, with forces in the public sector, among the clergy and among business owners. The leftist party associates them directly with Carlos Quintero Arce.

The latter, for his part, admitted that the shock groups exist, and that they appeared on May Day, wearing CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] T-shirts, and scattering and striking members of various parties. He said that they were highly organized groups, whose instruments for attacking are, moreover, in the prelate's possession, because they were turned over to him by the victims.

The archbishop claimed not to know the possible affiliation of those groups, but condemned their activity, because, as he said, "Savagery is not fitting."

The PAN [National Action Party] national delegate in Sonora, Norberto Corella, stated emphatically that the shock groups exist, and have displayed their force on several occasions, particularly on May Day. Their descriptions are known to everyone, because they were released by the press, he noted; but thus far no captures have been reported.

The chairman of the State Electoral Commission, Carlos Gamez Fimbre, for his part, announced that no group of that type has been detected which might be breaking the law, forcing a change in the security strategy that has been organized for the elections. He added: "Although there has been mention of this, we have not found any evidence."

Oscar Ramos, from PSUM, reported that these groups might be set up in two ways, but they adhere to the same position. On the one hand, the group which beat members of the left on May Day of this year has been fully identified as an

agency of the State Judicial Police; but, on the other, there are "los Micos," who have been in hiding for the past 2 years, and show up at crucial times.

Ramos said that the unique feature of the case is that the one which publicly claimed the offensive in the May Day attack was PAN itself.

Sonora has been a witness to organizations in the past which devastated the population when the latter attempted to express itself democratically. Faustino Felix created the so-called "Green Wave," which engaged in beating, robbing and raping during the 1967 disturbances and, some months later, when he was already governor, continued to use it against independent organizations.

The "los Micos" group emerged at precisely that time, and it was said that it was dependent on the then private secretary of Felix Serna. Heading that group was an individual with the surname Gallardo, who controlled right wing students, members of the populace and the Judicial Police, who were used to curb any type of expression. They carried out their attacks with chains and clubs.

Carlos Navarro, from the Socialist Movement, who is competing in second place on the state PSUM multiple federal deputy district candidate lists, attributed the formation of "los Micos" to groups of clergy, who advise them and take part in their training. Their fanaticism is so great that, before an attack, it has been proven that they receive a blessing and attend special Masses. Navarro added that Archbishop Carlos Quintero Arce is one of their advisers.

It is a fascist group whose leading slogan is to destroy communism, "because it is an evil for mankind," and they themselves attest to it in their signs. They disappeared formally on 16 July 1983, when they murdered Manuel Fierro; but there is evidence that they are currently in a state of complete reorganization. Not only are they at the university, but they also have branches, and are even associated with the state deputy prosecutor's office, he claimed.

Generally speaking, the leftist parties have agreed to denounce these forces, and they are making summonses to their members not to succumb to the provocation to which they will attempt to lead them on 7 July. This provocation might occur primarily in Ciudad Obregon and Hermosillo, where the PAN movement is more developed, according to PSUM.

2909

CSO: 3248/433

MEXICO

BISHOPS ACKNOWLEDGE MORE POVERTY, VIOLENCE TOUCHING POOR

Mexico City DOCUMENTACION E INFORMACION CATOLICA in Spanish 13 Jun 85 pp 429-430

[Easter Greetings from bishops of Northern Pastoral Region to members of the region's Grassroots Church Communities]

[Text] 1. At this Eastertide of 1985, we bishops of the Northern Pastoral Region wish to convey a pastoral greeting of encouragement and hope to all of you who are living your faith in Jesus Christ the liberator in the Grassroots Church Communities (CEB). This greeting recalls and attempts to fulfill the commitment which we bishops of Latin America assumed at Puebla. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we wrote to you on that occasion: "As pastors, we definitely wish to promote, guide and follow the CEB" (Puebla 1979, No 648). Faithful to that impetus from the Spirit of the Lord in the Church, we have in various ways followed the work of the CEB in our region.

2. In promoting, guiding and following the CEB, we have not sought to fulfill a document, but rather we are doing so out of fidelity to the Spirit of the Lord which has been enriching community life among the poor in recent years. As your pastors, we have noted with pleasure that the CEB in our region now constitute "a cause of joy and hope for the Church" (Puebla 1979, No 96).

3. Our greeting reaches you at this time when the cross of the poor has become heavier: the gap separating rich and poor in Mexico is widening day by day, without a sound, but severely and cruelly, as the daily slippage of our burden indicates. This reality has generated more violence for the oppressed: How many peasants in the central and southern sections of our country were persecuted and murdered during 1984! The social sin is continuing to become increasing pronounced. We urge you in the CEB to continue to intensify, in the light of the word of God, a clear, pastoral view of the reality, so that your actions and words may hasten the arrival of times of peace and justice.

4. So much pain and suffering have remained fruitless. We note that the people, albeit slowly, are uniting around ideas of truth and liberty. The emergence of new, honest, organizations of peasants, workers, teachers, colonia [community] residents and others (a veritable mustard seed) is a hope for all us men and women of good will who love justice and democracy. We want the CEB to be "the school

in which men capable of making history are educated, to effectively impel, with Christ, the history of our peoples in the direction of the Kingdom" (Puebla 1979, No 274).

5. As for the coexistence, in the CEB of our dioceses, we note that the vast majority of those belonging to them are poor. We experience with gratification their growing appreciation for the Bible and the Eucharist. With pleasure, we view the constant impetus to live as brothers. From the concern and sharing with one another there arises unity, a fruit of love. God is love (Jn 1: 4, 8). God is trinitarian unity and community. Brothers of the CEB, as you are creating the community, unity emerges concerning the word and the mission of Jesus; and so you are helping to make his Kingdom present. In fact, the CEB are the Church of Jesus, living and growing among the poor by the power of the Spirit.

6. We also wish to make some recommendations to you, so that the light of Christ may appear more intensely. We recommend that you not become closed inside your groups, but rather that you fervently seek the common welfare of your towns and colonias. Your action, through the "passage from less human to more human forms of living," as Pope Paul VI wisely remarked, reveals the arrival of the liberation from evil (Mt 25: 31-40). This liberation is already being accomplished in history, and will reach its completion at the end of time.

7. The witness of your lives and your missionary zeal are an evangelizing force which helps to dispel the confusion and division fostered by the Protestant sects. How many people, previously at peace and in unity, are now in conflict and divided, even within their own families! Let the CEB help the people not to lose, or to recover their Christian, historical consciousness: the why of their legitimate traditions; the why of the love for the saints, heroic men and women who offered all their strength and even their blood in the service of their people. These sects conceal behind their attacks on the saints and the Church the fact that they do not agree to love and become committed to their neighbor: "How can anyone love God, whom he does not see, if he does not love his brother, whom he does see?" (Jn 1: 4, 20).

8. We recommend that you continue working assiduously on "ecclesiality," as His Holiness John Paul II requested of the CEB of Brazil. The difficulties which sometimes make mutual unity and unity with your pastors difficult are not concealed from us. Let this not debilitate our ecclesiality. Let us seek zealously the desired renewal of the Church, based on the guidance from Vatican II ("Unitatis Redintegratio": Decree on Ecumenism, No 6), and in this way make it a fact that the CEB, "in communion with the bishop...have become focuses of evangelization and driving forces of liberation" (Puebla 1979, No 96).

9. We also recommend that you deeply intensify your rich spirituality. Without this intensification, the members of the CEB will be at the mercy of the changing trends of fashion. The solidity and stability of your Christian

commitment will stem from the assimilation of the spirituality of Medellin and Puebla. Promote retreats, courses, etc., that will lead to a better assimilation of this spirituality.

10. Brothers of the CEB: Let us continue ahead in the mission that the Lord entrusts to us today. May the difficulties and contradictions help us to purify our progress. Experience with special affection a love for the Virgin of Guadalupe, who chose Juan Diego to lend force to our country's evangelization. Today, she has chosen the CEB as a new Juan Diego.

11. We conclude by acknowledging and affirming once again what we said at Puebla: "The CEB have helped the Church to discover the evangelizing potential of the poor" (Puebla 1979, No 1147).

Adalberto Almedia y Merino,
Archbishop of Chihuahua

Manuel Talamas Camandari,
Bishop of Ciudad Juarez

Justo Goizueta Gridilla, O.A.R.,
Bishop Prelate of Ciudad Madera

Jose Llaguno Farias, S.J.,
Bishop Vicar Apostolic of Tarahumara

Hilario Chave Joya, M.N.M.,
Bishop Prelate of Nuevo Casas Grandes

2909
CSO: 3248/433

MEXICO

PORTRAITS DRAWN OF THREE CACIQUES SAID TO DOMINATE VERACRUZ

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 450, 17 Jun 85 pp 6-8

[Article by Jose Murillo]

[Text] Veracruz, Ver.--Talking about Toribio Gargallo, Cirilo Vazquez Lagunes and Francisco Hernandez means talking about three living legends. Each has created his own empire in the state. Each has his own history. Only one common denominator unites them: they share the state.

All three have spread their reputation throughout all of Veracruz territory. They are considered the most powerful "caciques" in the state. One controls the north, another the center and the other the southern zone.

All boast of being men dedicated to working, imposing peace in Veracruz, hobnobbing with public officials and police chiefs and, of course, of having killed. This, they explain, is when the situation has warranted it.

Toribio Garbollo is known as the most violent "cacique" in Veracruz. At his age of 34, he admits to feeling like a finished man.

When he was 17 years old, his life started to become associated with violence. Since then, every day, before leaving any of his residences, Toribio Gargallo kisses a silver crucifix which hangs around his neck. It is a ritual.

From nothing, Gargallo became the most respected gunman in the Cordoba-Tezonapa region.

The interview with "Toro" took place in a one story house that he has near the Cordoba industrial zone. Five men armed with R-16 submachine guns guard the entrance.

Two bullet scars on his face make him look like a sinister man. His right arm is deformed. It was the result of an attack which he sustained on 13 September 1983 in the Nueva Cordoba locality.

Those who attempted to murder him are no longer living. They paid dearly for their brazenness.

"Toribio, how many people have you killed?"

"My friend, I have lost count."

He admits to being a violent person. "I am violent because I don't spare myself. I don't order people killed; I myself kill them."

His reputation began when, at the age of 17, he killed off a family of "caciques" from San Pablo Ojo de Agua, in Omealca. "I eliminated all of them. They had killed my uncles. They wanted to kill me too, but they only managed to wound me."

Of medium height, husky and dark-skinned, Gargallo is the leading sugar cane supplier to the Motzorongo refinery.

"Do you share the state with other 'caciques'?"

"Each one respects his area. We have our own territories. Besides, we people like Felipe Lagunes, murdered on 13 May of this year, Pancho Hernandez and Ruben Rivera are necessary in this system. We are people who keep control and calmness in these areas."

"Have you had any problems with the authorities?"

"Never, on the contrary, I cooperate with the government. I am a friend of police chiefs and military commanders. They often request my services."

Gargallo is also known by the name of Juan Zavaleta. "I was once wounded in an ambush; they confined me in the civil hospital. One of my boys changed my name at the time of registering me, so that the police wouldn't question me. Since then I have used it, but I prefer to be called 'Toro.'"

"Have you killed for money?"

"Never. Politicians and wealthy people have come here to see me, offering me several million pesos to kill someone. I have sent them back where they came from. I don't need money to kill. I live in peace from the production of my 100 hectares. I don't need anything else."

"Names?"

Always protective of his men ("I have many enemies, I can't let them eliminate me so easily"), Toribio Gargallo says that the only thing which scares him is going to hell.

Concerning the violence in Veracruz, he thinks that, "At the most, it is someone wanting to get out of the pen." He stresses: "We promote peace. violence does not suit us."

The Hernandez family is another legend. It created its empire in the southwestern part of the state. Its economic and political power is concentrated in Tierra Blanca. Headed by the older brother, Francisco, the Hernandez family has implanted terror in that area. The authorities themselves and the police are subject to its orders.

Interviewed in the settlement of Vicente Camalote, Oaxaca, 2 kilometers from Tierra Blanca, Francisco Hernandez comments:

"They made us violent. They murdered my father a few years ago. We couldn't let the murderers go around loose. Yes, it was a personal vendetta."

It was the start of something that would later become a habit although, he explains: "They blame me for more killings than there really are."

"Don Pancho," as the civil authorities and his friends call him, is an extremely religious man. He ordered a cemetery built. In a chapel, Mass is celebrated every Sunday. The Byzantine style chapel was blessed by Cardinal Corripio Ahumada. "We are friends of the cardinal, and he has often paid us visits to celebrate Masses."

Resting in the private cemetery are the bodies of his father, two brothers and several relatives. The cemetery was enlarged, "because the family has grown, and it's better to have too much than too little."

A lover of weapons (he carries a 45-caliber pistol engraved in silver, showing on the upper part the independence campaign engraved in relief and the national flag on the sides of the handle), "Don Pancho" is the leading sugar cane producer in the region. He owns 3,000 hectares, supplying nearly two thirds of the production for the La Margarita refinery, owned by Pablo Machado.

"I am a personal friend of Don Pablo. He usually comes at Christmas time. He likes hunting. His main hobby is collecting elephant parts. He is a simple man."

Francisco Hernandez allows himself to be overcome by his sentimentality briefly, showing the reporter a Spanish style large wooden house with wide halls through which stable animals rove. It is the house in which his parents lived. He keeps it "out of mere sentimentality."

"It is said that you have burned entire villages and massacred people."

"Let them tell me which one; let them prove it to me. I have done more good than evil. I build highways. I donate animals to the communal farms. I try to get along with all groups. We work in the fields; that is our concern."

"Are people like you, considered to be big 'caciques,' necessary?"

"Of course, we simply succeed in balancing the calmness in the areas. We don't allow excesses; we don't tolerate abuses. And if anyone should try to act too clever around here, he must be given a lesson. There's no other way."

In southern Veracruz, the name Cirilo Vazquez Lagunes (no relation to the governor) commands respect. He was recently linked with the drug traffic, but nothing was proven against him. The recently dismissed state prosecutor, Pericles Namorado, had to swallow his accusations.

At the age of 32, Vazquez Lagunes has everything. He is a prominent businessman.

"I have been skillful in business. The only thing that they could accuse me of is being a large landholder. I buy enormous expanses of land and then sell them."

"Then why are there so many controversies about you?"

"I don't know. My business is in the rural area. I help communal farmers. I try to put an end to the injustices in the rural area. The peasants have always been exploited and deceived by many people, from government officials to bad leaders."

Cirilo Vazquez Lagunes always has a smile emerging on his lips. He likes to joke and be the center of attraction. His friends call him the "caudillo." He is an assiduous reader of newspapers. "To be properly informed is the duty of any human being."

"What do you think of the groups of 'caciques' who have divided up the state?"

"If they are tolerated, that is the problem of the authorities. I think that they are harmful to the society. Many of them are associated with the drug traffic. Here in the south, the 'cacique' system that operates is carried out through the labor union leaders. This region is a different world, a different sentiment."

"To what do you attribute so much violence in Veracruz?"

"To the social inequalities; owing to a certain type of 'cacique' system. The people are by now tired of being exploited and of being deceived. But violence is not confined to Veracruz; violence is a national disease. And it exists because of social injustice."

Unlike Toribio Gargallo and Francisco Hernandez, Vazquez Lagunes lives without fear of being murdered at any time. Nor does he go about accompanied by gunmen.

"I don't need gunmen. I do have many friends willing to split their hide for me. I have the backing of many communal farms and of all the cattlemen's associations in Veracruz, and not under any pressure; simply because I serve them, because I help them insofar as is possible."

"Yet people have a different image of you."

"The wave of violence in the state is blamed on groups such as yours. What truth is there in that?"

"Friend, don't believe it. The wave of violence that exists in Veracruz and Oaxaca doesn't suit us."

Nevertheless, Francisco Hernandez doesn't deny that the men working for him do as they please in certain settlements. "I'm not saying that any fellow can go too far. But we immediately discipline him. I don't put up with criminal conduct."

The shady legend that has been contrived around him personally is vast. It seems to have come out of the western tales, in which the law of the revolver was the one imposing terms.

A Oaxacan newspaper published the report that Don Pancho had murdered over 900 people. Regarding this charge, he responds: "Not so many, a mere rumor."

He also denies the story that many corpses have been thrown into wells. He says: "They are all fertilizing the land; mere fertilizer."

His relations with public officials is well known. And so that there may be no doubt, he takes out three envelopes containing photos in which he is shown beside municipal presidents and governors of Oaxaca and Veracruz.

"Since I live on the border between the two states, I have good relations with both governments. I am a friend of Governor Agustin Acosta Lagunes, and of all the police officials in the present government; I even help them. I provided people for Evaristo Quintana, current municipal president of the municipality of Acatlan, to paint propaganda and some other things. It's good to have friends in the government."

Concerning his reputation as a drug trafficker, he notes that those are unfounded accusations, commenting:

"We have put an end to many who were engaged in growing marijuana and poppies in this entire region. I don't like people to become addicted. What I actually do is drink. I like to visit the bars, but not to get involved in drugs."

"Do you regret what you have done?"

"Not at all. Everything in life has a reason. If one has destroyed people, it is because they deserved it. Better to have them cry in the homes of others than in one's own."

He goes on to say: "I have an easy conscience. My faith will save me from any unpleasant incident."

Sentimentality again comes over Francisco Hernandez. "What good are so many things friend? In the end, you can wind up going to the Devil, anyway. What good are so many foolish things?"

"People always talk too much. All they need to say is that I control the entire south."

"That is believed."

"In this zone, the 'cacique' system is oil. And it will last until things change. The oil leaders will continue to exploit the workers. Look at how Francisco Balderas lives and how 'El Trampas' lives. The fact is that no one has had dealings with me except for the peasants."

He comments: "All they need to do is compare me with Rafael Caro Quintero," and bursts out laughing.

The conversation with Vazquez Lagunes at his ranch in El Mangal, Acayucan, enters the realm of politics.

At the outset, he claimed to be an Institutional man, a member of the party in power. This status did not prevent him from being critical in his comments about the coming elections in the state.

"The situation will become difficult if the government tries to impose individuals who are not identified with the people. Ixhuatlan was the first summons. The people will not longer put up with deception, nor will they allow frauds. The greatest challenge for this government will be to appoint a suitable person in each locality. There cannot be any mistakes. If there are, violence will erupt."

He avoids discussing his private life, repeating: "My only goal is to put an end to the centuries of backwardness in the Veracruz rural areas."

Vazquez Lagunes describes himself as a defender of the peasants. Sometimes he also mentions his livestock, which are his hobby. He recently purchased the newspaper DIARIO DE SOTAVENTO, with which, he says, he will attempt to end the injustices, especially in the locations where the oil companies are in control

Considered by some to be a "cacique," and by others as a benefactor, Vazquez Lagunes is also a legend in Veracruz.

2909

CSO: 3248/432

MEXICO

BRIEFS

PRI WOMEN RAISE OBJECTION--Yesterday, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] women protested because of a reduction in their access to public office (the number of candidates to form the forthcoming 53rd Legislature is 27, whereas in the one about to conclude there were 31 female deputies, and also, in the Federal District, out of five only three female delegates are left); and they demanded priority attention to the delegations from Xochimilco, Milpa Alta, Cuajimalpa and Coyoacan, because they are high risk areas as a result of their specific mortality rate. The foregoing occurred on the second day of activities of the Evaluation Forum entitled "Transformation in the Lives of Women and the Family in Mexico City, 1975-85," which is taking place under the auspices of the Federal District Department at the National Medical Center auditorium. Angeles Gonzalez Gamio demanded genuine equality of opportunities for women on all levels of public administration, and expressed her displeasure at the reduction in the number of female candidates to form the next legislature in the selection of candidates made by the PRI. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Jun 85 p 25-A] 2909

CSO: 3248/432

NICARAGUA

IMPROPER STORAGE, MARKETING WASTES POTATOES, ONIONS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 May 85 p 6

[Text] Lack of coordination and planning on the part of various state institutions is causing problems for potato and onion growers and consumers alike.

Large quantities of both products are going to waste, while retailers are unable to provide a steady supply for consumers. Some 40 percent of the harvest could be lost.

Enough of both crops was grown to supply the whole country, with a surplus left over for export, but the agencies responsible for domestic marketing did not facilitate distribution within the country or guarantee that the surplus would be exported.

A problem of similar magnitude occurred last year, but in spite of that experience, onion and potato growers still have not received an adequate response.

Salvador Escoto, representative of 400 onion growers from 20 cooperatives, the majority from Sebaco, said that both UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] and the National Development Bank are demanding production quotas from the growers, "but when it is time to market the produce, we are faced with administrative negligence, ineptitude and bureaucracy."

The harvest was supposed to be purchased by PROCOMER [Promoter for the Marketing of Perishables], the enterprise of the MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], which in turn was supposed to distribute it to ENAPER [National Perishables Enterprise]--formerly DISPER [presumably Distributors of Perishables]--of MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] for marketing within the country. The Ministry of Foreign Trade (MICE) was supposed to export the surplus production.

Escoto claimed that MICOIN did not follow proper procedures for purchasing perishable goods, explaining that ENAPER contracted to buy 42,000 quintals [quintal-46 kilograms] of potatoes and almost 9,000 quintals of onions, valued at 20 million cordobas, from the most recent crop.

On the other hand, MICE contracted with PROCOMER for another 6,300 quintals of onions worth 3.5 million cordobas, to be exported.

However, MICOIN did not pay the 20 million cordobas to PROCOMER on time. Meanwhile, PROCOMER had received on consignment the amount of produce it had contracted for, and turned it over to DISPER. The latter agency had so many problems handling the produce that a large percentage was lost.

Norman Jiron, the ENAPER official in charge of these matters, claims that the PROCOMER account was paid through the Ministry of Finance. However, PROCOMER officials charge that it was a delayed payment which prevented them from making additional purchases from the growers.

For her part, Lesbia Carrasquilla, the MICOIN spokeswoman, said that the ministry "has not prevented the marketing of perishables at any time, since it has been decreed that these products may be bought and sold on the free market."

Added Carrasquilla: "We hope the exporters of onions and potatoes will trade them for imported articles that are useful to the productive sector."

The onion and potato growers pointed out that MICOIN's decision to allow this produce to be bought and sold on the free market came too late, when part of the crop had already been lost.

Salvador Escoto reported that they have explained to the state institutions that they must sell the onion crop in order to pay off their loans to the National Development Bank. He also took the opportunity to point out that the Sebaco BND [National Development Bank] is delaying the necessary financing.

He stated that, since the proper institutions find it impossible to guarantee domestic marketing and exporting--and since MICOIN has already authorized it--the produce will now be turned over to private wholesalers, who will sell it to middlemen until the onions and potatoes finally reach the consumers at prohibitive prices.

The National Financial System approved a last minute 50 million cordoba loan for the present crop, but the financing was not expedited, despite constant appeals to the National Food Program (PAN) and PROCOMER about the matter.

The Sebaco Onion Growers Committee president also pointed out the negative behavior of MICE officials, who attached no importance to the exportation of perishables.

"If MICE had understood the problem clearly, they could easily have exported some 100,000 quintals of Yellow Granex onions," charged Escoto, "but they never took the trouble to do so, which means fewer foreign reserves for the country."

Asked about the matter, Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca stated through his secretary, Alba Mayorga, that "we are working on the plan for exporting perishable crops from the present harvest."

He claimed that this institution's loss of 6,279 quintals of onions was due to the fact that last year's harvest was not ready by the date planned, so that when PROCOMER consigned the onions from this harvest to MICE, they were already in such bad condition that they had to be dumped into the ocean."

Ronald Abaunza, director of PROCOMER, said that factors such as delayed financing on the part of the National Financial System have placed limits on the marketing of the current crop.

He gave assurances that efforts are being made to prevent the onions from going to waste.

He warned that there will be many problems with the potato harvest--estimated to be about 300,000 quintals--due to lack of adequate storage facilities. Potatoes have to be stored at a constant temperature of 5 degrees centigrade.

He added that there are no proper warehouses in Nicaragua. The only facility that has refrigeration is a small warehouse at the main market which holds 3,000 quintals, but the refrigeration doesn't work very well and PROCOMER would have to pay 120,000 cordobas a month to rent it.

Abaunza related three previous experiences his agency has had in storing potatoes: the first was with the "apante" 83-84 harvest. Some 46,000 quintals were gathered, and 41,000 of these were consigned to DISPER (now ENAPER), which allowed more than 50 percent of them to spoil, due to lack of refrigerated storage and inefficient distribution procedures.

The second experience was with the September-October harvest of that same year, when some 12,000 quintals were stored, but because the potatoes were all wet when the growers delivered them, the storage problems were aggravated.

The third "unfortunate incident" occurred last year, when 40,000 quintals were stored in tobacco warehouses and 30 percent of the crop went to waste.

Abaunza recognizes that there are no adequate procedures to control the quality of the potatoes. Almost all of the produce PROCOMER buys is packed in the country by the growers themselves, "which prevents us from exerting any kind of quality control."

Finally, he said that losses could be avoided with the current harvest just by exporting part of the crop and giving incentives to a campaign to increase domestic consumption.

8631

CSO: 3248/408

31 July 1985

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

SUMO LEADERS ELECTED--One hundred twenty delegates from ten Sumo communities gathered for the Sixth General Assembly of the Sumo Indian tribe on 11 and 12 May 1985 at the Espanolina-Umbra community in Mina Rosita township. The National Association of Sumo Communities (SUKAWALA) held the sixth assembly for the purpose of reorganizing this ethnic group of the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast. The Sukawala national executive board was chosen with the following members: Murphy Almendarez Robinson, secretary general; Livingston Frank Lopez, treasurer; William Frank Lopez, community development secretary; Aurelia Patterson Fenily, legal secretary; Timoteo Patron Gonzalez, international relations secretary; and Hanss Sebastian Macckli, education and cultural secretary. This Sumo organization is working on the following objectives, among others: achieve national and international recognition for the Sumo people; participate in efforts by national and international groups to unify the Sumo family; negotiate ownership of the land and national resources with the government; obtain recognition of the Sumo language as one of the country's official languages; secure official sanction for the Sumo bilingual and bicultural project; obtain equal representation at the deliberations on the question of autonomy; win an active role in government decisions concerning the Sumo people; win an active role in various government operations and in community development projects and programs; promote training courses for native activists; achieve good relations with activists of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] of the region on the basis of mutual respect and trust; promote the traditions and cultural values of the Sumo people; and maintain relations with other indigenous communities and national and international groups to foster solidarity. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 85 pp 1, 12] 9015

NORTH KOREAN DONATION--A donation of \$500 thousand from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation. This donation was received by Roger Vasquez, coordinator of the Technical Council of the Ministry from O Sung Juan, Korean ambassador to Nicaragua at a special ceremony. The donation consists of 1,000 tons of urea for agriculture and 500 tons of steel to help the metallurgical industry. Ambassador O Sung Juan stated that the aid from the people and government of Korea was an expression of revolutionary internationalism and proof of solidarity with Nicaragua. He also condemned the economic blockade imposed by Mr. Reagan and described this policy as a flagrant violation of international law and rules. Also attending the ceremony were Hugo Alvarez, interim director of PROAGRO; Luis Lacayo, director of Technical Material Supply of the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation; Gilberto Guzman, vice minister of industry; and Ki Bong Ik, commercial counselor of the Korean embassy. [Excerpts] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 May 85 p 4] 9015

PERU

SPOKESMEN FOR SIX PARTIES SKETCH LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, GOALS

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 30 Jun, 1 Jul 85

[30 Jun 85 p A-4]

[Text] Luis Alberto Sanchez

[Question] 1. The Aprista Party has a majority in both chambers, something which will facilitate its legislative endeavor. Has APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] prepared a list of bills to be submitted during the first few days of the new regime? If so, could you say something in advance about those bills?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: We are preparing the first bills that we intend to submit, and they relate almost entirely to the economic and social situation. We think that there are some laws left in abeyance which have our approving vote; so, it will be easy to update them and bring them to their conclusion. On the other hand, we deem it essential to reconsider the laws on electoral procedures; hence, it will be necessary to abrogate those provisions which were introduced into the electoral laws by the Popular Action [AP] majority, and which definitely represent electoral reforms that are not only illegal, but unconstitutional, because they have not been processed in the manner stipulated by the Constitution, such as those making all the votes cast valid and those relating to the preferential vote, which unconstitutionally violates the rights of the illiterate. Furthermore, the law on incompatibilities, the one on expropriation, the one on regionalization and other similar laws may be ready in a week or 2.

[Question] 2. The slowness of the congressional work in the legislative chambers has been blamed on its flawed regulations. Is that comment valid? What changes should be made in the regulations?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: I think that the slowness in the legislative procedures should be blamed both on the regulations and the procedures of the boards of directors. In the first place, there is a fundamental difference between the regulations for deputies and senators. The former date back to 1853, and the latter are 130 years younger; but both require a substantial amendment. As for the conduct of the board of directors, reducing the first hour to just that,

an hour or a little more, and starting the session on time, will produce 100 percent more legislative work.

This was proven in the 1966-67 Senate Legislature and in the Constituent Assembly from January to July 1979. It is a matter of good management and firmness.

[Question] 3. Congress has the equipment for voting with electronic control. Will it be used starting in July?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: I don't know anything about that. I heard tell of it 4 years ago, but the supposed electronic equipment never went into operation, and in the Senate there is not even a power generating set in operation that would make the lighting independent, as should be the case.

[Question] 4. It is claimed that our Congress suffers from too many speeches. There is a great deal of talk, and politeness makes it necessary to tolerate excesses. Is this a delicate problem?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: I would refer to the answer on the second point. It is a failing that we must correct for the sake of the nation's needs.

[Question] 5. Congress lacks technical advisers, suitable libraries and publications services. There is no computer service either. Are all these comments valid? Could corrections be made?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: All that is factual. Up until 1968, we had many excellent advisers. They were eliminated by the military dictatorship and by the subsequent favoritism. It is interesting to note that the Journals of Deputies' Debates for 1966-68 and from 1980 to 1985 have not been published; on the other hand, the Journals of Senate Debates are missing from 1966 to 1968, but their texts were published from 1980 to 1983. Despite the fact that the standing commission agreed on it, there has been no publication of the Journal of Debates of the Principal Constitution Commission of the Constituent Assembly, which is the genuine, fundamental source for interpreting the Constitution and the state. I don't yet understand the "timidity" with which the officials responsible for this publication have acted. There was also an efficient and sufficient team of stenographers which cannot be completely replaced by the tape recorders: We are proving this by making arduous corrections in the poorly transcribed texts from the taped versions. We need a deepseated, rapid change in this regard, as well as to hire advisers for the ruling commission who are qualified by their ability.

[Question] 6. Fifty-four years ago, you first entered the Constituent Assembly. You have been a member of all Congresses with the exception of the one in office from 1950 to 1956. Could an overall assessment be made of the Peruvian legislative institution in a few words?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: Not only was I not a member of the Congress which came into existence during General Odria's military dictatorship, but I was not a

member of the one at the time of the second Prado government either. During the election of the latter, APRA was an outlawed party, and I was exiled. If I could add the years of forced absence, I would now have, not counting the 12 years of military dictatorship, something like 40 years of congressional participation, and in any case no fewer than 30 of legal election. I have pursued my legislative career with passion, and I think that there is a great difference between the Constituent Congress of 1931 and the 1945 Congress, and those which have followed.

I shall mention only the names from those first legislatures: Victor Andres Belaunde, Jose Matias Manzanilla, Alberto Arca Parro, Manuel Seoane, Antenor Orrego, Jose Angel Escalante, Carlos Manuel Cox, Fernando Tola, Alberto Ulloa Sotomayor, Luis Heysen, Jose Antonio Encina, Juan Arce Arnao, Fernando Belaunde Terry, Guillermo Luna Cartland, Luciano Castillo, Emilio Romero, Erasmo Roca, Cesar Pardo Acosta, Alberto Delgado, Victor J. Guevara, Francisco Pastor, Luis de las Casas, Climaco Tamayo, Vera Carrillo, Carlos E. Godoy, Gustavo Neuhaus, Col Cesar Enrique Pardo, Oscar Arrus, Felipe Alva y Alva, Ricardo Temoche, Arturo Sabroso, Manuel Diez Canseco and Jose Galvez; and I shall not enumerate more because the list would always be incomplete.

I don't think that programs and regulations suffice; personalities are required as well.

[Question] 7. What should be done and what should be avoided in order to achieve good legislative work during the next 5 years?

Luis Alberto Sanchez: I have stated this previously: to restrict the period for motions and petitions, and for the handling and reading of records; to intensify the work of the ruling commissions; to be punctual about the schedule for sessions; to hold small weekly coordination meetings among various groups to coordinate the holding of sessions; and to agree on a rational period of time for the debates to last, without too much oratory and without resorting to the unpleasant congressional cutting off.

Enrique Elias Laroza

[Question] 1. You have been mentioned as a leader or spokesman for your party, PPC [Popular Christian Party] in the Chamber of Deputies. Is that assertion correct?

Enrique Elias Laroza: The leadership of a congressional group is not procured by appointment, but rather as a result of the prestige that a person might gain as a result of his congressional work. I shall be among the "new ones" in the Chamber of Deputies, and I shall expend all my effort on performing my job in the best possible manner. We should not forget, either, that the spokesman

and principal leader of the PPC's group of deputies has been and will be a man of extraordinary quality: I am referring to Roberto Ramirez del Villar.

[Question] 2. Will PPC operate exclusively in a partisan manner, or as Democratic Convergence? Has any mechanism been planned in this respect?

Enrique Elias Laroza: The Electoral Law expressly states that the party alliances end automatically upon the conclusion of the electoral process. In other words, Democratic Convergence has ceased to exist, not as a result of the decision of one or another group, but rather based on the express mandate of the law. In Congress, we shall act solely and exclusively as the PPC congressional group. Obviously, that does not preclude joint action with other political groups, based primarily on affinities with respect to programs, principles and political conduct.

[Question] 3. How would you describe the PPC position?

Enrique Elias Laroza: We are, categorically, an opposition party. The Aprista Party, which upholds doctrinal and program principles different from and incompatible with ours, has won.

We are obliged to nearly a million citizens who voted for our Christian Social principles and not for those of APRA. We shall put up a constructive opposition, but it will definitely be an opposition, which is essential to any democratic system.

Our voice will be heard constantly, citing the differences between the offers and the accomplishments of the next government. We shall also indicate all the disappointments that the people of Peru may suffer from any action of the government that we deem negative for the country's interests. Now then, constructive opposition also means contributing ideas, and not fighting the plans of the majority which might be beneficial to the nation.

[Question] 4. Does PPC have any legislative bills ready now?

Enrique Elias Laroza: We are working on a group of bills, mainly in the area of the constitutional provisions that have not yet been implemented in concrete laws. That will be our leading contribution. Furthermore, there is a group of bills that we consider urgent, on various topics. We shall contribute them too, but this doesn't mean that we are not aware of our minority status in Congress.

Ernesto Lanata Piaggio

[Question] 1. You are an independent senator elected on the CODE slate. How will you operate: like the "lone ranger"?

Ernesto Lanata Piaggio: Although not officially elected, I am an independent senator. This doesn't mean that my work in Congress cannot be done in accordance with the principles of defense of the private sector and an improvement in

the national economy that are shared by the representatives of the Popular Christian Party and some other members of Congress. Although I have termed myself "thelone ranger," an image of justice from the American films, I believe that we shall carry out this work in solidarity.

[Question] 2. What should the main concern of the Congress be? To reactivate the economy?

Ernesto Lanata Piaggio: Congress should unquestionably reactivate the economy, based essentially on achieving a fiscal balance. Secondly, it should devote itself to passing a law of genuine national usefulness that will benefit the entire sector on which it is intended to legislate, avoiding the passage of laws that might be the result of influence from self-interested sectors.

[Question] 3. You are extensively linked with the business institutions. Will you act in cooperation with them?

Ernesto Lanata Piaggio: I hold the chairmanship of the National Association of Industries' Institute of Economic and Social Studies; as such, many of my statements will be a result of the studies of the aforementioned institute, which does not merely investigate the situation of the industrial sector; rather, its research includes the entire national productive sector, and in this respect, I shall attempt to indicate the essential requirements for the reactivation of the entire national productive sector.

Santiago Pedraglio

[Question] 1. In your view, will IU [United Left] have a spokesman in each of the Legislative Chambers?

Santiago Pedraglio: We think that there should be a United Left congressional faction or cell, consisting of all the congressmen elected from that front, which should operate in accordance with internal regulations of a democratic nature. This plenum, comprised of the combined United Left congressmen, should in turn be divided into a faction of deputies and another one of senators, comprised of all the congressmen from each of the respective chambers.

In this arrangement one spokesman per chamber is geared to our proposal, and this must be a monthly or bimonthly rotating assignment, with the same criteria as that of the so-called acting coordinator of the IU National Steering Committee.

Logically, the spokesmen who begin the rotating cycle should be Javier Diez Canseco and Agustin Haya, both on the list of senators and that of deputies from Lima.

[Question] 2. Will PUM [Mariateguist Unified Party] submit any bill on terrorism?

Santiago Pedraglio: We shall submit bills to immediately deal with the process of pacification of the country; the response to the institutional violence,

which has as ingredients, first the government's policy, and then the action of Sendero [Shining Path], requires primarily a political solution, including the establishment of a temporary regional civic government in the Emergency Zone and subordination of the Armed Forces' presence in the region. Rapid economic support, especially to the peasantry, punishment of those responsible for massacres and general amnesty are essential complementary measures.

[Question] 3. What will the Mariateguist Unified Party do to avoid a constant rise in prices of goods and services?

Santiago Pedraglio: The essence of the proposal is that we must put an end to a policy which is recessive, inflationary and based on a sell-out to boot.

It is imperative to devise an Emergency Plan that will have to be accepted by the combined social movement at a national preparatory meeting called for 19-20 July, as well as by the United Left's congressional group.

This plan must include price controls and selective subsidies for staple foods, as well as services, especially those controlled by the state. There must be control of exchange, an Emergency Program for low-cost food, low-cost eating establishments, a general rise in wages and salaries and a financial policy that will reduce bank interest.

Also required are an end to the policy of devaluation, a cut in indirect taxes and a rise in the direct ones. Finally, it has become unpostponable to declare agriculture in a state of emergency, based on the National Agrarian Accord, approved in the CUNA [Sole Agrarian Central Organization].

[Question] 4. Will IU coordinate its congressional endeavor with Dr Alfonso Barrantes, chairman of that group?

Santiago Pedraglio: The coordination with the chairman is obvious, but it seems to us that this coordination should also be intensified between the parties and independent sectors of IU; because, from our standpoint, it is imperative to consolidate IU's institutionalality, its regular operation, collective leadership and respect for the diversity of ideological positions, based on the spirit and program of the United Front which have been approved.

This orientation is binding on everyone, from the chairman and the National Steering Committee to the rank and file members. All this makes it imperative to form, as soon as possible, a new expanded steering committee, during August, which will make the assessment of the election campaigns, establish the tactics against the Aprista government and make readjustments that will strengthen the front's organizational existence.

[1 Jul 85 p 4-a]

[Text] The potential senator-reelect representing Popular Action, Gaston Acurio Velarde, and the also potential deputy-elect representing United Left, Gustavo

Espinoza Montesinos, describe, in the following interviews, the positions that their respective groups will assume in the coming National Congress, to be installed on 28 July.

Gaston Acurio V. (AP)

[Question] Senator Gaston Acurio Velarde, you are one of the potential senators-elect of Popular Action which, on this occasion, will be a minority in the new Congress. What position will your party assume regarding the Aprista majority?

Gaston Acurio V.: It will be an overseeing position, at all times cooperating for the country's development. We hope that the Aprista government will be able to put its government program into effect during the first year. In that interval, there will be nothing but a position of suspense on our part, waiting for it to achieve and complete its programs.

[Question] Senator, does this mean that Popular Action will give PAP [Aprista Party of Peru] a year's truce to succeed in materializing its government plans?

Gaston Acurio V.: The president of the republic himself has already said that a year of marking time is necessary to enable PAP to carry out its government programs. Then we shall begin examining and reviewing the results of those programs, in order to ascertain the position we shall have to assume in the next Congress.

[Question] Meanwhile, Senator, AP will not put up harsh opposition to PAP?

Gaston Acurio V.: No, our opposition will be of a constructive type, aimed at achieving the country's economic reactivation, which is what all of us good Peruvians want. This is a point that we shall stress, for the good of the country.

[Question] In this context, how does AP think such an economic reactivation should be achieved?

Gasto Acurio V.: The economic reactivation must necessarily be accomplished on the basis of increased production which, in turn, must be prioritized, according to sectors. The Constitution itself stipulates that priority must be given to agriculture. There can be no strong economy without a solid agriculture, and that is what the Belaunde Terry government has attempted to do, with the creation of more land for cultivation, through the Jungle Marginal system and irrigation, as well as legal and credit backing to the farmers. All this must be supplemented by industrial, mining and fishing production. A positive reaction has already been noted in the latter sector.

[Question] Which bills do you intend to submit in this legislature?

Gaston Acurio V.: There will be five of us senators and, with the inclusion of FBT [Fernando Belaunde Terry], as senator for life, we shall total six; Hence, our chances of putting our bills into effect are quite relative. But that won't

prevent us from continuing to submit bills that are important to the country; and included among them are the ones associated with the nation's economic reactivation, which all of us want to have achieved.

[Question] Senator Acurio, you remarked that your party would put up a constructive opposition to PAP. Do you think that, during the regime which has ended, that party observed an inflexible opposition, not allowing the materialization of bills of importance to the country, such as the strike law or the one on public enterprises, among others?

Gaston Acurio V.: I would not say that they have prevented the completion of the bills, but there was an obviously inflexible opposition from the very moment that FBT took over the government. That is true, and it can be proven from the first congressional debates. Nevertheless, I could not specifically identify those laws which were not passed for this reason; because, for example, in the case of the law on public enterprises, it was not just the opposition, for we ourselves (AP) did not achieve agreement on it.

Gustavo Espinoza M.

[Question] Will IU have a spokesman in the chambers?

[Answer] The working mechanism of the IU congressional faction is currently being subjected to a careful study. The important thing is to point out that it will have a rotating coordinator who will amalgamate the contributions from the congression of IU's various parties and from the independents and spokesmen who are qualified to deal with the issues being debated, based on the specialization of each representative.

[Question] What will the Communist Party's position be in the Congress. Will it cooperate with APRA, or will it put up opposition to it?

[Answer] As in all matters, we Communist congressmen will deal with the concrete reality. If the Aprista government proves consistent with its electoral promises, if it undertakes, with initiative, the solution to the problems of the popular masses, if it respects the workers' rights and conquests, if it completely defends the national sovereignty, if it liberates our country from the domination of the monopolies or if it refuses to apply the IMF's dictates against the people and if it has a patriotic, democratic and anti-imperialist position, it would unquestionably have the backing not only of IU and PC, but also of all our people. If, on the other hand, it yields to the old conciliatory tendencies of APRA and capitulates to the enemies of our fatherland, its policy will be forcefully and resolutely resisted, and that orientation will be combated.

[Question] Will PC propose a bill on terrorism?

[Answer] It will unquestionably propose a bill concerning the country's pacification. This pactification stems from the need to combat terrorism, the dirty war, the unjustifiable and brutal government repression, the indiscriminate

persecution and the terrorist activity attributed to Shining Path or carried out by it.

In our view, the distinction between what constitutes a really revolutionary methodology and what comprises a terrorist tactic is absolutely clear.

The world's experience has shown us that terrorism can be from the right or the left; but, in any case, on the part of presumed leftist organizations, it is used, rather, by the traditional right and by financial capital to strike and divide the revolutionary forces.

[Question] What will you do to halt the constant rise in prices of goods and services?

[Answer] The first thing that must be done, in the social area, is to protect the very subsistence of the Peruvian people, allocating for the most fundamental uses the amount that is currently being spent to pay the foreign debt and its interest.

That will make it possible to substantially change the directions of the economic policy and pave the way for democratic, patriotic changes in the context of which it will be possible to halt the constant rise in food prices.

So long as the guidelines of the Monetary Fund are applied and the interests of the multinational companies are protected, and so long as the privileges of financial capital are preserved, nothing can be done for the benefit of the country and the workers.

The essential thing is not to lose sight of the fact that the country's major adversary is North American imperialism, and that the crisis cannot be seriously dealt with without overcoming its resistance.

2909

CSO: 3348/796

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

REVIEW OF REGROUPING UNDER WAY IN OPPOSITION LABOUR PARTY

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Jun 85 p 6

[Text]

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Tuesday (CANA) — The opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SLP) has begun the arduous task of regrouping after its disastrous showing in general elections here a year ago this month.

The party started its trek to recovery with a convention in May at which delegates opted for a mixture of youth and experience in its hierarchy, and proposed specific measures aimed at recovering the widespread support it has traditionally enjoyed, but which deserted it in the elections.

British-trained lawyer, Lee Moore was re-elected political leader of the party, thereby, at least temporarily, quashing rumours that he planned to retire following his personal defeat at the polls.

Mr. Moore was badly beaten by a newcomer from the ruling Peoples' Action Movement (PAM), woman lawyer, Ms. Constance Mitchum. It was a defeat attributed as much to a generalised swing away from the labour party as to re-drawn constituency boundaries.

Mr. Moore's new deputy is a young University of the West Indies-trained lawyer, Henry Brown, who is a nominated Labour member of Parliament and who party sources describe as ambitious and attractive.

Mr. Brown replaced Mr. E. St. John Payne, a long-serving Labour stalwart, and one of the many candidates defeated in the general elections in which PAM won six of the 11 seats, and its then coalition partner, the Nevis Reformation Movement (NRP), won three, leaving just two to Labour.

One of the two Labour MPs, Charles Mills, was made party chairman, an almost ceremonial position in a structure in which the political leader exercises most of the power.

One analyst described Mills' election to the chairmanship as a "balancing of interests" between those who demanded a

new image for the party and pushed Brown as number two, and others who saw the need for some measure of stability.

Mr. Payne declined nomination for any political office, telling delegates the time had come for new faces, in the party, but prompting speculation among some observers that he may have his sights set on establishing himself in the hierarchy of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union (SKTLU) — the labour branch of the party.

Mr. Payne is currently first vice president of the union. Mr. Moore is president.

Mr. Payne is one of two Labourites whose roles in the party appear to be diminishing in the aftermath of the election defeat.

The other is Mr. Fitzroy Bryant, who like Mr. Payne was a government minister in the last Labour government and who — again like Mr. Payne — was beaten at the polls.

Mr. Bryant's position is further complicated by the EC\$75 000 libel award made to Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds against him, as a result of an article published in the Labour Party's newspaper in May 1981.

The libel award may not in itself have represented the end of the political road for Mr. Bryant, according to one analyst. The end actually came sometime before when the government amended the Constitution specifically forbidding people not born in the island from qualifying to become prime minister.

Mr. Bryant, born in Antigua but brought to St. Kitts by his parents when still very young, was, perhaps, the first casualty of the amendment.

After he was admitted to practise at the bar in nearby Antigua there were rumours here that he may have been considering moving back to his native land.

But sources close to Mr. Bryant said that while he will assist an Antiguan law

firm, he will continue to reside in St. Kitts.

The shifting aside of both Mr. Payne and Mr. Bryant must have been welcomed by those within the Labour Party who see the need to reconstruct it with new faces.

The most significant new entry into the hierarchy, of course is Mr. Brown, whose political fortunes, party sources said, are rising.

One high level member of the party described him as being both "ambitious and very able," and there now appears to be some consensus that he is Mr. Moore's logical successor should the question of Mr. Moore's retirement arise.

Mr. Brown has won substantial support in the party, building what some sources describe as a significant following, particularly among younger members who see for him a pivotal role in rebuilding and reshaping the party.

The party has already begun to devote some attention to the specifics of this rebuilding process.

Measures being considered include hiring full-time organisers to work on the party's behalf at the grassroots level.

Another important step being considered is a survey among young people to determine their needs and problems, so the party could develop a programme designed specifically to meet these needs.

CSO: 3298/863

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

SIMMONDS' POSITION ON REGIONAL SECURITY ISSUE CITED

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 15 Jun 85 p 12

[Text] The Rt. Hon. Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis said this week that the idea of a Common Army for the Caribbean Region, does not find favour with his Government.

The Prime Minister says that St. Kitts/Nevis is part of the Regional Security System and the parameters for that system are well established. Prime Minister Simmonds says that his Government is carrying out its part for the Regional Security System, and as such, the S.S.U., the Special Services Unit, is being trained to function as part of that body.

He says that the country will soon receive a Coast Guard Vessel, to be used as part of the Security Body. He further stated that Government intends to adhere to the parameters of the Security System, to which it has agreed.

The Prime Minister's comments were made in light of the recent call for a Caribbean Army, made by Antigua's Deputy P.M. Lester Bird. Since then Dominica's Eugenia Charles has rejected the idea for such an Army.

Prime Minister Simmonds Left St. Kitts for Grenada on Wednesday afternoon, to attend a meeting of OECS Heads of Government.

CSO: 3298/863

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

MORE DETAILS ON, REACTION TO BURNING OF PAM HEADQUARTERS

Report on Blaze

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 8 Jun 85 p 1

[Excerpts] On Thursday evening people all over St. Kitts and Nevis were talking in shocked and disgusted tones about the tragic fire earlier that day, that has virtually destroyed the Headquarters of the People's Action Movement. It is seriously believed by many, that the fire was wilful and politically motivated arson. The members, friends, and well-wishers of the People's Action Movement (PAM), the co-ruling Party in St. Kitts and Nevis, have for sixteen (16) years regarded PAM headquarters as a true symbol of their long and fierce struggle to preserve freedom and democracy in this country.

When PAM, with NRP, was sworn in to replace the stagnant Labour Government, Labour went wild with envy and grudge. Thursday's fire was Labour's fifth attempt on PAM headquarters. But what was destroyed must be replaced by something bigger and better. It can and will! Meanwhile, THE DEMOCRAT thanks the courageous and hardworking firemen and volunteers (especially Moonlight!) for working tirelessly to bring the fire under control.

Arson Speculation

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 8 Jun 85 p 2

[Editorial]

[Excerpt] The building is gone. Though the structure is still standing. PAM International Headquarters has been consumed by fire. From the outside it looks relatively unscathed, just scorched in spots. But inside it is gutted and charred, a horrible, sickening, blackened carcass. The spacious grounds in which the building is located remain as majestic as ever, but the building is a total write-off!

From the moment the alarm went up, the crowds came and stared at the clouds of smoke and fire billowing lustily out of doomed building. The curiosity-seekers mingled with those who seemed transfixed with horror and shock. Others, too build to see, did not contain their indifference and their glee.

On the night after the Court House and Public Library Building was burnt to the ground, a volunteer watchman stationed inside PAM Headquarters surprised and almost caught a man in the darkened yard outside. The intruder escaped, but not before he dropped a can which was found to contain a quantity of petrol. All around the building were rags and twine soaked in gasoline. It was a period of intense political agitation stirred up to a height by the defeated Labour Party in 1982. It was not the first nor the last time that a definite attempt to burn down PAM Headquarters failed.

In the end, fire has claimed PAM Headquarters. Mysterious fire? Electrical fault? Arson? It is too early to be sure. The building was guarded by night and in such a thoroughfare as PAM occupies, only a madman would go in there to set a fire in high day! But then, only a madman could have burnt down the Court House and Public Library, too.

CSO: 3298/848

31 July 1985

ST LUCIA

'CONFIDENTIAL' PLP CAUCUS REPORT FROM EARLY 1985 REPORTED

Castries CRUSADER in English 1 Jun 85 pp 2-3

[Editorial: "Confidential Caucus"; "The CRUSADER has today assigned its editorial page to a confidential caucus report of the PLP made in early 1985"]

[Text]

The politics of the Eastern Caribbean in the aftermath of the Grenada Invasion seemed uncertain and confusing. The Progressive Labour Party, through The Crusader Newspaper and a few rallies tried to keep the Progressive perspective clear in the face of a massive propaganda campaign by the Imperialists. The Americans had stepped up the militarisation of the Eastern Caribbean and the forces of reaction were busy in putting progressive elements on the defensive. Some opportunist elements even promoted the view that the Left was dead in the Caribbean. The Grenada fiasco had routed them and there was no hope of recovery.

The Progressive Labour Party in St. Lucia struggled on all fronts to beat back the propaganda. At Party level some of our own Party members who were candidates at the last General Election became despondent and lost nerve and the will to fight. Since there was a clear strategy that in the post-

election period the Party should keep a low profile, it was not difficult for such persons to fade into the background and refrain from participating in the reduced level of Party activities.

The Opposition St. Lucia Labour Party made overtures at the P.L.P. members who seemed to be wavering and there was a well laid-out plan to isolate the P.L.P. Party Leader, using the argument that it was his Leftist image which brought about the Party's electoral defeat. Some members of the Executive failed to present themselves when Executive and General Council Meetings were summoned.

Sensing the calculated attempt to destabilise the P.L.P. and isolate the Leadership, Party Leader Odum convened a small Caucus of about six or seven strong cadres and held regular sessions as a substitute for the Central Executive which failed to realise a quorum on three consecutive occasions.

The Party Leader's Caucus undertook the day-to-day conduct of Party Business and started activities designed to inform cells around the country about the moves afoot and appraising them of the strategy which the Party had embarked upon. This tactic proved very effective in countering the move to destabilise the Party and isolate the Leadership.

The Caucus further agreed on the following course of action:

1. To reorganise the Party structure and make it operative even in the face of the sabotage tactics of certain members.
2. To hold group sessions and some public meetings to ensure that contact with the masses was maintained at all times.
3. To continue the work of cell formation all over the country.

The effect of this campaign was amazing. It served to isolate the very persons who were seeking to undermine the Party. Some returned to the fold and those who were left behind called a meeting and wrote a letter to the Party Leader requesting a meeting with them. The Party Leader called a meeting of the Executive of the Party inviting five of the eight persons who signed the letter (since only five were Executive Members) he read the letter to the Executive. The Executive decided that the Party Leader should not accede to their request but a meeting of the General Council (to which all of them belonged) should be convened and their concerns should be aired at this meeting. This was

done but five of the group failed to attend. The Party Machinery went into action calling regular Executive and General Council Meetings and carrying out its mobilisation duties. (A list of Party activities during 1984 is attached as appendix 1).

In August 1984 the Opposition St. Lucia Party went to a Convention and replaced Neville Cenac as Party Leader with Castries Businessman Julian Hunte. The P.L.P. saw this as a calculated move to keep the P.L.P. and the S.L.P. from making common cause to remove the Compton Government. Mr. Hunte's early statements indicated that he was averse to having "any radicals" in the S.L.P. This was generally understood to mean that both P.L.P.'s Odum and S.L.P.'s Josie were to be excluded. Mr. Hunte proceeded to campaign along the conventional lines of Patronage Politics in an attempt to win himself a political base. Some early mistakes caused a sharp division of the opinion in the S.L.P. as to his suitability for leadership.

In the country as a whole the economic situation is frightening. Unemployment has risen to a level higher than ever before and a number of Companies were forced to close down. It is generally accepted that the Government has not performed and the only factor responsible for its tenuous hold on office is the fact that the Opposition is so sharply divided. The P.L.P. has made moves to indicate that the Unity of the Labour Movement is the only sure way of taking State Power. A demonstration was slated for August Monday 1984 in Vieux

Fort. It was a March against Unemployment which should cut clear against party lines. We invited the other parties and Unions but the response of the S.L.P. was not positive. The P.L.P. continued its mobilisational thrust with Public Meetings and Rallies and a wide exposure of Public Issues in the Crusader. We systematically attacked the Economic policy of the Ruling United Workers Party and highlighted the fact that the empty promises of the Caribbean Basin Initiative had not materialised and that the Primate Sector Model demonstrated by Jamaica under the aegis of the United States, has failed in St. Lucia as it did in Jamaica.

The Party exposed the corruption of the Compton Administration on such issues as Copra-Gate and the Pico Affair. The Party was also able to neutralise the aggression of the dreaded Special Services Unit of the Police Force by exposing the murder of a Police suspect Alphonsus Fontenard (Yamaha) while in Police custody. This exposure has served to bring the Police closer in line with the P.L.P. thinking since it has isolated the dangerous element in the Police Force and has shown up the Compton Administration as an upholder of violence, torture and corruption.

The upshot of these activities is that the credibility of the Government is at its lowest ebb and any consolidated opposition force can at present dislodge the Government.

The P.L.P. is intensifying the mobilisational thrust and at the same time mending its fences with Progressive members of other Parties with a view to narrowing the fight against the U.W.P.

In the ranks of the St. Lucia Labour Party, the failure of the Party Leader Julian Hunte to make a fair impression at a Public Rally and his failure in organising Taxi-Drivers and Vehicle Owners to contest a tax on vehicles has dimmed his leadership prospects and has opened the Party to strong divisive statements in the leadership spectrum. Both Foster and Josie are now seen as fair challengers to Hunte's leadership.

This is the overall state of play as we proceed with our 1985 Mobilisational Campaign and with our Annual Congress Scheduled for May 1985.

(APPENDIX)

ACTIVITIES DURING 1984)

JANUARY 15 Meeting of Group.
Local situation following Invasion of Grenada

JANUARY 19 Group Leaders Meeting.

JANUARY 29 Women Meeting - Grenada and Programme.

FEBRUARY 12 Women's Meeting - Committee set up.

MARCH 7 Women Meet - Socialist International Women's Bureau Rep.

APRIL 10 Central Executive Committee Meeting.

APRIL 18 General Council Meeting.

APRIL 26-28 S.I. Party Leaders Meet - Denmark.

APRIL 29 - Women's Committee Meet.

MAY 1 - May Day Rally - Roseau Valley; P.L.P. Farm and Farmers Workers Union Effort

MAY 20 Mass Rally - Soucis Valley 3rd Anniversary P.L.P. and Ten Years Service by J on Odhum

JUNE 9-11 Meeting of Anti-Imperialist Organisations (Havana Cuba)

JUNE 16 Group Leaders Seminar - Barre St. Joseph.

JUNE 20-21 S.I. Party Leaders Conference (Sheffield, England)

JULY 2 Central Executive Committee Meeting.

JU 15 Public Meeting - Canaries. Chaired by S. Augier

JU 16 General Council Meeting

JU 16-17 Caribbean Anti-Imperialist Meeting - Martinique

JU 30 Public Meeting - Vieux Fort. Chaired S. Augier.

AUGUST 5 Public Demonstration Vieux Fort. Issue Unemployment.

(Paid Radio Advertisement cancelled)

(Green Beast Terrorise Vieux Fort)

AUGUST 16 Public meeting - Castries Market Steps.

AUGUST 23 - Public Meeting Vieux Fort.

OCTOBER 1-2 Caribbean Bureau S.I. - Rio de Janeiro

OCTOBER 9 Central Executive Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 11 Extraordinary Meeting Central Executive Committee

OCTOBER 14 - Public Meeting Soufriere - Excellent

OCTOBER 17-20 Caribbean Women's Encounter - Antigua

OCTOBER 21 Maurice Bishop Memorial Rally - Castries Market steps - Fantastic

(Tim Hector banned from Rally)

NOVEMBER 11 Cell Leaders Seminar - Bexon

NOVEMBER 12-15 Youth and Student Seminar - Cuba

NOVEMBER 15-17 Preparatory Meeting Women's Decade Conference - Cuba

NOVEMBER 13 General Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 17 General Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 22 Public Meeting - Jacmel Roseau Valley

NOVEMBER 25 Women's forum - Bexon (Very Good)

DECEMBER 8 Central Executive Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 18 Central Executive Committee Meeting.

DECEMBER 15 Meeting of Caribbean Progressive Organisations in Jamaica.

DECEMBER 6 Meeting Dennery Village Women's Group.

ST LUCIA

MINISTER WARNS AGAINST CORRUPTION, CITES WORK PROJECTS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 May 85 p 3

[Text]

Minister of Communications and Works, Allan Bousquet has warned that he will not hesitate to prosecute any employee found using tax-payers money to his own benefit. He was at the time answering a reporter's question on corruption in the public works during a press conference this week.

The Minister's statement came a few weeks after General, Lennard Riviere blasted the Government Funding Scheme calling it "a den of corruption."

Mr Bousquet was asked: "Do you share the view by the Attorney-General that the public Works is a den of corruption, and if yes, what is to be done about it?"

And with a short pause he replied: "I share the view expressed by the Honourable Attorney-General one hundred per cent and you could rest assured that if at any time I get sufficient evidence, I will have no hesitation at all in bringing cases before the courts."

He said there was an ongoing drive in his Ministry to uncover evidence to bring the corrupt elements to justice, but indicated that those who were in possession of information usually expressed their unwillingness to get involved. He

disclosed that steps had been taken within the Ministry to "reduce the dishonesty that is going on" since "we might not be able to cut it off entirely." One of those steps, he pointed out was a change in the method of awarding contracts.

Mr Bousquet also outlined his government's road repair and construction programme for the current fiscal year. He said 22.9 miles of roads would be built with USAID funding while Government intended spending \$15.6 million of its capital expenditure on road building. A further \$2.3 million had been set aside in the recurrent estimates to deal with drainage problems which

destroy roads and to repair roads.

He announced that the actual commencement of work on proposed West Coast Road would be obtained. He told newsmen that such a project was a "tremendous engineering exercise" which meant that much preliminary work had to be completed before actual construction started. He said that an engineering firm had been selected to work on a final design beginning next month (June).

This design, he said should be completed within six months clearing the way for actual construction by mid-1986.

CSO: 3298/819

ST LUCIA

MALLET DISCUSSES TRADE ISSUES WITH TRINIDAD, OTHERS

Castries THE VOICE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago and St. Lucia meet in Port-of-Spain this month to discuss obstacles to greater trade between them, Mr. George Mallet, St. Lucia's Trade Minister has said.

Mallet said he will be travelling to Trinidad to meet his counterpart to examine ways of redressing an imbalance in trade between the two countries.

Mallet spoke of Trinidad and Tobago having a 'very favourable' balance of trade with St. Lucia, and noted that while St. Lucia's imports from Trinidad and Tobago had increased, exports from St. Lucia had actually declined.

Officials of the two Governments will meet next week to lay the groundwork for the Ministerial meeting later in the month, Mallet added.

"Essentially we will be seeking ways of increasing trade both out of Trinidad and Tobago and out of St. Lucia to the advantage of both countries," Mallet added.

He described trade between the two countries in non-petroleum products as being

stagnant, since Trinidad and Tobago imposed licensing requirements for imports into that country two years ago.

Mallet said St. Lucian exporters found difficulties both in getting licences and in obtaining clearance from the Central Bank.

"These are the two matters we are going to discuss with the Minister of Commerce (of Trinidad and Tobago), to see how this can be eased because after all, we are buying reasonable quantities from Trinidad in so far as we are able to buy. But we are not getting reciprocity," Mallet added.

Meanwhile, Mallet announced that St. Lucia was in the process of negotiating barter arrangements with Guyana, St. Vincent and Dominica to exchange St. Lucian products for goods made in those countries.

"In the case of Guyana, talks are continuing with a view to formalising a trading system. With St. Vincent we have agreed to increase trade, while talks with Dominica are continuing and progressing satisfactorily."

CSO: 3298/819

ST LUCIA

GARMENT LAYOFFS BLAMED ON TRINIDAD, GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Mallet on Trade Barrier

Castries THE VOICE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text]

THE production line of Mayfair Garments Knit Ltd. is currently at a stand-still as some 150 of the company's workers have had to be temporarily laid-off in what appears to be a direct result of St. Lucia's trade problems with Trinidad and Tobago.

Managing-director of the garment company, David Rosenbert was unavailable for comment when THE VOICE tried to contact him yesterday. He was reportedly out of the island but a source close to the Company — located at Bisee — confirmed the lay-offs.

Trade and Industry Minister, George Mallet interviewed by THE VOICE on the issue noted his government's concern but stressed that there was nothing he could do to avoid what he called an "economic decision" by the company.

Mallet said Mayfair's decision was the result of difficulties in trying to get its products into the Trinidad and Tobago market. He explained that Mayfair in the past did a "fair amount of trade" with the twin Island State until that country "put the

screws on." And when a deal to supply finished goods to the United States market did not prove dependable and the Company began to lose money, it had to adopt the lay-offs method.

He pointed out that the Company's plan, as he understood it, was to implement gradual temporary lay-offs for three months, up to July 21, this year by which time if it had become necessary to close down operations, every worker would receive redundancy pay. But if in the mean-time any worker wanted to terminate employment it would be on condition that the worker would lose his/her seniority if and when the time came for re-employment, Mallet told THE VOICE.

Said the Minister: "...It's an economic decision the company is taking... but it has taken a position that not to close down but to lay off.

"But we are concerned when people lay-off staff by all means. But what can we do? It's a decision that the Company has taken. We can't interfere with that. He is not doing anything illegal if he says that 'I can't operate properly and I have to close...' but we are concerned about it and we are trying to see what we can do to ease the situation," Mallet emphasized.

Below, the Mayfair garment factory at the Bisee Industrial Estate.

Union Criticism of Government

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 May 85 p 1

[Article by David Vitalis]

[Text]

THE National Workers Union (NWU) — the bargaining agents for 150 workers temporarily laid-off at Mayfair Garments Knit Ltd. — has accused government of not doing enough to resume normal trading with Trinidad and Tobago, a former market for Mayfair's products.

In an exclusive interview with THE VOICE yesterday President-General of the Union, Tyrone Maynard blamed the Ministry of Trade and Industry for its slowness in heeding to calls for discussions on the Mayfair situation and suggested that Minister, George Mallet should shoulder the responsibility for the present situation at the garment factory.

Maynard also criticized government's

method in trying to obtain trade licences from the Trinidadian authorities saying that the local negotiators that were being sent over to the twin Island State were not "high-level" enough.

Mallet said this week the Mayfair lay-offs, were as a result of St. Lucia's deteriorating trade relationship with Trinidad and Tobago, a result of that country's imposition of restrictions on a number of goods from CARICOM countries.

He said Mayfair had once been doing a fair amount of trade with Trinidad until that country "put the screws on." The Minister also expressed concern for the temporary lay-offs at the factory but lamented there was nothing his government could have done about the "economic decision" taken by the Company since it had been losing money.

Questioning Mallet's concern, Maynard noted that the Minister's first response to the Company's several calls for dialogue only came when the decision was finally taken to lay-off staff.

CSO: 3298/819

ST LUCIA

BRIEFS

AID TALKS WITH EEC--The Barbados-based European Economic Community (EEC) mission for the Eastern Caribbean says it has just completed preparatory talks with the St Lucia Government on an aid programme for the island under the new Lome Treaty linking Europe with developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific. The mission team, headed by EEC Commission Delegate in Barbados Joannes Ter Haar, held discussions with Prime Minister John Compton and other ministers and senior officials on St Lucia's development priorities and objective-which may be funded under the Lome 3 programme. The two sides also exchanged views on the experiences gained during the Lome One and Two conventions. "Such possible orientation was discussed and considered against the background of the recently signed Lome III convention, in particular where this relates to the aim of concentrating future EEC funding on relatively few sectors of strategic importance to St Lucia," the EEC Office in Barbados said. The pre-programming mission represents the preparatory stage of the actual "programming mission" which will visit St Lucia at a later stage to discuss and reach agreement on the actual indicative programme under Lome III, the office added. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 22 May 85 p 4]

JOBS FORECAST--Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism George Mallet, has set the second half of this year as the time in which the nation will begin to see a "general improvement" in the job situation. "You know, we have people coming in providing employment, it's increasing but you are not feeling it--the impact is not there yet. But there are a number of things that are going to fall into place, let's say, by the second half of the year," the Minister told THE VOICE earlier this week. He said government was in the process of constructing 70,000 sq ft of factory space to be filled "practically by the time they are available." Mallet stressed that the creation of jobs could not be done overnight, but a number of plans would take root later this year. In the area of tourism, said the Minister, plans for an hotel at Louvet were "fairly well advanced" and he was hopeful that a similar project at Troumassee would commence shortly. "Generally, I think there is going to be improvement. I am not saying that we are going to make everybody happy, but I think we will begin to make an impact on the employment situation," Mallett told THE VOICE. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 May 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/820

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

NDP RESIGNATION--Bucky Boyea, an executive member of the New Democratic Party has told The Vincentian that he has resigned from the NDP. Boyea stood as an NDP candidate for North Central Windward in the General Election held in July last year. The seat was won by Vincent Beache of the St Vincent Labour Party who had held it under the previous administration in which he was Minister of Industry, Trade and Agriculture. Part of the reason given by Boyea for his decision to quit the NDP was the method in which Prime Minister James Mitchell handled the Orange Hill issue. [Text] [Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 31 May 85 p 1]

NDP SUPPORT GROUP--A New Democratic Party support group was formed in Ashton, Union Island last Thursday evening May 23rd. According to reports the group represents all party supporters on the Island. A Clifton businessman, Percy Cox, was elected Chairman of the group. He heads a three-member executive and the top other members elected were Olga Hutchinson, Secretary, and Stafford Coye, Treasurer. According to chairman Cox, the support group is to boost support for the NDP. He said the group will work within the rules and regulations of the party. Cox also said that the three-member executive will act as a steering committee, later to formulate a management committee from among influential persons on the island. Union is the second Grenadine Island to form an NDP support group, the other being Bequia. [Text] [Kingston THE VINCENTIAL in English 31 May 85 p 6]

CSO: 3298/821

TURKS AND CAICOS

NEW UNITED PARTY OPENS OFFICE, SIGNS UP MEMBERS

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 30 May 85 p 85 pp 1, 7

[Text]

THE fledgling Turks and Caicos United Party (TCUP) lost no time in firing off several salvos at government and opposition when its headquarters, a yellow fronted house on the Airport Road, Grand Turk, was officially opened in jubilant style last week.

The third party, shouted out its first public message from the front lawn to an audience estimated between 200-300 (including one good natured heckler recording the event beneath a tree).

The meaning was clear — the TCUP could lead this country out of economic stagnation and bring back the investors which, it says, have fled because of the arrests in Miami and the PNP government's lack of planning and motivation.

After the speeches and a few cans of free beer and sandwiches had been consumed in the headquarters, decked out with Christmas ballons and paper chains for the occasion, 200 people signed the party register, said Mrs. Tina Fenimore, who will probably become chairman when they get down to the business of electing officers. The following morning, there was another rush to join up at her Kittina Hotel, she told the *News*.

"This surpassed all our expectations," said Mrs. Fenimore. "I was shocked and more than happy," said Mr. Leon Smith, who will probably emerge as party leader. The following night, the TCUP officials spent three hours in Salt Cay knocking on doors to introduce themselves and the party. Again, the response was said to be good, and there was a call for a public meeting.

Two TCUP candidates are seeking the nomination for Salt Cay — Cardlyn Porter, former detective corporal in the Turks and Caicos Police Force, and Russell Garland, a former customs officer.

Mr. Smith claimed at the opening ceremony that if anyone cared to check the Registrar of Companies he would be told that half of the offshore companies had moved to other tax havens, like the Cayman Islands and the Channel Islands, because of lack of confidence in the Francis administration.

Using a hand mike on the doorstep after the TCUP logo had been officially unveiled and spotlighted, Mr. Smith asked: "What is the government doing about the state of affairs in this country? As I walk round Grand Turk I see things that bring tears to my eyes. I have never seen the country in such a state."

Members of TCUP, he added, would be subject to a code of discipline (set out in the party's constitution), something that was noticeably lacking in the two other parties. The PNP and the PDM, he claimed, had created family feuds and even deaths and murders.

The government was doing nothing for the youth of the country — there were no scholarships and there was no future for the young. It was trying to buy them off with promises it could not fulfil.

Referring to the arrests, Mr. Smith said they had caused a lot of embarrassment to the Islands, and there was a principle that once the Chief Minister had gone or resigned then the whole cabinet went as well. "That is the gentleman's thing to do."

Mr. Smith said that looking at the present Chief Minister, he found it difficult to imagine that he could sit down with President Reagan or at Whitehall. He added that he had not heard Mr. Francis's speech on Radio Turks and Caicos but had studied a copy of it later. "I have never seen such rubbish," he added. To restore investors' confidence in the

Islands there needed to be a change of government.

"We have a large task ahead of us if we are to bring prosperity back to this country. We must get the rascals out."

Glen Clarke took up the same theme of economic progress which had been promised and not delivered. The main thrust of the TCUP campaign, he said, would be to educate the electorate who would be free to use the headquarters for that purpose. "This building can provide you with all the political education you need for an upcoming election," he added.

Changes had got to be made, with children who had left school walking the streets unable to find even a menial job. It was a question of survival, with the strong section of the community having to support the rest.

It was appalling, he said later, that this country's international relations had boiled down to zero. The economic housekeeping, too, had run roughshod, with no education policy and no long term development plan. Several changes had to be made administratively and politically because the rest of the world was watching these islands.

CSO: 3298/848

31 July 1985

TURKS AND CAICOS

PDM OFFICIAL SKIPPINGS CASTIGATES PNP ADMINISTRATION

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 30 May 85 p 3

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

May 24.
Grand Turk.

Dear Editor,

In response to the "Solid as a Rock" release given by the Chief Minister last week in your newspaper and on PNP Radio station, I have a few retaliative remarks to make.

First of all I will remind the Chief Minister that our call for his government's resignation was based on political morality, the shame and scandal that was brought on this country by the former leaders and ministers of his government, the poor state of our economic affairs, the lack of respect for the PNP government by other governments and investors, the inability of his government to curtail high and rising prices and inflation, and massive unemployment in our country, and the fact that this the 1984 elected PNP government has failed this country by bringing us down in international shame and disgrace. Thus, if there was any sense of responsibility or political ethics within the ranks of the PNP they would have already resigned and given the electorate an opportunity to give a new mandate and restore the credibility of the government and this country.

Mr. Chief Minister, you should have been more cautious than to say on public radio "Come to Papa Doc." But then I am convinced that you meant exactly what you said. Furthermore, this dictatorial approach is substantiated by the fact that if you do not allow any new releases of debates of the PDM to be aired on Radio Turks and Caicos. Secondly, you made it quite clear that "this is N.J.S. Francis government," when it should be the people's government. It should be of some concern to you that we can get press releases on Voice of America, ZNS, Radio Canada, BBC, etc. and cannot get any on Radio Turks and Caicos, the peoples radio station.

Mr. Minister, how misinformed you are? Don't you realise that the Turks and Caicos has its turn on the Board of Governors for the Dependent Territories on the Caribbean Development Bank? So why should you try to credit the Hon. Ariel Miskick individually for having filled the gap at the appropriate and opportune time?

You also asked why the PDM did not resign when the Hon. Jags McCartney died. Aren't you aware that the circumstances were entirely different? First of all, McCart-

ney died an honorable death in the service of his country, leaving no stain or disgrace on the PDM or the Turks and Caicos, unlike your ministers.

Secondly, McCartney was one out of six, not three out of eight, and there was a by-election because of his death.

Thirdly, the PDM government had six months to go, not three years, which meant elections were around the corner, anyway, and the electorate was guaranteed a chance to give a new mandate in a few months and not a few years.

Fourthly, the PDM had the country on a good footing. Tourism was booming, Club Med had already been signed, employment was all over and

the PDM had the respect of the international community. Let's face it, "Bops," your government stinks of corruption, and the whole world knows it.

Finally, Hon. Chief Minister, I would like you to clear the air on the allegations that presently you are afraid of entering the United States.

You said that you are "solid as a rock" but what you do not realise is that it does not matter how solid the rock is, when its foundation base is soft mud, the only place it goes is down, down, down, until it sinks as low as it can get.

Yours in Christ Service

BBO. O. SKIPPINGS

CSO: 3298/848

31 July 1985

TURKS AND CAICOS

CHIEF SECRETARY RESPONDS TO PDM DEMONSTRATION FOR JOBS

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 6 Jun 85 pp 1, 6

[Text]

A PEACEFUL, well organised demonstration against unemployment by the PDM also brought the new Chief Secretary, Mr. Ronald Pincott, face to face with one of the Islands' chief problems when he met and talked with some of the placard carrying protesters in the yard behind the government offices.

Mr. Pincott, who had been invited to meet them by Mr. Lewis Astwood, elected member for South Backsalina, was greeted by shouts of: "We want jobs, we want work to do" and "Share the cake, share the cake" when he stood on the verandah above the yard.

When he joined the 45 marchers in the hot sunshine, Mr. Pincott asked several of them if they had jobs. "Not for four years," sir," came the replies. One woman said she occasionally broke rocks

for a living.

"That's work, isn't it?" asked Mr. Pincott.

"It's hard work, too," she retorted.

Several demonstrators told him they were not on welfare or a work programme, and lived with their families.

At the end of his ten minute meeting with the demonstrators, Mr. Pincott told them: "I have seen the problem. My job is to solve problems, but I haven't got a magic wand."

As the marchers formed up to return to the PDM headquarters, Mr. Astwood told the *News*: "I think we put our point across to Mr. Pincott very well."

The march was masterminded by Mrs. Allison Ingham, tenacious president of the women's section of the PDM on Grand Turk, who wrote most of the signs on cardboard placards (begin-

ning 4 p.m. the previous day) and tossed out most of the political messages that had crept in. "This is not a political march," she said, "this is a demonstration for work, for jobs."

The signs she approved told their own story: "Please do something for us people because we are starving for food and money . . . What happen to Grand Turk today. The rich is getting richer and the poor poorer . . . Mr. Francis please give us a fair deal. We want work . . . How much longer do we have to go on with this suffering on these islands . . . Papa Doc Bops, my people deserve a better way of life . . . We want to find out from the government what happen to the grant in aid. Is it for special people only."

Still writing last minute placards and keeping an eye on her two young children at

PDM headquarters, Mrs. Ingham issued the protesters with their marching orders: "You are going out there to demonstrate, not to get involved in any confusion. Demonstrate peacefully and let the people see we are to be respected. This is not a political demonstration, we are looking for work."

Following her instructions to the letter, they marched silently along Front Street, then lined up facing the government offices for several minutes, watched for a short while by Mr. Robert Hall, Minister for Health, Education and Welfare, and secretaries and office staff.

At the sound of a whistle from march marshal Walter Selver, in knee length boots and a white uniform, the marchers set off for the government yard and the encounter with Mr. Pincott.

CSO: 3298/848

END