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27 March 1986

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SEAGA COMMENTS ON CARICOM MEMBERSHIP FOR HAITI

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Feb 86 p 11

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Feb. 24, Cana — SOME West Indian nations say they would like to help Haiti return to democracy. "This is a window of opportunity that we shouldn't pass up, and we should try to do whatever we can to help the country return to democracy," Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica told Cana.

"We must keep close to them because they are part and parcel of our family. We think this is the opportunity to make sure that they get a democratic Government, and we mustn't miss the opportunity," Dominica's Eugenia Charles said.

Both Caribbean leaders spoke in St. George's where they attended a meeting with President Reagan last week.

The Jamaican leader, who claimed a pivotal role in influencing President-for-life Jean Claude Duvalier to flee Haiti in the face of a mass uprising earlier this month, said he was concerned about events in Haiti where a civilian-military junta was governing the island.

"I am concerned about the vacuum that is there. It is true that there is a ruling junta but one doesn't know to what extent the people themselves feel that this is satisfactory, so we are simply watching the situation for the time being, and studying it," he said.

Duvalier fled to France on February 7 aboard a U.S. Air Force plane and has been cooped up in a luxury lakeside hotel at Talloires in the Alps while Paris has hunted fruitlessly for another country to accept him.

The Jamaica Prime Minister said he did not see the need for the region to move fast in upgrading Haiti from observer status within the English-speaking Caricom grouping to a full-fledged member in an

effort to help the island along the democratic path.

"I think we need to watch...and there would be enough time before the Caricom Heads of Government meet in July by which time we would see just what is happening in Haiti," he added.

The St. Kitts Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds said that Caribbean leaders expressed satisfaction that the stage was set for Haiti to move into the democratic orbit and for assistance to be given to help with the development of democratic institutions on the island.

On full membership within Caricom, Dr. Simmonds said he would not make any commitments on this issue at the moment but would view seriously any application by Haiti for membership.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell voiced support for the region to help Haiti.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

GUATEMALA-LATIN AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS AFFIRM SOLIDARITY

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Jan 86 p 4

[Text] Yesterday, labor union leaders of Latin America and the area resolved to intensify their activities aimed at consolidating the Guatemalan labor movement, in a democratic context resulting from the establishment of a constitutional government.

Present at a press conference held at the Guatemalan Institute of Social Education and Training (IGEFOS) were the representatives Emilio Maspero, secretary general of CLAT [Latin American Central Organization of Workers]; Dagoberto Gonzalez, from CTV [Confederation of Workers of Venezuela]; Arsimiro Herrera, from CTCR [Confederation of Workers of Costa Rica]; and Carlos Huenbes, from CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers]; as well as the Guatemalans, Sergio Aldana, German Lopez, Julio Celso de Leon and Julio Gonzalo Garcia, from the National Federation of Workers [FENAT].

Maspero, who summarized the responses, said that one of the fundamental obligations of the Guatemalan labor movement is to forcefully and vigorously defend the democratic process beginning in Guatemala, "because there must be an aspiration for the workers to fully achieve the right to organize."

He claimed that the pacification of the society is not an endeavor for the government alone, but also for the people and the workers; and stressed the importance of remembering that the citizen's vote was on behalf of the attainment of democracy, peace, and freedom.

Dagoberto Gonzalez, secretary of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela, for his part, remarked: "There must be a desire among the people in the labor movement to prevent the establishment, ever again, of dictatorial governments that would prevent the free development of nations, and of the workers of Guatemala in particular."

Carlos Huenbes, from the Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers, commented that, "the police state existing in his country stands above the citizen and the worker in general, and would never allow a democracy to make its appearance."

The head of the National Federation of Workers, Sergio Aldana Galvan, noted that, at a fitting time, a proposal would be submitted to President Cerezo from the country's workers, most of whom are combined in this institution, for the purpose of making their views known regarding the social justice for which they yearn.

2909

CSO: 3248/265

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CARICOM SECRETARIAT ISSUE--St George's, 22 Feb (CANA)--St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister, Dr Kennedy Simmonds, has reacted cautiously to suggestions from two other colleagues in the region that the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) should be switched from Guyana. "I think it is something that could be evaluated carefully," he told Cana, during a visit to Grenada on Thursday for the summit meeting between Caribbean leaders and US President Ronald Reagan. "I do not think it is a decision which should be taken lightly, because when you shift to some place else, and certain things don't go right, and once you start that, you could find yourself possibly duplicating the same thing again," he added. Both Prime Ministers Herbert Blaize, of Grenada, and Eugenia Charles, of Dominica, have made calls for the Caricom Secretariat to be sited elsewhere, because of transportation difficulties with Guyana, and problems the Secretariat has in recruiting or keeping expert staff, because of the republic's social and economic conditions. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 86 p 5] /9274

GUYANA MISSION IN ST VINCENT--A Guyanese trade mission going through the Caribbean was one of the ideas born of the Mustique meeting, (in which several Caribbean leaders met President Hoyte of Guyana). Last Friday, the mission arrived in St Vincent en route to St Kitts. It was headed by the Guyana Trade Minister Winston Murray and included Guyana's Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean. His Excellency Rudy Insignally, the Economic Advisor to the President Ms. Darlene Harris. The mission visited some manufacturing plants here. They held talks with Mr Marcus De Freitas, St Vincent trade minister and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, and the St Vincent Marketing Corp. The word from the St Vincent Ministry of Trade is that as a result of the meeting, there is now a much clearer understanding as to how both countries can proceed towards increasing trade between themselves. H. E. Rudy Insignally told the Vincentian that President Hoyte is definitely interested in seeing joint ventures between the private sectors of Guyana and St Vincent. (When Hoyte addressed Parliament a few days ago, he spoke of his commitment to joint ventures. [Text] [Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

GUYANA TEAM IN ST KITTS--The trade and economic mission headed by Guyana's Minister of Trade, Cde. Winston Murray, yesterday held discussions with the St Christopher-Nevis Minister of Trade and Industry. The team which arrived in St Christopher-Nevis on Saturday, is currently on a seven-nation tour of

the Caribbean. It has already met with officials of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and St Vincent and The Grenadines. All discussions so far, have been positive. According to reports last night, yesterday's discussions centred on ways and means of expanding trade and increasing exports between the two countries. "Bottlenecks" preventing such an expansion were identified and measures to remove them were examined. Commodities to be traded were also identified. The Guyana team is scheduled to leave today for Saint Lucia, before going on to Dominica, on the last leg of the tour. Other members of the Guyana team are High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Cde Rudy Insanally, Economic Adviser to the President Cde. Darlene Harris, Group Managing-Director of both the Guyana Refrigerators Limited and IDEAL Michael Brassington, and Avinash Bhagwandin, of the Ministry of Trade. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

GUYANA MISSION IN ST LUCIA--The Guyana trade team, headed by Trade Minister Winston Murray, yesterday met and held discussions with Saint Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister, George Mallet who has responsibility for Trade and Industry. The team, which flew to Castries yesterday after their visit to St Christopher-Nevis, and met with representatives of the Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce and the Saint Lucia Manufacturers Association, were guests at a luncheon hosted by Mr Mallet, and were also guests at Saint Lucia's Carnival celebrations. In St Christopher-Nevis, Cde Murray and team member Rudy Insanally met and held discussions with Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds and the entire team later met separately with the island's Trade Minister and Chamber of Commerce representatives. Among the matters examined in the course of the discussions in Saint Lucia yesterday were the possibilities for expanding trade and opportunities for joint ventures between the two countries. Commodities for trade between the two countries were also identified. Meanwhile, in remarks at the luncheon, Mr Mallet noted that Guyana and Saint Lucia have always enjoyed good relations and he expressed the wish for continued good relations between the two countries. Saint Lucia, he added, looked forward to an expansion of trade with Guyana. The team is scheduled to leave Castries today for Cominica, the last leg of their current seven-nation tour. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/354

ARGENTINA

STATUS OF OIL EXPLORATION BIDS, CONTRACTS, PROJECTS

Northwest Basin Bidding Opens

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[Text] Today, the envelopes containing the bids from the companies interested in participating in the national and international bidding for oil exploration and operations will be opened, according to an announcement made by President Raul Alfonsin in Houston, in the United States.

The tenders will be made known during a ceremony to be held at 1000 hours in the General Manuel Belgrano Room of Government Oil Deposits [YPF] main building. Authorities from the energy area and businessmen in the sector will be present.

As of yesterday, it was learned that 21 companies, 15 foreign and six native, had appeared, picking up 31 bidding forms and 123 technical documents relating to the 17 areas comprising the so-called Northwest Basin.

In this way, the first phase of the bidding competition will be completed, until it eventually reaches the 32 areas, which also include the Rawson Marina and Southern Basins. It has been estimated that most of the offers will be made for the basin the bids on which will be announced today.

Companies

As has been learned, the companies which procured bidding forms were: Amoco, Andean Production Company, Esso Exploration and Production, Inc, Pluspetrol, Inc, Cities Service, Union Oil Company of California, Sohio Petroleum Corporation, Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Company], Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine, Shell Oil Company of Argentina, Bidas, Agip Argentina, Total Austral, Texaco, Perez Companc Shipping, Marathon Oil Company, General Fuels Company, Chevron Overseas, Astra Capsa, Associated Petroleum Companies of Argentina, Conoco, and Argerado.

The Contracts

According to the executive branch order, the oil contracts have three phases: a prospecting period with a maximum duration of 3 years; an exploration period, of 4 years; and an operational period, of 20 years.

The exploratory phase includes the execution of a compulsory minimum of annual drilling work, while the work and development programs comprising the operations phase must be approved by YPF, which may object and require modifications in the goals devised.

The prices that YPF will have to pay to the contracting firms will be equivalent to the international price in effect at the time of the extraction, for the same type of oil.

A total of 12 percent will be subtracted from that amount in the form of royalties (which will be allocated in its entirety to the provinces), plus a fixed charge of between 8 and 18 percent that will be absorbed by the company.

The explicit guarantee contained in the contracts indicates that, in the absence of foreign exchange, YPF may authorize payment with crude oil or by-products, in an amount equivalent to that owed by the state.

Northwest Basin

In connection with the Northwest Basin, the 17 areas that will participate in the international public bidding are the following: Santa Victoria, Michicola, Rio Seco, Rio Colorado, Hickman, Morillo, Chiretes, Union, Malvalay, Santa Barbara, Olleros, Yatasto, Arenal, Abra Pampa, Aguilar, Valles Calchaquies, and Rio Sali.

Tenders Short of Expectations

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 86 pp 1, 4

[Text] Eight native and three foreign companies submitted nine bids for six of the 17 petroleum areas in the international bidding on the so-called Northwest Basin.

The number of bids was far lower than the authorities from the energy area had estimated, when one considers the fact that this basin was also the one that had aroused the greatest interest among the companies which took bidding forms for the competition.

The envelope opening ceremony took place at Government Oil Deposits, chaired by the energy secretary, Conrado Storani, and was attended by businessmen from the sector.

Board members from firms queried replied that the meager repercussions from this bidding carried out by Argentina were due to the series of actions and counteractions with which the sector's authorities had prepared the contracts, which, in turn, are not completely clear. One businessman commented: "It all gave an impression of legal insecurity that is unfavorable for attracting any investor."

At 1000 hours next Monday and Tuesday, also at YPF, the bidding will be completed with the Southern and Rawson Marina Basins; whereas, on 1 April, it

will continue with 34 areas of the Northeast, Neuquina, Golfo de San Jorge, Salado Marina, and Colorado Marina Basins.

The Northwest Basin, for the exploration and operation of which the bids were submitted yesterday, includes the areas located in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Catamarca, Chaco, and Formosa.

The Ceremony

The ceremony for opening envelopes began exactly at 1000 hours yesterday, at the YPF's main building. The first speaker was the head of the state company, Rodolfo Otero, who warned that a "boom" should not be expected in the reception of proposals, because from a geological standpoint Argentina lacks the features of the oil-producing countries in the Middle East and in other parts of the world.

"YPF is making this opening in order to explore and develop a large portion of our unknown sedimentary basins."

From Storani

Storani, for his part, said that the typical Argentine contract has had repercussions in all areas of the oil business in the world, as an innovation. "So we owe the major success that this opening of bids has achieved to the confidence that the business firms and private capital have in the present-day Argentine Republic."

He subsequently noted that Argentina needs genuine capital investments, and that this is one of them. The result will not be immediate, but rather over the medium and long term, yet the benefit will be for a country that is projected toward the future.

The Bids

We are listing below the bids based on the different areas, and the companies which submitted them:

For the Rio Colorado CNO 4 area, which covers 4,784 square kilometers, in Salta and Jujuy Provinces (high risk area), the associated companies Argerado, Inc, of the United States, San Lorenzo Oil-Gas Corporation, of the same country, and Riumasa, Inc, of Argentina.

For the CNO 8 area, Astra Capsa of Argentine. This area, called "Union," is medium risk, and is located in Salta Province, with 2,465 square kilometers.

Shell Capsa of Argentina, for the Chirete CNO 7 area, medium risk, with 3,554 square kilometers, in Salta Province.

BHP Petroleum of the United States, and Pluspetrol, Inc. of Argentina, for Morillo CNO 6, medium risk, with 3,518 square kilometers; Chirete CNO 7,

medium risk, with 3,554 square kilometers; and Ollereros CNO 11, medium risk, with 6,330 square kilometers, all in Salta.

Perez Companc Shipping Company, Inc., of Argentina, Associated Petroleum Companies of Argentina, Inc., and General Fuels Company of Argentina, Inc., in a consortium, for areas Chirete CNO 7, medium risk, with 3,554 square kilometers, and Union CNO 8, with 2,465 square kilometers, in Salta.

Bridas Sapic of Argentina, for the Hickman CNO 5 area, high risk, with 6,555 square kilometers, in Salta.

Southern Areas Less Attractive

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] Tomorrow and the day after, the first phase will be completed in the calling for bids on oil exploration and operation, according to an announcement made by President Alfonsin in Houston, Texas.

Tomorrow, the envelopes containing the bids for 12 areas in the Southern Basin (five medium risk and seven high risk) will be opened, and on Tuesday the same thing will be done for three areas in the Rawson Marina Basin offshore, all high risk.

This will conclude the bids for a total of 32 areas comprising the first part of the international public bidding. On 1 April, another phase will begin, with 34 areas in the Northeast, Neuquina, Golfo de San Jorge, Salado Marina, and Colorado Marina Basins.

Last Friday, the bids were announced for the Northwest Basin, in which the potential investors had shown the greatest interest. Nevertheless, out of a total of 17 areas, there were only bids for six, with the rest left for direct award.

As for the Southern and Rawson Marina Basins, the tenders for which will be announced tomorrow and the next day (on both days the envelope opening ceremony will begin at 1000 hours at Government Oil Deposits), they were less sought by the oil companies than was the Northwest Basin. In this connection, it should be noted that, of the 31 bidding forms taken by the interested companies, six were for the Southern Basin, and five for the Rawson Marina Basin. Insofar as technical documentation is concerned, of 132 copies taken, 30 were associated with the former and nine with the latter.

Repercussions

Although the authorities from the energy area strove to evince optimism during a press conference held on Friday, it could not be concealed that this first call for bids did not meet the expectations that had been created, because of 17 areas there was interest in only six.

The Northwest Basin, let for bidding on that occasion, includes areas located in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Catamarca, Chaco, and Formosa.

The president of YPF, Rodolfo Otero, told reporters that any tendency to expect a "boom" in the reception of offers should be avoided, because, from a geological standpoint, Argentina does not have the features of the oil-producing countries of the Middle East or other parts of the world.

Nevertheless, when President Alfonsin put forth the proposal in Houston, the expectations at that time were different; hence the trip made by the energy secretary, Conrado Storani, with a large party of businessmen and officials, to the United States, Canada, France, and Italy.

The results are evident in the slight interest shown by the foreign companies, which are also concerned at present over the depression in world oil prices.

Moreover, the preparation of the pertinent contract demanded greater effort than anticipated; because it had to be changed several times to meet the requests of the companies and some clauses are still not very precise.

The Basins

We are providing below the name of each area, with its corresponding dimensions:

Southern Basin: Cardiel (CA-1), 8,078 square kilometers; Viedma, CA-2, 8,434 square kilometers; Mata Amarilla, CA-3, 6,615 square kilometers; Laguna Grande, 4,704 square kilometers; Piedrabuena, CA-5, 6,470 square kilometers; Destacamento, CA-6, 5,546 square kilometers; Rio Bote, CA-7, 6,501 square kilometers; Cancha Carrera, CA-8, 5,003 square kilometers; Rio Turbio, CA-9, 5,788 square kilometers; La Esperanza, CA-10, 3,565 square kilometers; Chank Aike, CA-11, 4,027 square kilometers; and Rio Grande Sur, CA-12, 4,289 square kilometers.

Rawson Marina: CRM 1, 14,738 square kilometers; CRM 2, 13,347 square kilometers; and CRM 3, 11,717 square kilometers.

Government Calls Bidding Successful

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 86 p 7

[Text] The consortium made up of the native companies with private capital, Occidental Argentina and Bidas Sapic, made the only offer for the exploration and operation of one of the 12 areas in the Southern Petroleum Basin which YPF let for bidding as part of the policy announced by President Raul Alfonsin in Houston.

The vice president of YPF, Ricardo Mario Lescan Zini, presided yesterday over the ceremony for opening envelopes associated with the bidding on oil areas in the Southern Basin, located south of Santa Cruz and north of Tierra del Fuego.

The consortium appeared for the bidding on the area known as Rio Grande Sur, in Tierra del Fuego, which has an area of 4,289 square kilometers, and is considered a medium-risk investment.

Furthermore, today envelopes will be opened for the exploration and operation of three other high risk areas in the Rawson Marina Basin, on the Atlantic Ocean maritime shelf, off the coasts of Chubut.

The Rawson Marina Basin has an area of 19,802 square kilometers, divided into three parts, for the bidding on which five bidding forms were taken.

Today's ceremony will complete the first part of the implementation of the oil policy announced by President Raul Alfonsin in Houston, the first concrete step in which was the call for bidding on 32 oil areas.

The bidding program will continue on 1 April, an occasion on which 34 oil areas in the Northeast and Neuquina Basins, and the Golfo San Jorge, Salado, and Colorado maritime basins, will be opened for public bidding.

The energy secretary, Conrado Storani, described the results of the call for bids "encouraging," and admitted that "the depression that has occurred in international oil prices caused us to fear the fate of these bidding competitions."

Storani made this statement during a press conference held last Friday, at a time when the envelopes were being opened for the bidding on the Northwest Basin, wherein there were only six offers for 17 areas.

On this occasion, three companies and a similar number of consortiums submitted bids for the exploration and operation of six areas all of which are considered medium risk investments.

From Storani

The government considered the results of the opening of bids for the exploration and operation of the Northwest oil basin "successful," as part of the so-called Houston Plan, and announced that those contracts would be awarded in the shortest possible time.

In statements made to Radio Mitre, the energy secretary, Conrado Storani, discredited the criticism from the press to the effect that the call for bids had not drawn the interest of all the large international oil companies, and claimed: "Argentina's success was greater than that of Colombia, China, or Indonesia in the progress of the contracts."

In assessing the results of the opening of envelopes for the awarding of 17 areas, Storani announced that Argentina "will sign at least nine contracts and, Colombia, on the other hand, had to wait 4 years in order to procure one."

Storani expressed his "satisfaction at the large volume of response" that the Argentine and foreign companies gave to the call for bidding on the operation of six oil areas in the Northwest Basin.

He emphasized: "The government is quite satisfied, and the progress shown by the country, based on the presence of the foreign companies, is a complete success"; noting: "Shell and Esso are the largest, and they are present."

Storani, who was annoyed by the reaction from the press, which judged "the presence of the companies as meager" in the bidding competition, claimed that he "had nothing further to say about this," and merely reiterated that "it was a success."

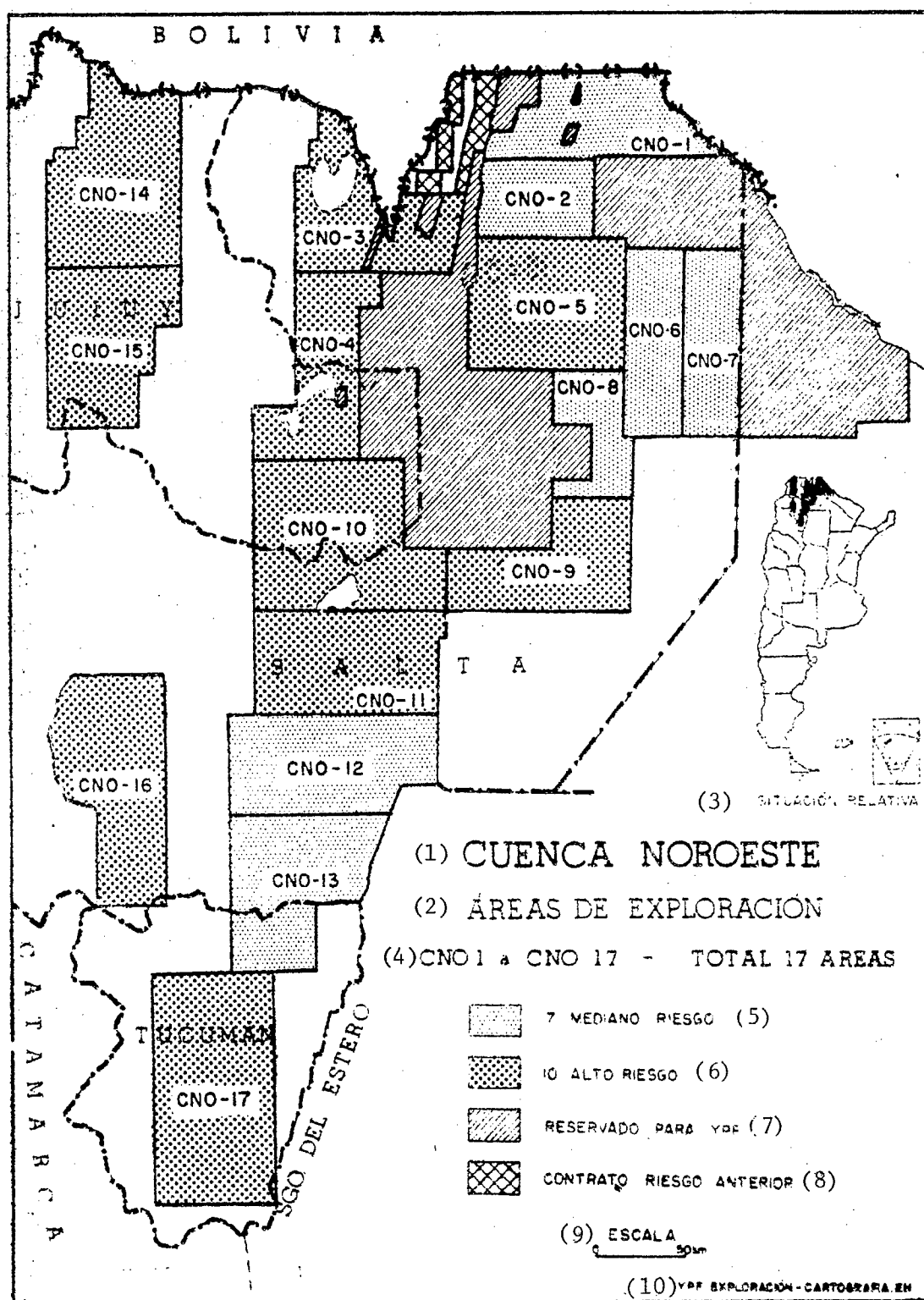
Companies

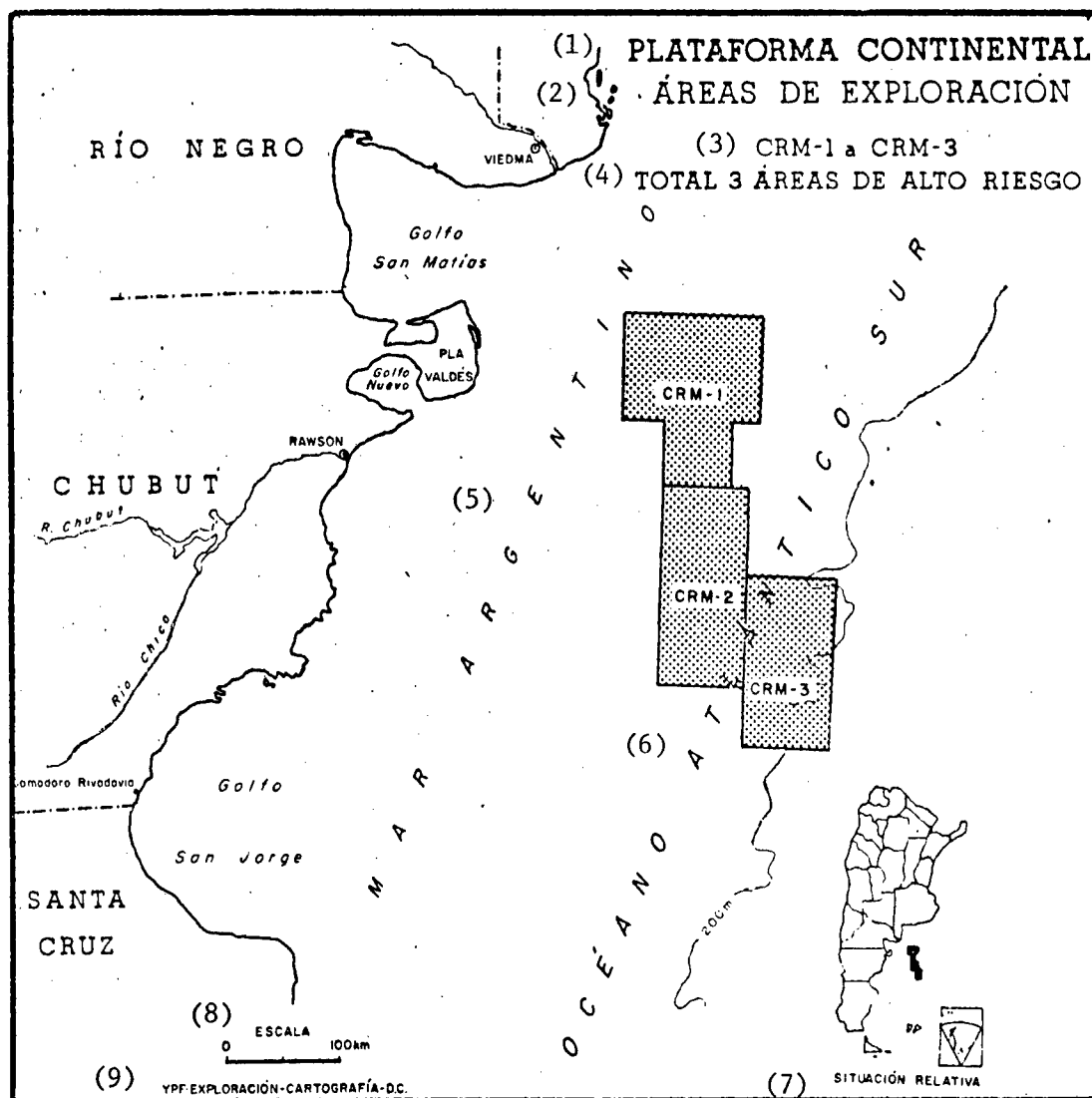
He maintained that the press report citing "the absence of the largest international oil groups" was "mistaken," explaining: "Of the six firms that made offers in the bidding competition, four are foreign: two American companies, the British-Dutch firm Shell, and the other one Australian, participating in Argentina for the first time."

He pointed out that the absence of the other companies "has occurred because there are other areas which still remain, for which they will surely appear, on the basis of technical reasons."

Key to Map 1:

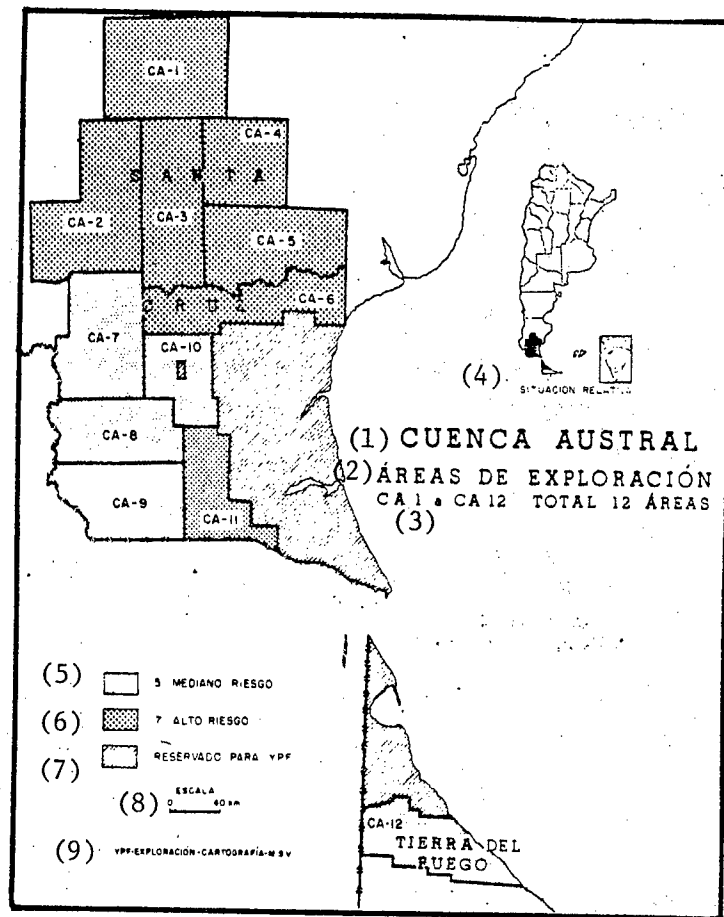
1. Northwest Basin
2. Exploration Areas
3. Relative position
4. CNO-1 to CNO-17
5. Medium risk
6. High risk
7. Reserved for YPF
8. Previous risk contract
9. Scale
10. YPF-Exploration-Cartography-EM





Key to Map 2:

1. Continental Shelf
2. Exploration Areas
3. CRM-1 to CRM-3
4. Total 3 high risk areas
5. Argentine Sea
6. South Atlantic Ocean
7. Relative position
8. Scale
9. YPF Exploration-Cartography-DC



Key to Map 3:

1. Southern Basin
2. Exploration Areas
3. CA 1 to CA 12
4. Relative position
5. Medium risk
6. High risk
7. Reserved for YPF
8. Scale
9. YPF-Exploration-Cartography-MSV

2909

CSO: 3348/408

ARGENTINA

OIL PRODUCTION DROPS 4.2 PERCENT IN 1985

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 11

[Text] According to data from the Government Oil Deposits company (YPF), during 1985 the cumulative oil production in Argentina was 26,684,924 cubic meters; which is equivalent to a 4.2 percent reduction from 1984, a year in which 27,854,478 cubic meters were extracted.

Last December, the production of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons totaled 3,857,426 cubic meters, as compared with 3,776,048 cubic meters in November; representing a 2.16 percent increase.

YPF noted that the decline in oil production last year is "in accordance with the procedures adopted to fulfill the export requirements, without upsetting the self-sufficiency."

Of the total extracted in December, 2,214,477 cubic meters pertained to oil, compared with 2,140,767 cubic meters in November (3.44 percent more), and 1,642,949 cubic meters to gas equivalent in caloric value to oil, in contrast to 1,635,281 cubic meters for the preceding month (0.47 percent more).

Of the cubic meters of oil produced in December, 1,558,845 were extracted by administration, as opposed to 1,507,759 in November (3.39 percent more), and 655,632 through extraction contracts, compared with 633,008 the month before (3.57 percent more).

According to the YPF information, in 1985 922 wells were finished (554 by administration and 368 through contracts), as opposed to 921 completed in 1984. During December, 80 wells were finished (53 by administration and 27 through contracts), compared with 75 finished in November (6.67 percent more).

Of the total 1,642,949 cubic meters of gas equivalent in caloric value to oil collected in December, 1,175,539 cubic meters were delivered to State Gas, a figure 7,668 cubic meters larger than during the previous month (0.47 percent more).

Of the natural gas processed in December, 8,590,000 liters of liquid gas were extracted, 32.73 percent less than in the month before.

2909

CSO: 3348/408

ARGENTINA

YPF TO UNDERGO ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL EVALUATION

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 86 p 12

[Text] The president of Government Oil Deposits (YPF), Rodolfo Otero, has declared that the national executive branch's decision to release that company from external financial obligations will make it possible "to preserve its operation and its assets," and expressed the view that, "from now on, we shall be able to make an economic-technical evaluation of each of the deposits, and determine whether or not we are interested in becoming associated" with private firms.

Otero (in statements made to a local radio station) stressed that the criteria adopted by the executive branch "are a result of the overall analysis of the company's operations," because "the retention levels are low compared with the other oil companies in the world, and with respect to the oil income earned by the state."

He added: "Over 50 percent of what the consumer pays does not reach YPF"; and noted: "Understandably, under those conditions, and over the years, the company's profits and losses have always been negative."

Moreover, the head of YPF claimed: "In 1982, 94 percent of the company's foreign debt was \$4.6 billion," whereas "the operation with negative profits and losses caused the company's operations to become complicated."

He also pointed out that the Houston Plan on the formation of mixed consortiums "makes it possible for YPF to have different degrees of participation" wherein "my company has the option to become associated in a percentage that ranges from 15 to 20 percent."

Otero remarked: "This has been provided in the terms included in the call for bids, the opening of which will take place next Friday."

With regard to the opening of envelopes in the call for bidding on oil areas, Otero expressed the view that "to date, the calling has been done in terms that are acceptable for those interested, and primarily for the country," noting that, "of the 42 areas that have reached the bidding competition, 39 are located in the southern territory, and there will be three in the Rawson maritime basin."

2909

CSO: 3348/408

BELIZE

NEW PEOPLE'S POPULAR PARTY NAMES SECRETARY GENERAL

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 9 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

Mr. Nicholas Pollard, former trade unionist and co-founder of the People's United Party, has been appointed Secretary General of the newly formed People's Popular Party.

Announcing this, Party Leader Louis Sylvester said he believes Mr. Pollard will be able to play a "leading role" in making the P.P.P. a viable alternative to both the UDP and the PUP in municipal and national elections.

Mr. Pollard, now 62, is a full time instructor at St. John's College where he teaches Spanish and Belizean and Caribbean History. He has said that his work as Secretary General will be part-time.

Pollard was one of the youngest and brightest co-founders of the People's

United Party back in 1950. He was at the very heart of the controversy which split the party in 1954 when the General Workers Union sided with Richardson, Goldson and Jex who shortly afterwards formed their own party called the Honduras Independence Party. Pollard and Price, maintaining control of the PUP, went on to form the Christian Democratic Union.

Pollard subsequently broke with the PUP, but has retained a curious love-hate relationship with the Party up to the very eve of the 1984 general elections.

In his new position as Secretary General it is expected that Pollard will now have easy access to the Voice newspaper, which is the official organ of the BPP.

/9274

CSO: 3298/355

BELIZE

BELIZE TIMES REPORTS PUP CONVENTION PAPERS, POLICIES

Said Musa Report

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 9 Feb 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

At a time when many Belizeans have lost faith in the false promises of the UDP government, they are looking again to the People's United Party to save Belize from economic disaster and social deterioration.

The P.U.P has risen to the occasion by giving back hope to the people that Belize can once more be set on the right course to development where there is a P.U.P. government to advance the peaceful, progressive revolution.

More than ever Belizeans need the P.U.P. The P.U.P. has responded by again setting forth its philosophy and attitudes of government in a paper entitled "A NEW PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION".

This paper, we learn, was presented by Mr. Said Musa, to the business session of the National Convention on January 18, 1986 when it received unanimous approval and a standing ovation by the delegates.

Next day at the Plenary Session at City Centre it was presented by Mr. C.L. B. Rogers on behalf of Mr. Said Musa who was unable to attend the Convention due to the unexpected death of his father, the Late Mr. Hamid Musa, J.P. Manager of the BELIZE TIMES PRESS. At this session it received unanimous approval amidst loud acclamations of support.

The paper has eight sections: (1) 1986 to the 21st Century, (2) Economic Democracy, (3) Political Democracy, (4) Social Democracy, (5) Defending our Sovereignty, (6) Peace with Justice, (7) The New Phase of the Revolution in a Changing World and (8) The Mission and Vision.

Preparations are underway for its publication in booklet form together with the fourteen resolutions passed by the Convention. Meanwhile BELIZE TIMES from time to time will carry portions of this important document.

Peace and Economics

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 9 Feb 86 p 2

[Unsigned article "Development, the New Name of Peace"; no connection with the PUP convention indicated.]

[Text]

In its many dimensions, under-development remains an ever growing threat to world peace. Between countries, which form the "North bloc" and those of the "South Bloc", there is a social and economic abyss that separates rich from poor.

Peace is lost by the social and economic exploitation by special interests groups which operate internationally or function as elites within developing countries.

Peace is lost when the use of force produces the bitter fruit of hatred and division.

It is clear that "peace built and maintained on social injustice and ideological conflict will never become a true peace of the world.

For the stability of peace there is need to set up new types of society and of international relations which ensure justice and peace on stable and universal foundations.

The hearts and attitudes of people must be changed. This needs a renewal, a conversion of individuals. This is the path that humanity must take if it is to enter into an age of universal peace and integral development.

Changes in economic growth patterns have affected all parts of the world and just not the poorest. The person who sees peace as a universal value will want to use this opportunity to reduce the differences between North and South, and foster the relationships that will bring them closer together.

This involves the prices of raw materials, the need for technological expertise, training of the work force, the potential productivity of the millions of unemployed, the debts poor nations are carrying.

All this must be changed. If social injustice is the means to move towards a peace for all peoples. It means that we see peace as an indivisible fruit of just and honest relations on every level-social, economic, cultural and ethical - of human life on earth.

Resolution on Youth Affairs

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 9 Feb 86 p 11

[Text]

Lasting harm was done to the youth of Belize in the year 1985 dedicated to the youth of the world when the government by its decision to wreck the BELCAST project deprived the Belizean young people of a university.

The project was to build for BELCAST (the Belize College of Arts, Science and Technology) a new campus and plant in Belmopan which in time would have become the University of Belize where students could study instead of going abroad at much higher cost. It was intended to make higher education available to more students.

The previous government in the latter part of 1984 prepared the site and dedicated it with the blessing of the Church to the youth of Belize. This was a public expression of the policy of the Church-State partnership in education.

The disastrous decision has also affected the economy by stopping an investment of some \$12 million which today would employ many workers & make purchases of building material from the trade.

Mindful of this deplorable state of affairs, the Convention of the People's United Party on Jan. 19, 1986, passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS: (1) The People's United Party government had secured the funding from the European Economic Community for the building of the BELCAST Campus with classrooms, laboratories, library, student dormitories, recreational and sporting facilities.

(2) This project for the Belize College of Arts Science and Technology would be the nucleus of our own future University of Belize serving the development needs of Belize and offering thousands of young Belizeans the opportunity for advanced education and training;

(3) The construction of this campus which should have commenced last year 1985 would have provided hundreds of much needed jobs for our people;

(4) The present government decided against proceeding with the BELCAST project;

BE IT RESOLVED that this National Convention of the People's United Party roundly condemns this deplorable and short-sighted action of the UDP government and calls on the said government to remedy this mistake by taking immediate steps to re-activate the BELCAST project.

Land for Foreigners

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 2 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

One of the disastrous decisions of the U D P government is the sale of the BEC land to foreign buyers.

To compound the disaster, we learn that the government failed to comply with the usual development proposals from the buyers and also to collect the right amount of revenue for the Treasury.

This kind of government does not serve the best interest of Belize and its people. The PUP Convention of January 19, 1986 deplored the transaction in the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON SALE OF BELIZEAN LAND MOTION

WHEREAS:

- (1) 686,186 acres of Belizean land formerly owned by the Belize Estate and Produce Co. Ltd. have been sold to a foreign concern;
- (2) No revenue has to date been paid to the Registry for the stamp duty and registration fee totaling \$1,020,000.00 in respect of the said land sale; Nor has the arrears of the land tax totaling \$877,041.79 been collected?
- (3) Government has reportedly valued some \$18,932 acres of the same land which was acquired and has agreed to pay the company \$1,116,988.00 for that acquisition (or some \$59.00 per acre);
- (4) The valuation accepted for the 686,186 acres was a purchase price of 12 million dollars (or \$17.50 per acre);
- (5) The only development project so far mentioned in this big land transaction is for the cultivation of 25,000 acres of citrus. Nothing has been said about the remaining 636,186 acres;
- (6) The Coca Cola proposals for the development of of this 25,000 acres do not appear to involve the participation of Belizeans as farmers and producers only as farm workers;
- (7) Government is reported to have given a commitment to expend vast sums of AID finance for infrastructural development such as roads to service this project;
- (8) The handling of this proposed investment and the entire land deal leaves many questions unanswered which the citizen of Belize are entitled to have answered;

(9) The transaction poses a serious threat to our sovereignty;

BE IT RESOLVED that this convention calls on the Government to set up a Fact Finding Committee including members of the Opposition, to examine all records, documents and things related to this B E C/ Bowen/Mischer/Howell/Cora Cola land transaction and the development proposals arising therefrom.

/9274

CSO: 3298/355

BELIZE

POLICE PROBE PUP 'SCANDAL SHEETS'; HARASSMENT CHARGED

Corozal, Orange Walk Investigations

Belize City THE BEACON in English 8 Feb 86 pp 1, 11

[Text]

For months a number of PUP scandal sheets have been circulating in the Corozal and Orange Walk Towns and the host of villages scattered in these two northern districts. While a few of the sheets have filtered outside the two districts, their publications have basically been limited to that area.

The four publications called "Cha-Ka-Laka," "Kro-Kri-Krow," "El Martillo" and "Despertador" have limited their writings to personal attacks on politicians, the UDP government and UDP Party affiliates; to a string of libellous accusations; to articles advocating

violent revolution and anarchy.

Furthermore, all four publications were issued without the names of the printer or publisher, a direct contravention of the newspapers ordinance.

This week Police patrols raided the homes of PUP Representative Valdimar Castillo, PUP official Dr. Gregorio Garcia (who ran on the PUP ticket in the 1984 general elections and lost), and Everaldo Pook, the PUP school teacher who was a leader in the recent teachers' demonstration, and came up with a number of printing items including copies of some of the publications and a gestetner machine.

Police so far are still conducting their investigations, and have not yet issued any summonses. But an official source states that it is expected that

arrests of high-ranking PUP officials can be expected, and they could face a number of charges ranging from criminal libel and inciting a riot to issuing publications in contravention of the newspapers law.

'Repression' Charge

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 9 Feb 86 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The Corozal Police last Tuesday, acting on instructions from Belmopan, raided the home and office of Dr. Gregorio Garcia with a search warrant, seized and took away two Gestetner stencil machines with typewriter.

This repressive action on the part of the police in true gestapo style was done on the orders of their political bosses so as to prevent the People's United Party from distributing any bulletin to the people of Corozal.

It is understood that Corozal Bay representative Israel Alpuche complained to Attorney General Elrington to put a stop to the PUP flyers. Elrington in consultation with Home Affairs Minister Thompson, arranged for the police to clamp down on all the PUP officials in Corozal.

At a recent meeting of the House of Representatives, the UDP Attorney Gen-

eral had served Notice that he intended to use the instrument of the law to intimidate, harass and crush all opposition to the already unpopular Esquivel regime.

This latest move with the illegal seizure of Dr. Garcia's personal duplicating machines and typewriter is but an extension of the UDP policy of denying freedom of speech to their opponents.

Despite all the many election promises about "a free radio" the UDP has also denied the PUP access to airing any programme on the Radio.

Now the embattled government is moving against the printed word as they launch a new repressive campaign to shut up dissent. They are sowing the seeds of bitter discord.

But the more they repress, the more forceful will become the clamour for their resignation.

/9274

CSO: 3298/355

BELIZE

BRIEFS

CARICOM TRADE TALKS--(GIS): Trade relations between Belize and the Caribbean Community were discussed between three visiting officials of the Caricom Secretariat and top government officials. The Caricom officials were Ag. Director of Trade and Agriculture Desiree Field-Ridley, Trade Programme Coordinator Stanley Odle and Senior Fisheries Officer in the Agriculture Section Ronald Gordon. They met Foreign Minister and Minister of Economic Development Dean Barrow, Natural Resources Minister Dean Lindo, Financial Secretary Edney Cain and officials of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Fisheries. The three officials, who left over the weekend, discussed the possibility of Belize acquiring new marketing arrangements within the Caricom region. They also reviewed other matters of concern to Belize including Caricom intra-regional trade. Also on their agenda was the upcoming Caricom Foreign Ministers Meeting which is to be hosted by Belize in May. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACOM in English 8 Feb 86 p 2] /9274

CSO: 3298/355

CHILE

SOFOFA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE NATIONAL PRODUCTS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Feb 86 pp 1B-2B

[Text] Hernan Briones, chairman of the national purchasing committee of the Industrial Development Association (SOFOFA), yesterday announced the implementation this year of a series of actions aimed at replacing imports through the broadest possible use of national products based on their efficiency and competitiveness compared with their foreign counterparts.

Briones added that this is one of the main objectives which the association had set for 1986, in addition to the customary tasks relating to the creation of greater employment possibilities in the country.

He added that the Industrial Development Association has decided to implement the plan, fully aware that industry is the main source of jobs throughout the world.

Briones said that the actual replacement of imports could take place in Chile, first of all, through a policy of outright replacement, in addition to the commitment of giving preference to national products in manufacturing activities or the execution of major projects carried out in the country.

For example, proposals calling for the purchase of equipment or elements by enterprises initiating investments in Chile would have to consider national products in terms of priority.

Linzana [sic] said that at the present time, different foreign firms investing in the country are bringing in practically all the materials and equipment required from their place of origin. He cited the specific example of the Methanol Project in the southern portion of the national territory.

"It would be more logical for such elements to be purchased in the country where the investments are made," he said, "which commitment should be made along with the proposal."

Initial Action

The chairman of the SOFOFA national purchasing committee went on to report that one of the first actions will come in March, consisting of a program of

meetings with the executives of different firms in order that they might list products they would be interested in purchasing in connection with the substitution of imports, products that could be used in their respective activities or in completing new development projects.

A second task would consist in a schedule of meetings with possible bidders or producers so that they might indicate which national products they would be interested in selling within the framework of the plan. The third action would be visits to industries in order to coordinate the foregoing activities with them.

Briones said that SOFOFA has already told businessmen that whenever they have a new or interesting product that might take the place of imports, they should let the institution know so that it may be considered as part of the plan of general action.

He added that other actions would include the drafting of an industrial guide aimed at listing products the country now has.

Finally, he announced the imminent publication of a "Decalog for the Purchasing Executive" of national industries, which contains the basic aspects of their commitment so as to give preference to Chilean products in the performance of their duties.

11,464

CSO: 3348/439

CHILE

INE STATISTICS SHOW 30 PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Feb 86 p C2

[Text] The president of the College of Engineers of Chile, Eduardo Arriagada, has stated that he does not doubt the figures recently released by the director of the National Institute of Statistics on improvements experienced by the people in different categories, compared with 1970, but that "they only represent one aspect of what constitutes the standard of living of Chileans."

Arriagada added that "it is the aspect of least importance because the fundamental element, which is access to acceptable minimum levels of consumption, shows that poverty is an extremely grave problem at the present time and that extreme poverty has reached unacceptable limits."

At a press conference, the official indicated that "it is ridiculous to show improvements in quality of life which have a negative effect on that portion of the population bearing responsibility for any real improvement in the standard of living, for they will then have no reason to take the truly essential action implying the sacrifices required to meet the difficult situation that exists."

Arriagada said that the College of Engineers' position on poverty is not politically motivated and that its only interest is in achieving public awareness of the situation in order to motivate the government and all Chileans to face the problem.

It will be recalled that the director of the National Institute of Statistics, Alvaro Vial, in comparing the results of the 1982 census with those from 1970, said that there had been progress in housing, electrification, water and sewage services, the level of education, access to health care and the ownership of durable consumer goods such as television sets, refrigerators, automobiles and washing machines, which showed that the quality of life of Chileans had improved.

Arriagada said that the current situation has resulted from insufficient growth in the product in recent decades, the unsatisfactory distribution of income and the fact that social spending, although redistributed on the whole, does not solve the problem of extreme poverty. "Many of the programs are aimed at middle- and high-income groups, so that 40 percent of the households in the upper income groups have 50 percent of social subsidies."

He said that at the present time, the per capita product is similar to the figure for 1967 and that the distribution of income is extremely regressive.

Arriagada added that 30.3 percent of all Chilean families do not have an adequate income to meet basic needs, "meaning that they are extremely poor," and that 370,000 young people in Santiago are unemployed.

He noted that there is no other solution to the problem of poverty than an increase in national wealth and an adequate distribution of its product. "The entire effort of the country must be aimed in that direction: creating sources of production and work."

11,464

CSO: 3348/439

CHILE

1986 PROSPECTS FOR STEEL INDUSTRY TERMED 'UNCERTAIN'

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Feb 86 p B3

[Text] Chilean exports of iron and steel products amounted to 100,000 tons in 1985, according to information from Commercial Steel. The figure is barely above that for 1984, when 99,400 tons of steel products were exported.

According to that source, this year's exports are not expected to be much higher because Chile "only exports its production surpluses. Iron and steel products are mainly for domestic consumption. In addition, the level of international prices is extremely poor, so that it is not economical for the country to increase production for the purpose of exports."

Chile reached its highest level in this category in 1982, exporting 162,800 tons, which was a spectacular leap inasmuch as only 4,600 tons had been exported in 1981. Shipments abroad have declined since that time.

In addition, exports of iron and steel products from Latin America amounted to 9.6 million tons, according to figures from the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA), which represents 7.5 percent of the world market and contributes over \$2 billion to the region's trade balance. In 1980, the continent represented only 2 percent of the international market.

One important reason for this increase was the opening up of new markets for Latin American products. Prominent among them are the People's Republic of China, Southeast Asia, Japan and various Arab and African countries.

The main exporter of iron and steel products in the region last year was Brazil, with 6.5 million tons. It was followed by Argentina, with 1.3 million tons, and Venezuela, with 1.1 million tons.

ILAFA Secretary General Anibal Gomez maintains that prospects for the Latin American iron and steel industry in 1986 "are rather uncertain. A true and firm recovery of the Latin American economy requires a world picture from which protectionist practices are absent and in which credit is obtainable and interest rates low.

"Given this state of affairs, one can expect growth in the GNP of from 3 to 4 percent in 1986, permitting an increase in consumption of steel of 5 percent yearly starting in 1986. This would mean something over 30 million tons."

11,464

CSO: 3348/439

COLOMBIA

GOVERNMENT TO DEBATE GUARANTEEING PUBLIC FOREIGN DEBT

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Nov 85 pp 9-C, 10-C

[Article by Carlos Pineros]

[Text] Congress opens in the week of 11 Nov a debate on the possibility of "nationalizing" the risk of default on foreign debt obligations on the part of decentralized entities and other levels of the administration, according to a proposal by Conservative Representative Daniel Mazuera Gomez.

His initiative, applicable solely in cases in which, because of such defaults, the payment of foreign resources by the government may be in dispute, also takes into account the possibility that the nation should take over management of the credit that is in default or any other loan, as well as the execution of the project benefiting from such funds.

The former president of the Chamber of Representatives spelled out his proposal in the official report on the bill that the government submitted to Congress two months ago with the purpose of covering the 148.8 billion-peso shortfall that it is estimated the administration will face in 1986 in covering its basic expenses.

According to Mazuera Gomez, international banks have insisted during new negotiations of credit for the country on the necessity that all the organizations should be up to date on their obligations as a condition for preserving good financial relations.

"In practice," the Congressman said, "it is very difficult to assert that the entire public debt of the country, which is the responsibility of different entities, is up to date, and there is no mechanism for the central government which allows it to enforce such performance, above all when the situation is due to the financial strangulation of the entity that is in debt."

He said this type of situation "is frequent" and he therefore proposed "authorizing the nation to make capital or interest payments on the foreign debt of such entities, and immediately recovering the sums paid out with charges against cessions of the sales tax, fixed fiscal income

or any other appropriation the beneficiary of which is the entity for which the nation has made the payment."

The Congressman proposed the following wording for the appropriate article in the proposed law: "When it is necessary for territorial or decentralized entities to be up to date on their foreign obligations, whether these are guaranteed or not, so that the nation may receive payments of foreign loans, the nation may make the respective payments and immediately carry out the necessary budget operations required to recover the total amount covered, with costs and interest, charging this to cessions of the sales tax, fixed fiscal income or any other appropriation the immediate beneficiary of which is the entity whose debt was covered. Furthermore, the nation may contract with such entities and with the Bank of the Republic to administer the funds resulting from credit operations covered by this law, and for the execution of the projects for which the credits are intended."

The author of the official report made other changes and additions to the proposal, among them being an extension for one year of the period that the government has, according to Law 55 of 1985, to issue bonds denominated in dollars and to place them on the international market, to a value of 500 million dollars. He also accepted the administration's suggestion to facilitate an additional issue of 250 million dollars. The first 500 million dollars are intended to promote repatriation of capital with a foreign exchange and personal tax amnesty. If Mazuera Gomez' position is approved, other investors may also subscribe to the bonds.

The bonds or securities may also be denominated in other currencies and in European Currency Units. The Bank of the Republic may intervene in the market to maintain a good quotation and will also open a maintenance fund with 10 percent of the new funds invested so as to avoid issuing money to redeem the bonds, according to the ideas presented by Mazuera Gomez.

The official idea of increasing by 40 billion pesos the issuance of TAN (Titulos de Ahorro Nacional - National Savings Securities) was raised by Mazuera to 49 billion pesos, a figure he thought more appropriate to the government's needs, but he warned that this means of financing public expenditures is onerous and presents serious dangers on being unwound. If this amount is approved, close to 200 billion pesos worth of TAN will have been issued since their creation in 1983, and close to two thirds will be in circulation in 1986.

The government's request according to which an issue of 55 billion pesos is required, plus 15 billion pesos if the planned foreign credit payments are not made, were welcomed by the Congressman. So was the request, for an internal debt allowance of 15 billion pesos to contract for development projects. Mazuera said this operation would not imply making any issues and that in some cases it would be simply an accounting procedure. He also supported increasing by 2.5 billion dollars the allowance for foreign debt.

In the bill the Congressman also suggested that the Interparliamentary Committee for Public Debt, which issues opinions on financial operations

and does not obligate the government, should henceforth give two opinions: one before negotiations begin and the other on completing approval of each credit. He also proposed the idea of "positive administrative silence" for the committee, which has no administrative power, in that if it does not meet within 30 consecutive days of being convened, after this time it shall be considered to have given a favorable opinion or that this requirement has become moot.

The Congressman laid great stress on the importance of the Ministry of Finance's Directorate of Public Credit being reformed and modernized and that it should stop using manual methods to maintain the accounts and records of foreign credits, and that it should be provided with resources adequate to its operations. For this reason he included in the bill an article empowering the government to act accordingly within three months.

Discussion of the bill will commence in the presence of the Minister of Finance, Hugo Palacios Mejia, who will also have to respond to a debate in which the Liberals will discuss the administration's economic policy in the Chamber on 13 Nov.

12856/9190
CSO: 3348/192

COLOMBIA

GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES RESULT IN SLIGHTLY INCREASED EXPORTS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Nov 85 pp 1-D, 5-D

[Article by Jose Fernandez Lopez]

[Text] One of the main goals of the Colombian government's economic adjustment program is to increase exports.

No efforts have been spared to achieve this. The last year's devaluation was the biggest in the history of the country, and the other incentives, although they have been modified in accordance with the devaluation (an increased interest rate and lower CERT [Tax Reimbursement Artificate] for some products) are still an important support for exporters.

Results, however, have not been of the best. According to DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics], exports in the first half of 1985, excluding coffee--trade which is outside the incentives framework since it is a product sold in a regulated market--grew barely by three percent compared with the same period of 1984.

This could be due to several reasons. One, suggested by exporters themselves, is that the markets that have been lost in several years of mistaken policies (especially the management of the exchange rate) cannot be recovered in a period of six months. Another is that the country is positively very backward in matters of infrastructure for foreign trade (this is the period in which it has not proved possible to complete regulating operations of trading companies). Yet another is the technological backwardness of our industrial base, which prevents offering competitive products, not only in price but also in quality.

However, more important in this case is a factor associated with the working of the world economy which has become the great enemy of the recovery process in the Latin American economies: the decline in commodity prices.

The figures provided by DANE reveal in fact the negative impact this factor has had on Colombian trade, since the value of exports in the first half is barely three percent higher than last year's value, while the volume of exports is 44 percent higher.

What this means is that (expecting some areas in which there may have been a shift in the composition of exports from products of greater volume and lower price, such as in the case of books) the prices of the country's export products dropped considerably in the world market.

Particularly dramatic is the change in the area of "Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous matter and mineral waxes," the export volume of which grew by 73 percent in the first half and the value of which increased by only 15 percent. The published data do not discriminate by product but it is evident that the difference is basically due to the decline in the price for fuel oil, although it is possible that coal may have had some influence.

Equally clear is the influence of declining prices in international markets with regard to the relationship between value and price of agricultural products such as cotton and sugar. In the case of cotton, volume of exports in the first half rose by 55 percent while value only increased by three percent. In the case of sugar, exports (including confectionery items) also increased considerably (129 percent) which did not prevent the export value from declining.

The only area showing an apparent improvement in prices is leather manufacturers. However it is possible that here also there may have been a change in the exportable supply, with an increased proportion of luxury articles.

In overall (and absolute) terms, exports other than coffee rose from 2.5 million tons in the first half of 1984 to 3.7 million tons in the first six months of 1985. But income barely rose from \$835 to \$860 million.

Although imports showed a similar tendency, with volume maintaining its level while value declined, this was much less marked than the value of exports.

This situation, which is most certainly not peculiar to Colombia, does nothing more than corroborate what important international organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and governments of developing countries have been saying for a long time: the effective recovery of the economies of Third World countries will be impossible as long as the terms of trade continue to be so unfavorable.

At the end of last week the Economic Commission for Latin America published an "Economic Panorama of Latin America in 1985" in which it is stated that, with the exception of Brazil, economic growth in the region slowed down in the current year, due, among other things, to a new "deterioration of the terms of trade." And the fact is that, as has been repeated a thousand times, in such conditions no economic adjustment plan can possibly work.

12856/9190
CSO: 3348/192

27 March 1986

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

NEW AGRICULTURE VICE MINISTER--Economist Clemencia Gomez Paris of Tolima was appointed vice minister of agriculture, replacing Cecilia Lopez Montano, the new ambassador to the Netherlands. The appointee is an economist graduated from Rosario University. She has taken specialized courses in agricultural projects in Brazil, food marketing in the European Economic Community and managerial development, among others. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO 9 Nov 85 p 2-D] 12856/9190

CSO: 3348/192

CUBA

PEOPLE'S ANTI-AIR DEFENSE EXERCISES RECOUNTED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Dec 85 pp 60-63

[Article by Cesar Gomez Chacon]

[Text] The year 1985 was one of advanced training for the country's defense system, based on the new concepts of the war of all the people and experience already acquired in the different drills and exercises held.

The defense zones, headed by their councils and scattered throughout the width length and breadth of our national territory, have become a force of incalculable magnitude making every meter of Cuban soil a bastion difficult to conquer by the attacker.

But not only the land will be an impregnable fortress. The defense zones will also turn our free, blue skies into a bastion. The enemy will not be able to bomb and strafe our cities, towns or countryside with impunity, much less drop in troops without proper punishment.

The People's Anti-air Defense (DAAP), along with the regular troops of the anti-air defense of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], is organized and headed by zone councils, under a unique plan and idea. It will fight off any air attack by the enemy, for which purpose it has its own means and forces.

The DAAP, organized even in peacetime and involving the entire population of the country, is not limited to combat actions, which may utilize anti-aircraft weapons, those of the infantry or any others designated by the defense zone for use against air objectives. Rather, it also includes a whole series of measures aimed at reducing to the maximum extent any possible effect of enemy air attacks on the population and other specific objectives.

The farmer playing the role of liaison between the defense zone and the radio unit gallops up on his horse and quickly gives the signal to the militiaman guarding the entry to the area assigned to the defense council: "The birds are coming!"

Without wasting an instant, the militiaman leads him down the narrow stairway linking the underground facility with the surface. Once there, the head of the zone greets him and, along with the entire council, hears the report in which the farmer gives data received by the radio unit concerning a group of air targets headed in that direction.

An air alarm is ordered. Bells, sirens, empty shells and other noisemakers sound the alert throughout the region. Without hesitation, farmers from everywhere run to take refuge in shelters built and equipped for just such a situation.

Only militiamen and members of production and defense brigades responsible for anti-air defense occupy posts next to combat installations prepared for the attack.

Air observers also remain at observation posts at all times, camouflaged in areas best enabling them to discover the presence of the enemy at great distances and determine the approximate flight path, speed, altitude, number and type of aircraft, and any other data of interest.

Using binoculars and other observation equipment, they scrutinize the skies in the direction signaled by the radio units as the likely origin of the first birds.

After a few seconds, tiny, black dots indeed appear on the horizon, moving rapidly and in formation. Based on their path, they should be over the zone in a matter of instants. One, two, three: Everything corroborates the information received. Five enemy helicopters appear, certainly for the purpose of landing troops on a small plain near the zone and particularly well suited for the purpose. This is reported.

Exploration of the air enemy, as an integral part of the country's single exploration system, was the first part of the mission carried out to the letter. All necessary information is received in the zone, rapidly and precisely. During the fighting, there will be other tasks, equally important and complex.

In the conception of the war of all the people, this single system of exploration has incalculable potential in defense zones. Not losing sight of the enemy becomes the task of every man, woman and child, young and old alike.

The slightest information about the enemy may be of great aid in the discovery of plans and future actions. Data reaching the defense zone are immediately transmitted through channels to military organs responsible for processing such information and reacting to any situation.

The air observers are not the only part of the system. In order to detect the movement of the enemy on land, observation posts are situated in places difficult to spot, but which permit great visibility. The zones also have scout patrols made up of several militiamen or members of a production and defense brigade.

Ambushes and minor skirmishes in which prisoners are taken and maps, plans and equipment are taken from the enemy are also forms of exploration that can be used during the people's struggle.

Inferno

Our skies will turn into an air inferno when the enemy tries to use them to attack us. Along with the rockets, projectiles and other means of the regular anti-air defense troops will be the rockets, projectiles and other means belonging to the People's Anti-Air Defense, most of them the fruits of the skills of our workers.

Anti-aircraft artillery belonging to the small MTT [Territorial Troops Militia] in defense zones will commence firing. They will be joined by groups of sharpshooters, militiamen and members of the production and defense brigades, who will fire their infantry weapons in an organized fashion.

The militia "archers" will also activate their weapons and the anti-aircraft rockets will whistle toward their targets. Fire support composed of the assembly of several infantry rifles aimed at the same target will wreak havoc among attacking air targets.

Grenades, rocks, shrapnel, shells and explosive materials of all types will storm through the air in the designated direction when the men and women of the people activate the mechanisms of the dirigible explosives, flammable shells, grenade launchers and other anti-air weapons designed and built in the local defense zones.

Then the vultures' masters will understand their principal error: The Cuban skies are off limits to attackers.

11,464

CSO: 3248/246

CUBA

MININT TV PROGRAM FOCUSES ON 'DELINQUENT' BEHAVIOR

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 5, 31 Jan 86 p 78

[Article by Ilse Bulit]

[Text] One of man's most extraordinary powers is that of being able to day-dream. Transcending trifles, he crosses oceans of time, envisioning miracles he can perform with his own hands. Sometimes, this power carries him too far.

He falls into the trap when, full of illusion, he asks: Why are there still criminals after 26 years of the revolution? His illusions are even greater if he only blames the past for creating the circumstances, for we, the authors of the present, are also partly to blame.

Knowing that with "Well Worth the Trouble" one has the return to the television screen of the men and women of the MININT [Ministry of Interior], who on different fronts defend the nation's stability, is the most relevant quality of this series of expressive forms "burned" by time, despite the painful vogue of the Baldomeros.

This original series by Luis Adrian Betancourt, directed by Jesus Cabrera, lacks that touch of life, the feeling of what is lasting, although it is a fine example of television work.

Perhaps its genesis lies in the basic concept that evil always pays, that the good always win out in the end. Sooner or later, without any doubt, right will win the battle, but it will take its lumps along the way.

In order to be prepared for such fights, have our eyes open and not be guilty of the unhealthy practice of not doing but allowing others to, a confrontation with the truth is most advisable.

Based on this elementary concept, the creation of the characters became rigid, erecting a barrier obstructing total affectionate and respectful communication with positive heroes, while the evildoers came off live, without awakening the anger that those despicable beings deserve.

If one analyzes the history of Cuban television, there have been milestones in every phase, performances contained in "Motive 8," "Sector 40" or "It Had To Be in Silence." These intervals began in the 1960's. Today, in 1986, they can no longer use the old, expressive language, "burned" like a good agent that must assume other responsibilities.

A Canadian series, "On the Other Side of the Street," found favor with the public even though it did not feature sensational action with screeching tires and karate shouts. Why was this so?

The concrete vision of a society emerges on the screen in actions and characters delineated in a human way. The cop and the criminal are on different sides of the street, but they breathe the same air. Every chapter makes one reflect. Reality intertwined with the melodrama moves one to think.

Let us then analyze our own problems. In order to keep the Baldomeros from flourishing, one must present the punishment of such events, but also the causes, the good and the bad that are part of all of us.

Let us hail the return of such a line to television. It is well worth the trouble because of the educational aspect that regains the rank that characterized it at a specific creative moment.

11,464

CSO: 3248/246

ECUADOR

LEFTIST PARTIES SEEK UNITY FOR ELECTIONS

PA201747 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Dr Rene Mauge Mosquera, leader of the Leftwing Broad Front [FADI], has proposed the unification of the country's political forces to face election processes.

[Begin Mauge Mosquera recording] In its latest national congress and in the most recent meeting of the expanded board of directors of FADI, in January, our front called for the unity of all the democratic and leftist forces in the country.

Unity implies willingness from more than one party. It requires the willingness of the various parties desiring unity. We have been calling for unity, based on specific objectives. We are prepared for unity in the forthcoming elections with the clear objective of producing a change in the cooperation of forces in the national congress, to have congress pass laws that will benefit the people and defend our resources, to have congress fulfill its job as overseer of the Executive Branch. If the objective of defeating the oligarchy is clear [2-second break in transmission] this will be possible through the unity and alliance of the democratic, progressive, and revolutionary forces of Ecuador. [end Mauge Mosquera recording]

/12232

CSO: 3348/454

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

NO DEVALUATION, FUEL PRICE HIKE--Yesterday, receiving a decoration from the National Finance Corporation, President Leon Febres Cordero said: Regardless of their importance, whoever tries to take advantage of the current situation and engage in speculation and abuse of power should realize that this government will use the law to stop them, aware that there is no better asset than the well-being of the people. The president announced that there will not be a devaluation of the currency nor a gasoline price hike. He scored those who unnecessarily provoke panic and those who speculate in dollars. He also appealed to the private sector. Febres Cordero said: Today more than ever, the private sector must understand that its capability to produce wealth must be at the service of the nation. He added that the country must unite to achieve national goals, that everyone should look beyond personal interests and work for the fatherland without egoism or resentment, and that we must do the best we can today because the future of our children depends on it. [Text] [Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Feb 86 PA] /12232

CSO: 3348/454

GRENADA

BLAIZE STAND ON, EFFECTS OF CIVIL SERVANT SICKOUT DETAILED

Government's Position

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Feb 86 p 5

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Feb. 23, Cana — GRENADA GOVERNMENT has warned of cuts in the Public Service, if civil servants go on a one-week sick-out tomorrow to back demands for increased wages. Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said in a nationwide broadcast that if the unions went ahead with the sick-out, his administration would implement the recommendations of a group of British consultants, who said the Public Service needed trimming.

He described the decision by three trade unions to order 3,000 public workers to take the protest action as regrettable. Mr. Blaize said he hoped that those people were prepared to stand by the consequences of their actions.

He also called on the more responsible members of the unions to ensure that their representatives resume negotiations with Government, in the hope of finding a solution to the impasse.

The study revealed that there were 1,100 redundant posts within the service, costing the government \$6 million each year, in addition to a significant degree of sub-standard performances by some civil servants.

Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT),

Public Workers' Union (PWU), and Technical and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU) are demanding salary increases of 30 per cent for last year, along with an average weighted increase and fringe benefits for this year.

Government told the unions, before negotiations broke down, that there was no money to pay increases for 1985, and it would prefer negotiations on increases for this year, to begin only after it had fully analysed the report from the consultants.

Mr. Blaize said the increases sought by the unions for last year amounted to \$15.7 million, and would result in Government not only having to borrow the money, but to increase the burdens on taxpayers, which it was against.

\$100m Collected

"We cannot succumb to the temptation of paying unjustified backpay of \$15.7 million for 1985 to public workers, as this would inevitably frustrate the goal of a balanced Budget in three years' time," he added.

He advocated restraint on the part of the unions, so that the Government could continue its policy aimed at allowing the country to be "in a position to pay our way." Mr. Blaize said that in 1985, the Government collected \$100.5 million in revenue.

Of the money spent last year, he said \$55.4 million went to wages and salaries, a further \$5.1 million to pensions, \$25 million to public service debt, and only \$29.6 million to providing essential services.

Mr. Blaize stressed that public workers who received an 11.25 per cent increase in wages for 1984, were not subjected to any hardship last year, even when inflation was taken into account, because of tax relief measures in the 1985 Budget.

He said if the Government was allowed to continue with its policy of lighter taxes and a lowering of the cost of living, "then we can bring some more positive relief to taxpayers across the country this year."

Effectiveness of Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Feb 86 p 5

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Feb. 24, Cana — A SICKOUT by public servants forced the closure of schools and some Government departments today, a union spokesman said. Three public sector unions have been urging Government to begin negotiations for a new pay agreement.

The unions are particularly annoyed that Government has rejected a request for salary increases for 1985, on the grounds that it has no money.

The Herbert Blaize administration also wants to postpone pay contract talks until it discusses a report by British consultants recommending sweeping job cuts in the public sector.

Spokesman for the Public Workers' Union (PWU) claimed that the sickout had been 80 per cent successful, and all schools and some Government departments were closed. He did not say how long the industrial action would last.

He said it had been postponed because of last week's historic visit by President Reagan.

"We did not want to embarrass the Government and spoil the occasion of the President's visit," the

spokesman said, "so we waited until it was all over."

Grenada Teachers' Union and Technical and Allied Workers' Union are the other two unions involved.

Grenada's estimated 3,000 public employees received no salary increases last year, and the unions had asked for a 30 per cent, across-the-board raise for 1985 and a weighted average 30 per cent increase in 1986.

The spokesman said Government had proposed that certain suggested fringe benefits be taken into account in arriving at an increase for this year, but this was unacceptable to the unions.

On February 3, the unions gave Government an ultimatum to begin negotiations by February 11, or the unions would feel free to take whatever action they see fit.

/9274

CSO: 3298/356

GUATEMALA

MLN, SANDOVAL END DISPUTES, PLAN STRATEGY

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 86 p 4

[Text] The differences that existed between the National Executive Committee of the National Liberation Movement [MLN] and secretary general Mario Sandoval Alarcon were settled yesterday, after an hour-long meeting held at the residence of MLN's top-ranking leader, in zone 9 of this city, starting at 1700 hours.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which was attended by the MLN deputies in a bloc, they released a communique in which they declare that, as of that date, all the party's decisions and resolutions will be made by a majority of the National Executive Committee and not unilaterally, as they were previously, when made by the secretary general.

In addition, they agreed that any party publication would be authorized by the National Executive Committee. No longer will anyone speak on behalf of MLN, as they had in the past. All such statements will be made on a personal basis. The Executive Committee will have its spokesman, who will be announced at a suitable time, and who will be appointed to that position.

At the meeting, confidence was confirmed in all the members of the National Executive Committee and in the bloc of deputies to the Congress of the Republic. The rank and file must be notified of the results that have been attained, and of the fact that the confidence placed in the members of the National Executive Committee was confirmed.

They also decided that MLN's National Assembly will take place during the first 2 weeks of March of this year, to elect the new National Executive Committee, the Court of Honor and Discipline, and other leadership bodies, such as the political council, MLN's consultative council.

Those attending described it as historic, because they held direct dialogue concerning their differences, and were not in separate groups, as they had been during the past few days. They noted that the results benefit both the party members and Guatemalans; because there will be more unity in the decisions that are made henceforth, which will not be unilateral.

Satisfaction

At the end of the meeting, Deputy Hector Aragon Quinones, assistant secretary of MLN and third vice president of the Congress of the Republic, voiced his satisfaction at the positive results accrued, proving that there was political maturity and that solid unity exists in the party, because everyone wants to consolidate MLN and not harm it.

"We are gratified that the decisions will be made by consensus and a majority; we confirm the leadership of Sandoval Alarcon and his capacity as general director, which no one has disputed. The meeting was cordial, as they always are in MLN.

"Unity still exists; it will be possible to hold extensive discussions; there can be differences of opinion but, when decisions are made, it will be through consensus and a majority."

In conclusion, he reiterated the unchanging friendship with Sandoval Alarcon, which remains the same, with the same respect and affection, and perhaps with greater consolidation; because mutual respect between two men is consolidated further when they think differently but are sensible in politics, ready to sit down and hold dialogue, and reach an agreement for the good of the party and the country.

"When anyone receives offers of a position to work with DC [Christian Democracy], it will have to be the committee and secretary Sandoval Alarcon who make the decisions. We emphasize that participating in a government does not represent ideological or political reneging. We must think of the party and of our people who are suffering from anxiety and unemployment, and of how they could be helped, but we want to maintain the party's unity.

"The people who took pleasure in MLN's division and certain members of the press were enjoying themselves. With this interpartisan discussion, they will be greatly disappointed, when they learn about the respect that the Executive Committee has for Sandoval Alarcon; and we retain the hope of forming a government for the good of the country some day."

A Clean Slate

"We have arrived at a fortunate solution, after holding dialogue regarding the differences which naturally occur in a party. There were certain views wherein we disagreed, which caused the problem, but we talked, and everything has been resolved.

"I didn't consider it feasible for the party to have them hold positions on the board of directors of the Congress and others, if they were offered to them, in the DC government; but the majority decided the opposite. If they hold a position, it will be a personal responsibility.

"Division in a party is harmful; for the sake of unity, we must set aside personal positions, and act with complete responsibility."

2909

CSO: 3248/260

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS ELECTS FOUR SUPREME COURT JUDGES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Jan 86 p 4

[Excerpt] The Congress of the Republic yesterday elected its four judges to the Supreme Court of Justice in accordance with the terms of provisional Article 10 of the Constitution of the Republic.

The judges chosen, with 86 votes in favor from a quorum of 86 deputies, are attorneys Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, Alfonso Branas Castellanos, Mario Pellecer and Marco Tulio Molina Abril.

The four judges were proposed by deputies from the Christian Democracy Party.

Deputies from all parties supported their nomination through speeches by several of their members, who pointed out the qualities of the attorneys, their abilities and honesty, which drew support from the other deputies.

In addition, Deputy Oscar Rivas of the PID [Democratic Institutional Party], proposed as a candidate Hugo Pellecer Robles, and Representative Salvador Acevedo of the UNC [Center Party] proposed Oscar Barrios Castillo, also an attorney.

Since the result of the voting was an overwhelming majority of the four elected, no vote was taken on the last two.

The declaratory decrees is number 4-86 and was issued without a second reading on the basis of national urgency.

Alternate Deputies to Be Seated

The secretariat informed the plenary that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal had sent a note indicating alternate deputies to replace three titular representatives who requested permission to assume important positions in the Executive Branch.

The alternate deputies, who will be sworn in and take their places today, are: Francisco Lopez Vidaurre, replacing Rene de Leon Schlotter; Francisco Colop, replacing Catalia Soberanis; and Guillermo Enrique Villar Anleu, for Hermes Marroquin.

Vasquez Martinez Not an Official Candidate: Cabrera

"An interesting report was published by one communications medium, to the effect that Dr Edmundo Vasquez Martinez is the DC's official candidate for president of the judicial body," Deputy Alfonso Cabrera, president of the Congress of the Republic, said yesterday.

"As a contradiction to the aforementioned publication, when his candidacy for judge of the Supreme Court was proposed in today's session, it was supported by all sides. Not only deputies from the DC, but those from all parties emphasized his personality and abilities and praised his qualities as a jurist.

"That result is a categorical denial of those statements. It means that it is official from any party, opposition or government."

8735/9869

CSO: 3248/254

27 March 1986

GUATEMALA

HOMELESS OCCUPY GOVERNMENT LAND

Emergency Council Created

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 86 p 6

[Text] It has been officially reported that the government created an emergency council yesterday to solve the housing problem in this capital and in the departments, so as to prevent invasions of private land in the future.

Julio Santos, public relations secretary of the presidency, declared yesterday that this commission is made up of leaders of various government institutions and representatives from the private sector.

Thus, the council is comprised of architect Hermes Marroquin, secretary of economic planning; Joaquin Martinez, from BANVI [National Housing Bank]; Rene de Leon Schlotter, minister of development; the priest Hildebrando Cumes, and Jorge Cumes, from non-state agencies; as well as Col Hermann Grotewold Cerezo, from the Reconstruction Committee.

According to Santos, a few days after having assumed the executive office, President Cerezo initiated a major step, namely, that of providing a concrete response, within a short time, to thousands of fellow countrymen who lack suitable dwellings for their family members.

It involves devising a plan of action this year, to supply plots of land with essential public services as well as other facilities for building economical housing for many Guatemalans, both in this capital and in the departments.

At 2100 hours today, the national radio network TGW will air a detailed report on the goals of the emergency council for resolving the housing shortage.

Government Policies Criticized

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 86 p 10

[Editorial: "The Land Invasions Show the Failure of the Administrative Policy"]

[Text] Immediately after the earthquake of 4 February 1976, taking advantage of the international aid that the government and various private entities were receiving, an official policy was initiated aimed at healing the nation's

physical wounds, and there was a great deal of publicity regarding activities aimed at that goal. According to one of the candidates, the 1978 election campaign made it possible to reveal that the international effort had not been channeled properly.

There was an underlying desire to make use of the disaster for the purpose of reconstruction and, at the same time, for the partial or total solution of the housing shortage problem that has beset the country for a long time. Of course, the situation did not arise as a result of the earthquake; the latter was a phenomenon that exacerbated it to a highly disastrous extent. The lack of reliable statistics has never made it possible to learn exactly how many Guatemalan families lack their own dwelling. But what can be asserted, with statistics or without them, is that, instead of declining, that critical feature in the lives of the population has increased impressively.

There are factors, such as the irrepressible impoverishment of the so-called popular sectors as a result of the demographic overflow, and the increasingly unsatisfactory administrative effort. Books, pamphlets or flyers are not required to understand the situation. It is depicted in all its glaring sadness by the invasions of private or state-owned land which reached their seventh day of unrest yesterday, with an attempt to usurp properties in zone 18. The isolated opinion of certain officials, who claim that the hand of some political group lies behind those mass demonstrations, may have some grounds. If the problem had not remained a latent one among the traditionally alienated sectors, no political party would be capable of mobilizing hundreds and thousands of people seeking a plot of land so as to lodge their poverty there. The social problem does exist; it is not antigovernment fiction. It is a reality which must be coped with, beginning with a thorough study of what the state has done to mitigate it.

The private land invasions that have occurred in the capital during the past 2 weeks, just like those committed years ago on land bordering El Mezquital, for example, show that an overall policy is needed to prevent this from becoming an uncontrollable situation in the future, as might be expected in the light of recent events. Isn't that what happened in the case of the aforementioned settlement? The legitimate owners have attempted to have their rights upheld, but this has been futile.

It might be claimed that for Guatemala, just as in the case of most underdeveloped countries, the idea of satisfactorily solving the people's housing problem is unattainable; because the population is increasing at a rate exceeding any economic possibility of financing the services required by that phenomenon. Because it is not housing alone that is involved; also, and fundamentally, it entails the other facilities indicated to allow for the development of human life under acceptable conditions. Apart from this, to speak sincerely, what the governments have done to solve those problems is not commensurate with what has been stolen from the national treasury during recent decades to make officials of all types wealthy. What the people expect now, as a beginning, is that the latter will end and the former begin, with better prospects.

2909

CSO: 3248/260

GUATEMALA

CEREZO ORDERS INCREASE IN MONEY SUPPLY

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Feb 86 p 29

[Text] Yesterday, at a press conference held at the presidential residence, President Cerezo remarked: "The government will have to continue making use of the little money-making machine at the present time, because there is a deficit in the budget and the salary increase for public employees is approaching."

When asked whether there were sufficient funds to raise the salaries, and whether this would prompt the use of the so-called "little machine," the president said that, at the moment, it would be impossible to stop using that little machine.

The chief executive emphasized: "I cannot claim that we are going to stop using the little machine, because we have a deficit of 500 million quetzales, and, at present, if we were to reduce the use of the little machine, we would have to dismiss most of the public employees.

"We could not invest in the rural areas to provide employment. There is no recourse now other than to try to operate with the deficit, because our concern is not a fiscal or monetary issue; rather, we don't want to raise unemployment, nor to heighten the problems among the people. On the contrary, we want to solve all those problems.

"Nevertheless, you will learn the combined measures and responses to all these questions when we submit the general bill. I think that, during February, we shall hold discussions with the trade unions and private enterprises, and listen to the population's views; and then we shall submit our bill for economic stabilization."

Cut in Confidential Spending

President Cerezo also noted that, for the salary hikes, it would be necessary to cut all the spending considered to be confidential, as well as representational expenses.

He continued: "That's a fact; the government will not halt investment-related activities, because there is a need to build highways and to develop educational and health programs." In conclusion, the president of the republic commented that the salary increases might go into effect as of March.

2909

CSO: 3248/266

GUATEMALA

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CHARGE TARIFFS RESTRICT TRADE

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] The existence of prohibitive taxes, such as those contained in Decree-Laws 149-85 and 3-86, only curtails the importing of essential goods which generate employment and labor, etc., and they tend to encourage large-scale smuggling.

The foregoing statement was made by a delegation from the Corporation of Guatemalan Customs Agents, which arrived at the congress of the republic yesterday to exchange views with the congressional investigating commission that is studying the seven decree-laws relating to federal taxes issued by the de facto government before its conclusion.

The delegation from the aforementioned corporation included the Messrs Efraim Recinos, Francisco Lopez, Alfredo Vi- [words missing from text] necessitates calculating the import text in accordance with the dollar exchange rate set by the Bank of Guatemala.

They noted: "The taxes are created in order to allow the state to be provided with revenue to carry out its programmed activities. But the prohibitive levies force the importer to halt imports because, procuring raw materials under such abnormal conditions causes the costs to be excessively high and the consumer not to purchase them, even though they may be essential products, such as medicines, food, etc. In other words, his purchasing power declines as a result of the products' high cost."

As an example, they cited the fact that, in importing raw material that does not appear essential, with 5 percent customs duty and without the application of Decree 149-85, the amount for customs duties would be 500 quetzales; based on Decree 96-84, it would be 5 quetzales; and for the VAT, 735.35 quetzales; making a total of 1,240.35 quetzales.

For the same imports with application of Decree 149-85, 1,413.96 quetzales would be paid for customs duties; based on Decree 96-84, the cost would be 5 quetzales, and for the VAT, 2,078.88 quetzales; making a total of 3,497.84 quetzales.

The difference between the one payment and the other represents a 282 percent increase with the application of Decree-Law 149-85.

Another example given is that of the importing of a medicinal product, based on the customs duties in the new tariff, and on documents with a CIF value of 14,000 quetzales: for customs duties, 2,100 quetzales; Decree 96-84, 5 quetzales; and the VAT, 1,127.35 quetzales; making a total of 3,232.35 quetzales.

With the application of Decree 149-85, the customs duties would be 5,928.63 quetzales; based on Decree 96-84, 5 quetzales; and, for the VAT, 3,187.42 quetzales; making a total of 9,131.05 quetzales. The increase amounts to 280 percent.

2909

CSO: 3248/266

GUATEMALA

POPPY PLANTATIONS DISCOVERED IN SAN MARCOS

Internationally Financed

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Jan 86 p 15

[Text] The Treasury Guard dealt another blow to the drug traffic upon discovering and seizing a plantation containing 215,000 poppy shrubs, in the village of Villa Hermosa, Esquipulas, Palo Gordo, in this department [San Marcos]. The plantation was valued at 22.36 million quetzales, and was discovered on 31 December, when the brothers Trinidad Guadalupe and Cipriano Miguel Lopez y Lopez were captured, as was Juan de la Cruz Lopez de Leon. Specifically, it was located on the Las Vegas mountain, on the banks of the Mopa River which has its source in the Ixtagel and Canoas mountains. The plantation was destroyed, and only one shrub was submitted as evidence to the San Marcos justice of the peace office, where those captured were turned over. At the end of last September, Treasury agents seized, in the same village, 12 manzanas of land planted with 326,436 poppy shrubs, valued at 33,959,286 quetzales and 40 centavos. On that occasion, eight individuals were captured, who were charged with being the owners of the poppy plantations. The authorities believe that international drug traffickers are financing these poppy plantations, because, owing to the mountainous nature of the region and their easy deployment toward Mexican territory, due to the closeness of the border, the poppies can be removed to that country, where it is believed there are clandestine laboratories for the raw opium extracted from the poppies. Treasury authorities noted that over 35 alkaloids are extracted from the opium.

Further Discoveries

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 86 p 7

[Text] Another poppy plantation was discovered by the Treasury Guard in the Coatan Canton, in the village of Tojcheche, San Marcos; and the value of this plantation, on Fernando Morales Ramirez' land, has been reckoned as a quarter of a million. The police establishment in San Marcos said that the new poppy plantation is part of the network of plantations which are used by the drug traffickers to send the seed to Mexico, where it is processed and converted into opium, according to accounts given by those indicted for this crime. Based on calculations made by Treasury Guard experts, the value of the plantation could amount to 55 million quetzales. The search in uncultivated areas has proven successful, from September 1985 until 9 January 1986. Insofar as the penalties for those responsible are concerned, they will be decided upon by the courts in the jurisdiction in which the confiscation has taken place.

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

SANTOS NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN--Julio Santos will be secretary of public relations for the presidency of the republic, it was confirmed last evening by President Vinicio Cerezo in an interview with reporters at the National Palace. In brief statements to the press, the chief executive confirmed what had been rumored for several days. Mr Santos has been chief of the supplements section of PRENSA LIBRE for some time. His work has been dependable and perceptive, particularly in matters related to national politics, which has earned him praise in many circles around the country. Santos has also been director of the University of San Carlos Journalism School. He was a candidate for rector of that academic institution and has worked in several of the country's communications media. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Jan 86 p 6] 8735/9869

BUCARO HEADS INTA--Agronomic engineer Gustavo Adolfo Bucaro took over the presidency of the National Institute of Agrarian Reform on 20 January, replacing zootechnician Fredy Fernando Gamas Rosal. Taking over as first vice president was Jaime Gonzalez Estevez, an engineer, replacing Sergio Hernandez Catalan, who had worked for several years at the institute. Pablo Roberto Castellanos, an accountant, was named second vice president. He joined INTA in place of Rolando de Leon Cuellar, a professional who served the agency for many years. The arrival of these new INTA officials marks the beginning of a new era of service to the peasants, which will be characterized by the fact that its functions will now be carried out under a civilian government, a situation offering greater advantages in broadening the work the institution has been doing since its establishment. Outgoing President Gamas Rosal did a brilliant job, considering that because of the country's economic austerity for some years now it was not possible to construct schools and to train the peasants. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Jan 86 p 9] 8735/9869

CSO: 3248/254

GUYANA

PNC SENDS TWO DELEGATES TO CUBAN PARTY CONGRESS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 p 2

[Text]

Two members of the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress are now in Cuba to represent the Party at the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. They are Cuban-trained Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Health Minister, and Cde Harun Rashid, head of the Department of National Production within the PNC Secretariat.

The Cuban Communist Party regularly sends representatives to PNC Congresses and members of such overseas delegations have had honorary membership of the PNC conferred on them.

The current CCP Congress will discuss, among other things, economic and social guidelines for the next five years.

Speaking recently in Havana about the draft programme at the ninth session of the National Assembly of People's Power, President Fidel Castro said "It will be a good programme that will reflect many of our experiences and it will be enriched by the contributions of all Party members and the people as a whole. I think the conditions for the Congress are ideal. It will

be a timely Congress at a timely moment."

The Guyanese representatives to Congress will be able to see the reconstruction work being undertaken after the devastation caused by Hurricane Kate, which razed every banana plantation and hit eight provinces precisely when the sugarcane was growing well and was ready for the beginning of harvest.

The tens of thousands of people whose homes were affected by the hurricane, saw the socialist state act as it always does in such cases, rushing to help them, providing them with construction materials at half price and granting credits to rebuild their homes.

Fidel has compared the Cuban situation to that of other countries, including some developed countries, and noted that considerable progress has been made in the co-ordination of plans with most of the socialist countries.

He noted that "many visitors are very impressed by what they see in Cuba despite all the lies and adverse campaigns which have been carried out against Cuba."

/9274

CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

PAPER DEFENDS CARICOM POSITION AT MUSTIQUE MEETING

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Feb 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Public Nonsense"]

[Text] Sadly, the decolonisation of some minds is not complete. Even more sadly, we see evidence of attitudes and behaviour which are unmistakably influenced by our colonial past.

And this is grievous in view of the expectation that after the attainment of independence, such thinking and attitude would have withered away by now.

It is for this reason that at both the formal and ideological level the Government has sought to ensure that our thinking and approach to national questions are free of the taint of colonialism and imperialism. For independence did not only mean the freedom to fashion in our own path to development; it meant and must mean the capacity for independent thought.

But colonialism seems to have claimed more souls and minds than we dare expect.

The Catholic Standard, in a front page story in its issue of February 2, has graphically proven this thesis.

By now, those of us who read the Catholic Standard must have viewed with consternation the allegation made therein that the Mustique meeting of Caricom Heads of Government, which President Desmond Hoyte attended, was the result of the intervention of a foreign power. The allegation was specific in the case of our Caricom sister States which were represented at the meeting. It is contended that these States were instructed to meet with President Desmond Hoyte.

We reject, on behalf of the Caricom States, the implication and notion that they lack the capacity for independent thought and action.

We reject the claim that decisions taken about Caricom by Caricom leaders must perforce come from sources external to this region.

We must forcibly reject that both politically and philosophically the Caribbean leaders, who were present with President Desmond Hoyte at Mustique, are not

aware that they have the right to initiate foreign policy measures in the interest of their Governments and Peoples.

In 1972 Caricom did not request permission of any foreign Cabinet to recognise the Caribbean Republic of Cuba. Or has the Standard conveniently forgotten?

Pascal has said that to understand is to forgive. The Catholic Standard is not forgiven, but the dilemma it is in is readily understood. It has used much of the paper it is given to tell its few readers that the often canvassed isolation of Guyana was so complete that Guyana could not continue to be part of the Caricom Family; that Guyana would be dragged unceremoniously before the Bench of Caricom Justice and tried; and that the Leaders of Caricom States wanted nothing to do with our Leader. This was and is nonsense and the Catholic Standard knows it.

Then came the Mustique meeting which shattered the Catholic Standard's illusion. Its illusions destroyed, the Catholic Standard responded by seeing a hidden hand in the direction of Caribbean affairs, in much the same way that the people of the Middle Ages divined the work of the Devil in most happenings.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, in describing his difficulties with the Press during the last American election campaign, told this informative story.

He said that, according to the American Press, if the Pope walked on water it would be said that he has divine powers. If he, Jesse Jackson, did the same thing he would be accused of showing off.

As far as the Catholic Standard is concerned Guyana's glory is reason for weak journalism.

/9274

CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

HOYTE DEPICTS DYNAMIC ECONOMY IN SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

Report on Parliamentary Figures

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Feb 86 pp 1, 7

[Text] Seventh persons yesterday afternoon took the oath of office as members of the National Assembly, as the Assembly met for the first time in the First Session of the new Parliament.

Among those taking the oath were Cde Sese Narain, who became a non-elected member of the Assembly following his re-election for another term as Speaker, at the start of yesterday's business sitting.

And in keeping with a tradition of a Minority member being elected Deputy Speaker, Cde Reepu Daman Persaud, an elected member for the PPP, was elected to the post.

The Speaker was elected unopposed on a nomination by Prime Minister Hamilton Green and seconded by UF Leader Marcellus Feiden-Singh, while the Deputy also elected unopposed, was nominated by Vice-President Mohamed Shahabudeen and seconded by Mr Failden-Singh of the UF.

Crowds gathered around Public Buildings, witnessing the arrival of the Members of Parliament, and later listening to the proceedings broadcast by public address systems from Parliament Chamber.

Supporters of the PNC staged a picketing exercise, highlighting the popular support for the PNC, as reflected in the results of the last elections.

Invitees and others who managed to gain positions in the limited spectator accommodation in the Parliament Chamber and corridors outside were able to witness the proceedings of the sitting in the refurbished Chamber.

Yesterday's first sitting of the Assembly in the Fifth Parliament was opened by Clerk of the Assembly, Cde. Frank Narain reading the President's proclamation, summoning the sitting.

Sixty-seven of the 72 elected and non-elected members of the Assembly then answered the roll call, PPP's Janet Jagan being absent, WPA's Eusi Kawayana and PPP's Cyril Belgrave arriving after the roll call, and Ministers

Winston Murray and Richard Van West-Charles being granted leave from the Assembly.

Cde Narain, who has served as Speaker since 1971, this being his third re-election of the post, noted that 31 of the previous number of M.P.s are not back, while there are 32 new members, and 40 continuing members.

He expressed a special welcome to WPA's Eusi Kwayana, who, although his party is in Parliament for the first time, was a member of the Assembly in 1953 in the then PPP Government.

Kwayana, and the UF members Marcellus Feilden Singh and Michael Abraham are the three members of the Assembly who will be addressed at sittings at 'Mr' Other members will be referred to as "Comrade."

Among the events in the Chamber which stirred extra interest among the spectators was the swearing in of Enerva Trotman, a member who is a rastafarian, wearing the distinctive hairstyle of the sect.

Text of Hoyte Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Feb 86 pp 1, 4-5

[Text]

to the Presidency in August last year. He was previously a Member of Parliament for sixteen and a half years without break.

Cde Hoyte's address was chockful of information about far-reaching and enlightened decisions taken by the Government and new initiatives being pursued or to be pursued in the immediate future with a view to moving the nation forward into an era of sustained prosperity.

DRUG ABUSE

He announced that severe legislation will be laid in the National Assembly to deal with a recent high incidence of drug abuse.

In addition Government will be undertaking a programme of law reform and will be introducing hire purchase legislation as part of a comprehensive set of laws to protect consumers. It will also take steps to depress the prices of agricultural produce without affecting the returns to farmers.

PRESIDENT DESMOND HOYTE yesterday outlined to the National Assembly several measures to be taken by Government to infuse dynamism into the national economy and improve the quality of life of citizens.

Delivering the traditional address at the ceremonial opening of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament, Cde Hoyte told the members they should stand up for Guyana by the quality of the service they give to the Guyanese people and by their personal example of genuine patriotism and unselfish commitment to the cause of Guyana.

"We have today in this great country of ours, something of value. Let us cherish, defend and preserve it", President Hoyte said.

Cde Hoyte was addressing the Assembly for the first time as President, and as a non-member, having ceased to be a member when he ascended

The Government will also:

- propose reforms to modernise Guyana's laws and procedures relating to matrimonial causes and matters involving family and domestic relations;

- put in place a comprehensive package of measures intended to increase the real income of workers, improve their morale and create easier and better conditions of life for them;

- table in the National Assembly a policy paper on land to the tiller;

- amend income tax laws to permit the income of a working wife to be taxed separately from that of her husband;

- provide workers with greatly increased benefits from the National Insurance Scheme;

- bring a substantial measure of relief to Government pensioners, "some of our most worthy citizens";

- pay increased stipends and allowances to Members of Parliament;

- ensure that public corporations function under public scrutiny;

- establish a system of national awards for business entities which achieve a high level of performance in accordance with set criteria; and

- encourage non-Governmental organisations to assume greater responsibilities and play a fuller role in national life.

Cde Hoyte noted that the prevailing mood of optimism in Guyana is a valuable asset "for facilitating the forward movement of our country" and said the Government intends to foster this mood by paying judicious attention to the quality of life, among other things, by identifying and removing unnecessary irritants in our society."

It will, he said, be the single-minded objective of the Government to infuse dynamism into the economy by doing everything requisite and necessary to reinvigorate the public, private and co-operative sectors while encouraging individual initiative.

The President said that as Government intensifies efforts to stimulate the national economy (in a world economic situation which continues to be unsettled) it will be targeting for special emphasis and attention, the agriculture, fishery, forestry, manufacturing, mining and petroleum sectors. He stressed the absolute necessity for fiscal prudence and the need for substantial reduction of the public sector deficit.

Cde Hoyte also stressed that Guyana will continue to play an active role in Caricom affairs and will do whatever it can to help strengthen the integration movement as it works with others to achieve the objectives of the community.

In this regard, Guyana will seek to promote joint ventures with, among others, its Caricom partners.

And, noting that in another eighteen days Guyanese will be marking the 16th anniversary of the Co-operative Republic and that in another three months, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our independence, President Hoyte said that the years we have traversed have not been without dangers, difficulties, and vicissitudes; but we have also had our full measure of exciting challenges and wonderful achievements.

The full text of Cde Hoyte's speech reads:

Comrade Speaker, Comrades and Honourable Members,

May I at the outset discharge a most pleasant duty of congratulating all of you who have had the honour and privilege of becoming members of this Fifth Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. You enter upon your office amid widespread public expectations that, in the spirit of the oath which you took yesterday, your deliberations will be mature, wise and constructive, and that you will dedicate your energies to promoting the best interests of Guyana and all the people of this country.

I wish you a most rewarding tenure of office, great personal satisfaction and outstanding successes in the work you will be undertaking as members of the National Assembly.

May I also take this opportunity to extend special congratulations to you Comrade Speaker and to Comrade Reepu Daman Persaud on your unanimous election to the high offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively, of this Honourable House.

It has been noted, that there is no provision in the Standing Orders for the National Assembly to go

into recess during the year. Technically, therefore, it is in session throughout the year without a break. It does appear to me, therefore, that it might be useful for members to consider the desirability of having the National Assembly go into recess during the year for a specified period. If this were done, then members may be able to plan their annual calendar of activities, including leave arrangements for themselves and their families, with greater certainty.

● OPTIMISM ●

Comrade Speaker, the world economic situation continues to be unsettled, and the consequences for most non-oil developing countries like Guyana are still very severe. The prices of their commodity exports remain depressed, the terms of trade continue to flow against them, and their ability to service their external debt shows no sign of improving.

But we Guyanese have never been a people to sit down and wring our hands in despair. We have been coping with the very difficult economic circumstances with courage and imagination. We have survived.

At this time, in Guyana, there is a pervasive mood of optimism — a confident belief that we have a favourable climate to enable us to escape from the economic doldrums and move forward steadily to more comfortable conditions. It will therefore be the single-minded objective of the Government to infuse dynamism into the economy by doing everything requisite and necessary to reinvigorate the public, private and co-operative sectors, and to give positive encouragement also to individual initiative.

● AWARDS ●

Government has been undertaking wide-ranging consultations and will be creating a climate to bolster the confidence of our

business community and to expand economic activity. Various measures will be designed, among other things, to simplify licensing procedures and other bureaucratic hindrances to efficiency and facilitate joint ventures with regional and extra-regional partners. A review of the impact of the existing tax regime on the profitability of businesses will be undertaken and, procedures for the granting of fiscal and other incentives will be streamlined. Government, in collaboration with the business community, will be establishing this year a system of national awards for business entities which achieve a high level of performance in accordance with set criteria.

All Government ministries, financial institutions and other public agencies would be — and, indeed, have already been — directed to treat the objective of revivifying the economy as an absolute priority and to give sustained support to the effort.

• OPPORTUNITIES •

The achievement of this objective is, of necessity, a task for all Guyanese working together in a spirit of goodwill and mutual respect. The Government, therefore, will seek to involve the Guyanese people by creating ever-expanding opportunities for them to make their contribution through their various socio-economic organisations — and individually.

Among the most important of these organisations is the Trades Union Congress. Government has been in frequent consultation with the TUC in recent months and will continue to deepen the TUC's role and that of its affiliates in planning and managing the economic life of the country; and the role of professional, service and other organisations in our society will be enhanced.

Government accepts that there are many activities

impinging on national development that voluntary and other non-Governmental organisations are better equipped to manage. These organisations will be encouraged to assume greater responsibilities for such activities and play a fuller role in national life.

• PUBLIC SCRUTINY •

For one thing, it is important that citizens develop a greater awareness of the fact that they are the ultimate owners of public corporations. Government will increase its efforts to encourage citizens to evince greater interest in the way these corporations operate and in the quality of goods and services they supply. It is the Government's publicly declared position that, due regard being had to accepted principles of business confidentiality, public corporations should function under public scrutiny. Consequently, the Government will be giving practical effect to this concept of public scrutiny and will be taking the necessary action to establish mechanisms to involve citizens in the task of monitoring the operations of public corporations.

• TARGETING •

As Government intensifies its efforts to stimulate the economy, it will be targeting for special emphasis and attention the agriculture, fishery, forestry, manufacturing, mining and petroleum sectors. The process of consultations has already begun and appropriate policy measures to generate new or renewed activity will be implemented. These will include fiscal incentives, improved marketing arrangements and more efficient supportive facilities, among others.

One area where the prospects appear to be very promising is the petroleum sector. We have been doing much systematic technical work within recent years and, as a result of the attracted possibilities disclosed

by the seismic and other data, a Government delegation will be leaving Guyana at the end of this week to hold discussions with leading international oil companies with a view to interesting them in helping to develop our hydro-carbon resources.

• LAND TO TILLERS •

A matter that is fundamental to the nature of our society and crucial to the underpinning of diversified, sustained growth in the agricultural sector is the question of land availability and land tenure. For some months now, Government has been studying this question intensely with expert assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and is now finalising a policy paper to give effect to Article 18 of the Constitution which requires that land should go to the tiller. This policy paper will be laid in the National Assembly for its consideration in due course, as will be the Government's Agricultural Development Plan, 1986-1989, which has recently been completed.

A substantial segment of our national wealth is represented offshore by the marine resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone. If we are to derive the best possible returns from them, we will have to manage them efficiently. Consequently, Government is preparing a policy paper on the management of our Exclusive Economic Zone and this also will be laid in this Honourable House for its attention.

Comrade Speaker, the Government has been greatly perturbed by the recent emergence in our country of a high incidence of drug abuse. This is a dangerous development that the Government will do everything in its power to combat.

A bill will shortly be laid in this House to deal with certain aspects of the matter. The legislation will

be severe. It will propose mandatory terms of imprisonment and heavy fines and, in keeping with recent trends in other parts of the world, it will empower the courts to confiscate property of convicted persons who have been deemed to have enriched themselves by this nefarious activity.

• DRUG ABUSE •

Apart from the enforcement side of drug abuse, the Government is much concerned about preventive and curative aspects of the question. Consequently, there has been established a National Co-ordinating Council for Drug Education chaired by the Comrade Minister of Health to examine the nature and incidence of drug abuse in Guyana, to recommend educational and preventive measures, and to advise appropriate procedures for helping those persons who have become addicted to the use of drugs. We have to deal with this evil in a prompt, vigorous and even ruthless way. Our children and young people are our most precious assets. We cannot invest millions of dollars in educating and training them only to have their bodies and minds destroyed by callous, vicious criminals who entrap them into the use of drugs.

There are some areas of law reform in which we have lagged behind in Guyana. Government now proposes that we should begin to address our attention to some of these matters. Consequently, after appropriate consultations and advice, Government will be taking certain action on this matter. It is Government's view that the victims of violent and other crimes which involve them in loss should be compensated by the perpetrators.

The Government will, therefore, be examining the

feasibility of enacting legislation for such victims to be compensated accordingly, and for appropriate procedures to be put in place for such compensation to be recovered from the property of the perpetrators.

Similarly, too, simplified procedures will be proposed to enable the State to recover its losses from persons who have been found guilty of stealing public property or who have damaged the State in other ways. Government will also be introducing hire purchase legislation as part of a comprehensive set of laws to protect the consumer.

• MATRIMONIAL CAUSES •

Most important, too, is the need to modernise our laws and procedures relating to matrimonial causes and matters involving family and domestic relations. Government will be proposing reforms in these areas.

Because of its abiding concern for the welfare of the Guyanese workers, the Government has been monitoring closely the impact of the prevailing economic situation on their standard of living and quality of life. Such monitoring has always enabled the Government to respond with a ready understanding to their representations and to act promptly to ameliorate their conditions within the limits of available resources.

In this context, the Government has been particularly concerned about the unnecessarily high cost of local agricultural produce and other local foods and certain basic items which are important to the well-being of our citizens. Undoubtedly, there has been much distortion of prices in the market place. This is the result of many complex factors; but an important one is the willingness of many citizens

to pay high prices for certain contraband goods that are easily available in the streets. This induces an upward pressure on the prices of local produce. Indeed, it is a well-established fact that many vendors of local agricultural produce habitually dump their produce rather than reduce the price.

The Government has been studying this phenomenon and is at present working on certain measures designed to exert a downward pressure on the prices of agricultural produce without affecting the returns to the farmers. The price benefit of the massive increase in agricultural production is being lost to the consumer because the ready availability of, and high prices commanded by, contraband goods in the system have enabled middlemen to manipulate the prices of local produce and maintain them at unjustifiably high levels.

• INCOME TAX •

These matters to which I have referred are only part of a comprehensive package of measures that the Government will be putting in place to increase the real income of the workers, improve their morale, and create easier and better conditions of life for them. In the course of this year, in consultation with the Trades Union Congress, the Government will be undertaking a review of the incidence of income taxation on the take-home pay of workers, particularly those in the lower income brackets.

Additionally, in response to representations from many quarters, the Government will be amending the income tax laws to permit the income of a working wife to be taxed separately from that of her husband. Government believes that this will provide an incentive for wives who are highly trained and skilled to take up employment and assume a more substantial role in the process of national development.

• NIS / PENSIONERS •

In the course of this year, too, as a result of a recently-concluded survey, workers will be receiving greatly increased benefits from the National Insurance Scheme.

In the measures being proposed to ameliorate conditions, Government has not forgotten the just claims of some of our most worthy citizens. I refer to Government pensioners. I am happy to be able to report that Government will be bringing a substantial measure of relief to them, in accordance with discussions held with, and representations made by, their Association.

• M.P.s STIPEND •

It is perhaps appropriate, at this stage, to say something about emoluments of Members of Parliament. It cannot be seriously disputed that their emoluments are unrealistically low. They have not been adjusted over the years in sympathy with improvements made to salaries and wages in the public sector and nationally within recent years. In the circumstances, Government will take action to ensure that the stipends and allowances paid to members of this Honourable House are enhanced, as the justice of the case clearly requires.

• CARICOM •

Comrade Speaker, no country can today isolate itself from the region in which it is geographically situated or, indeed, for that matter, from the rest of the world. Guyana is a member of the Caricom Community. The world economic problems have affected, in varying degrees, the individual economies of our Caricom sister States and that of Guyana as an entity.

One damaging effect has been the sharp contraction of intra-regional trade. This is the source of great worry

and concern within the region. Guyana must therefore continue to play an active role in Caricom affairs and do whatever it can to help to strengthen the integration movement and to work with others to achieve the objectives of the Community.

We believe that there is still very much we in Caricom can do among ourselves to improve the economic climate. We have therefore been working for some time now on certain economic models which, in our view, can help to promote investment co-operation and stimulate trading and economic activities in the region. These would facilitate joint ventures between Guyana and Caricom (and also extra-regional) partners in the exploitation of Guyana's resources for mutual benefit.

In this way, we would be able to make greater use of indigenous regional resources, create more manufactures for trade within and outside the region, expand services, and generate more employment and wealth within Caricom. We hope to be able to persuade Caricom Governments and entrepreneurs about the feasibility and advantages of these models.

In the meantime, a trade delegation headed by the Comrade Minister of Trade is at present visiting certain Caricom countries to explore possibilities for strengthening our trading and economic links. This is an example of the vigorous initiatives that the Government will be taking in the fulfilment of its obligations under the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Comrade Speaker, in another nineteen days we will be marking the sixteenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Republic and, in another three months or so, we will be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of our

Independence. These are short periods, I admit, in the life of a state; but, for us, they have been seminal years during which we have sought to prove to ourselves that we are free men and not subjects or pawns of any alien power. Out of our diverse origins, we have sought to fashion a distinctive Guyanese way of life and an authentic Guyanese personality — and, moreover, to create a Guyanese nation with a common purpose and a common destiny.

The years we have traversed have not been without dangers, difficulties and vicissitudes; but we have also had our full measure of exciting challenges and wonderful achievements. And because of our work, our steadfastness and our loyalty, we have today, in this great country of ours, something of value. Let us cherish, defend and preserve it. And members of this Honourable House can best demonstrate their pride in and love for our country in these times, by doing every thing in their power to propel our economy into an era of sustained prosperity.

Comrade Speaker, I said earlier on, that despite serious economic difficulties, we have survived. The optimism among our people to which I have referred is, in a sense, a reflection of a consensus that it is not

sufficient now for us merely to survive: we need to move our nation forward.

We know that we have the resources, rich, bountiful and diverse. We have demonstrated that we have the will to take strong, decisive action and the intelligence to devise appropriate mechanisms to suit changing circumstances. We are a talented people possessed abundantly of the skills needed for development.

--Irritants

The prevailing mood of optimism is a valuable asset for facilitating the forward movement of our nation. Government proposes to foster it by paying judicious attention to the quality of life, among other things, by identifying and removing unnecessary irritants in our society. But, while it is a prime objective to quicken the pace of growth and expansion of our economy, Government must in the final analysis, have due regard to the absolute necessity for fiscal prudence.

In this regard, the reduction of the public sector deficit and its [word indistinct] within manageable limits will be a constant preoccupation and a national priority. Consequently, public corporations will have to achieve an acceptable level of business performance and the deficits will have to be controlled, as a matter of course. The issue of the public sector deficit, will therefore, be the major consideration as we undertake the work of reinvigorating our economy. Fiscal prudence, development and growth: this is the task, this the labour to which we must all bend our efforts.

Members of this Honourable House have a great opportunity to play a pivotal role in mobilizing and motivating our people for the sustained and strenuous work that lies ahead, as we attempt to move our nation forward.

In closing, I can do no better than recommend to you the national slogan for the year 1986 and urge you to stand up for Guyana by the quality of the service you give to the Guyanese people inside and outside of this Honourable House, and by the personal example you set [word indistinct] of genuine patriotism and unselfish commitment to the cause of Guyana.

Let us all stand up for Guyana by moving our nation forward.

I extend to each and every one of you my best wishes for success in your parliamentary endeavours.

National Assembly Debate

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Feb 86 pp 1, 5

[Article by Colin King]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond
Hoyle's policy address

during Tuesday's ceremonial opening of Parliament was yesterday described as "a guide to action" for the well-being of an economy and of a nation.

Introducing a motion in the National Assembly for approval of the policy adumbrated in the address, Deputy Prime Minister Planning and Development, Haelyn Parris said the address was an "astute analysis of the Guyana situation."

The 73-member Assembly began debating President Hoyte's speech yesterday and several other PNC members and the sole United Force speaker lauded the content of the address.

The Minority PPP however, was highly critical, contending the address offered nothing new.

Eleven speakers participated in this lively first debate of the Fifth Parliament. These included six maiden presentations by newcomers to Parliament.

Referring to the President's call to action in support of local initiative Deputy Prime Minister Haelyn Parris dealt in detail with initiatives needed with regard to the "daunting" oil problem which he said is of overwhelming importance.

Exports of rice and other commodities from Guyana to Trinidad and Tobago, he said, do not equate to the petroleum products imported from that country, and the deficit has to be

met from scarce hard currency earned in extra-regional markets.

More than half the petroleum imports are for productive and electricity generation purposes, Cde Parris told the Assembly, and the conundrum of simultaneously improving production and reducing oil imports has to be solved, he said.

Analysis, he said, shows that fuel conservation, encouragement of local and foreign investment in local hydrocarbon development, and alternative energy projects are needed.

Referring to the President's call for the stepping up of initiatives for growth, the Deputy Prime Minister told the Assembly that as with the oil problem, solutions to other production problems will emanate from "the exercise of our own analyses, creativity and ingenuity."

Steps are being taken, with the involvement of foreign capital in some cases, to boost gold exploitation, and to promote petroleum exploration and exploitation.

The fiscal, financial, and general economic climate would have to be created to facilitate the participation of foreign companies, particularly in areas where the required technology is not yet available in Guyana, Cde Parris said.

But Minority Leader PPP's Dr Cheddi Jagan contended that the President's address

comprised nothing new.

He also contended that there was no mood of optimism in the country, and said Cde Hoyte's address contained "nothing about socialism".

PPP member Feroze Mohamed said the address made no mention of "corruption", or "democracy", and said nothing of the "ideological foundation" of the society. The other speaker for the PPP in yesterday's debate was Clinton Collymore.

But, United Force member Michael Abraham expressed satisfaction with the emphasis on economic dynamism in the President's "fine address."

He, however, contended that there were deficiencies and failures in the PNC record which detract from the thrust of the address. But he said "we have to admit the PNC is the government and we are duty bound to co-operate with the Government to pull the country out of this mess".

In his address Cde Parris stressed that the initiatives outlined by Cde Hoyte represent a business-like pursuit of the affairs of the country.

The aim is the pragmatic maximisation of the well-being of the people of the country, he reiterated.

The Assembly was adjourned until today when other contributions to the debate on the motion will be made. (GNA)

Assembly Endorsement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Feb 86 pp 1, 4-5

[Article by Colin King]

[Text]

THE National Assembly last evening endorsed Government's policy for moving the nation forward as was adumbrated by President Desmond Hoyte in his address Tuesday at the ceremonial opening of the Fifth Parliament.

Endorsement came shortly after the debate which began Thursday, was wound up by Prime Minister Hamilton Green who made a rousing call for unity and confidence in the task of moving the nation forward.

Cde Hoyte's speech represented a call to "positive and constructive action" for the progress of Guyana, Cde Green told the National Assembly.

Minority PPP speakers continued yesterday to criticise the address, with Cyril Belgrave contending it made no admission of past mistakes of Government.

WPA member Eusi Kwayana, addressing the Assembly for the first time since returning after a 33-year absence, supported a number of points made by the President. He called for several issues to be given special attention, and was critical on a number of issues not specifically dealt with in the address.

In the final presentation of the debate, Prime Minister Green however, reiterated and examined the relevance and importance of policy statements by the President and responded forthrightly to several remarks made by the Minority.

The President's call to positive and constructive action can only be ignored by the "foolish, blind or wicked", he said.

The world economic situation, as mentioned by the President, he said, is central to everything the country does, will do, or can do.

Even increased exports cannot, in some cases, cushion the effects of the unfair terms of trade experienced by developing countries, the Prime Minister said.

He quoted the Economist magazine, which in 1986,

noted that developed countries paid \$65 billion less for the same quantity of raw materials imported from developing countries than they paid in 1984.

"We need to take positive steps to weather the storm together as a people," the Prime Minister told the Assembly.

In this regard, he said, the President's address was "refreshing and revealing."

WPA member Eusi Kwayana had attacked this view, saying the President's reference to measures to infuse dynamism into the economy was an old United Force principle.

Cde Green however, pointed out that "words used by different people have different meaning." The Government is not talking about "untrammelled capitalism", he said, but about encouraging and facilitating the involvement of the public, private and co-operative sectors in the maximum utilisation of the country's resources to move the country forward.

The streamlining of licensing and other administrative procedures was just one example of this.

He acknowledged problems in the transportation system, and said a number of licences for the importation of vehicles for public transport had been granted to private individuals. Others would be granted where merited.

"We make no apologies for that," he said, adding that the Government is ready to support the "drive and enthusiasm of every

person in the community."

He emphasised that the exploitation of the forestry, fisheries, mineral and other resources will be continued with vigour.

The Government is engaged, he said, in transforming the Socialist philosophy into "tangible reality". It seeks the involvement of every group in the society, he said, mentioning particularly the trade unions and Minority parties.

And, reacting to Eusi Kwayana's claim that there was no freedom of association in the country, Cde Green said to cheers from the Government benches that the mere fact some people can get into the House to make such claims, gives the lie to the contention.

Government, he continued, is taking measures as outlined by the President to bring down the cost of living "on behalf of and with the assistance of the Guyanese people."

And, all these efforts are based on the principle that Guyana is sovereign, independent, and striving after self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Stressing that the motto "Stand up for Guyana" is not a Party slogan, but "a national imperative", he added: "We make a call to arms...to stand up for Guyana."

"Let us all stand up for Guyana confident in our strength and in our glorious future," he said, to conclude the debate. (GNA)

GUYANA

PATRIOTIC COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY CONTINUES ACTIVITIES

Police Action on Procession

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 9 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Commissioner of Police Balram Raghubir yesterday disclosed that the Police had granted permission for the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) to hold processions between 09:00 hrs and 14:00 hrs yesterday from Grove, East Bank, Demerara and Buxton, East Coast, Demerara, to proceed to Georgetown for a rally at Industrial Site, Ruimveldt.

He also disclosed that permission had been granted for public meetings to be held at Little Diamond Public Road, Prospect Public Road and Province Public Road on the way from Grove to Georgetown.

Reports reaching the Chronicle last night said the processions were not held.

The applications for the processions were received from Rupert Roopnarine of the Working People's Alliance, Convenor of the PCD, and permission was granted by the Chief Officers of Police of the Georgetown Division, and the East Coast Division.

The original application sought permission to hold the rally at the John Ford Car Park, but the Police granted permission for the rally to be held at the Industrial Site, as it was considered that the procession should not pass through the crowded market area at La Penitence and move through the centre of the city from East Bank and East Coast on a busy working Saturday and cause serious interruption of traffic and inconvenience to the vast number of citizens in the centre of the city.

The decision taken by the Police to re-route the procession and re-site the rally has been taken purely in consideration of the need to avoid any serious interruption of the normal activities within the heart of the city of Georgetown.

27 March 1986

Charge of Discrimination

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 8 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

Next Saturday morning, police authorities will take part in the so-called People's Parade all over the city of Georgetown. Marching along with them will be the other security forces, para-military groups, public sector workers - all paid to march, all marching under the threat of victimisation. And as in the days of the late dictator, no effort will be spared to turn out the teachers and the school children.

But the Police have told the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy that their march, a march in which Guyanese are free to join or not to join, cannot go through the city on a busy Saturday.

This is calling one march "fish" and calling the other "fowl".

Some betta than some!

When the PNC plan a march, it can walk any street on any day. When the march comes from others, it is a different story.

The Patriotic Coalition for Democracy made this announcement calling off the march on Thursday, February 6, 1986:

"The PCD has postponed the planned march and rally fixed for Saturday, February 8, 1986 after a delayed and unfavourable reply from the police, who ordered yesterday that the march could not move through Georgetown but be confined to its outskirts. The police also unlawfully shifted the location of the planned rally, directing the march to end at the Industrial Site, an area with no resident population, and directing further that the rally be held there. The march had been planned to end at the John Ford Car Park in the centre of Georgetown, where the rally was to be held.

"The Police have expressed the opinion that Saturdays are too busy for these activities to be held in the city. Yet on Saturday, February 15th, 1986, the officially sponsored People's Parade, an on-the-job march for public sector employees, students, and military and para-military units will go through all the busy streets of Georgetown. An official of the ruling People's National Congress, ex-Minister Kenneth Denny, is in charge of mobilising this PNC People's Parade.

"The PCD regards the police reply as an unwarranted interference with the right to freedom of assembly and will meet the police authorities to re-schedule the march and rally under conditions which the Coalition finds suitable."

Postponement of March

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 9 Feb 86 p 3

[Text]

THE PATRIOTIC Coalition for Democracy (PCD) march and rally, planned to take place on Sat. Feb. 8, has had to be put off, pending a discussion with the police authorities.

Application for permission to hold the march and rally was made on Jan. 28. A reply was received

eight days afterwards on Feb. 5, giving permission for a "procession" and rally, but changing the advertised venue of the rally from the John Ford Car Park in the city to the Ruimveldt Industrial Site on the outskirts of the city.

The PCD said this was clearly unacceptable and the march would be scheduled for a later date.

[An indication of the extent of the PCD's activities was shown in a Georgetown MIRROR item on 9 February, page 4, which gave the schedule for three upcoming PCD public meetings, on February 11 and 16 at different sites.]

PCD Call for Action

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 10 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

At its Press Conference held on 3rd February, the PCD said that "in each of the countries visited by the Coalition there is a strong public opinion supported by relatively free media and profound unease among the public at the Mustique initiative. Citizens are offended at the realisation that regarding democracy and the right to vote, Mr Hoyte seems to be following in the footsteps of his predecessor. There was general disappointment at the change of attitude of some of the Caribbean leaders.

"The PCD made the following requests for immediate action:

"1. An investigation should be mounted by the Caribbean into the reports and claims about the December 9 General Elections.

"2. Recognition of the PCD as a non-governmental consultative organisation and discussion with it in any matters relating to the situation in Guyana.

"3. Legal observers at the Election Petition trials and assistance where possible.

"4. The opportunity to answer the PNC's claims point by point.

"5. Support for the PCD's call for local government elections, under a reformed system acceptable to the PCD and with Caribbean participation to ensure fairness.

"6. Solidarity from trade unions and the public with the Guyanese workers and other citizens in struggles that may develop and against repression, and denial of civil liberties."

Report on Caribbean Tour

Georgetown MIRROR in English 9 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Text] The delegation of the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy, comprising Dr Cheddi Jagan, MP, Mr C. M. L. John, and Mr Eusi Kwayana, MP, left Guyana on January 23rd, for Trinidad and Tobago. It left Trinidad and Tobago on January 25th for Barbados, where it was strengthened by the addition of Mr N. K. Gopaul, General Secretary of NAACIE.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the PCD delegation had the benefit of discussions with the party in government, the People's National Movement, at party level; with the leader of the opposition and his colleagues; and with other political parties.

The delegation was also received by leaders of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, the Council of Progressive Trade Unions and the OWTU. It held a press conference and individual members were also interviewed by the media.

In Barbados, the delegation held a press conference on arrival at the Grantley Adams airport. The press conference was held soon after news was published of the Mustique meeting, of which a photograph and other material have been released in Guyana.

The delegation was able to address a public meeting at the Caribbean Conference of Churches meeting hall which included a question and answer session and was partly televised.

It later met the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr Bernard St John, and his aides, the leader of the opposition, Mr Errol Barrow, and his colleagues, the Executive Director of the CAIC, Mr Pat Thompson and his aides, the Barbados Workers Party, the President and Secretary Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour, the Barbados Council of Churches and the Caribbean Conference of Churches.

It also addressed a meeting of students at Cave Hill. There were several interviews with the media, including CANA, and a taped interview on a Voice of Barbados programme, Point at Issue.

In St Lucia, the delegation met Prime Minister John Compton, and his Cabinet, the leaders of the opposition parties, Mr Julian Hunte of the St Lucia Labour Party, and Mr George Odlum of the Progressive Labour Party.

It met the director of the OECS, Dr Vaughan Lewis and a colleague, and was also received by the St Lucia Workers Union, the National Workers Union and a joint delegation of the National Youth Council, the Civil Service Association, the St Lucia Teachers Union.

In St Vincent, and the Grenadines, the delegation was received by H. E. Hon. James Mitchell, by the leader of the St Vincent Labour Party, Mr Hudson Tannis, the United People's Movement, the Joint Workers Committee, comprising the Public Service Union, the SVG Union of Teachers, the National Workers Movement, the Clerical and Allied Workers Union, the National Farmers Union.

The delegation was invited to meet a group of Guyanese outside of the capital, to participate in an anti-apartheid march and open air rally organised by most of the people's organisations in St. Vincent under the anti-apartheid committee. The delegation was also invited to a public indoor meeting on Saturday night.

The discussions with the heads of government provided the representatives of the Coalition with the opportunity of explaining in outline, and when requested in detail, aspects of the great fraud of December 9, which the PCD argued disgraced the Caribbean. Many questions were asked reflecting both the concern of the leaders and the case made out by H. E. the President of Guyana.

The heads of government uniformly declared themselves in favour of fair and free elections in every part of Caricom and indicated that the cases of the Guyana government and the PCD did not agree with each other.

The GIS of Barbados made a release on the meeting in which it said that Prime Minister St John was prepared to fight within Caricom for a parallel Human Rights Treaty to be administered by Caribbean judges. The Heads took the chance to explain their intentions at Mustique, one declaring that he had not been brainwashed by the encounter with the Guyana leader.

The PCD formed the impression that some leaders felt they could influence the Guyana situation towards free and fair elections, if necessary.

The PCD had similar discussions with non-governmental organisations which were much freer in their exchanges. Similar requests were made of 11 interested parties.

The PCD made the following requests for immediate action:

1. An investigation should be mounted by the Caribbean into the reports and claims about the December 9, General Elections.
2. Recognition of the PCD as a non-governmental consultative organisation and discussion with it in any matters relating to the situation in Guyana.
3. Legal observers at the Election Petition trials and assistance where possible.
4. The opportunity to answer the PNC's claims point by point.
5. Support for the PCD's call for local government elections, under a reformed system acceptable to the PCD and with Caribbean participation to ensure fairness.
6. Solidarity from trade unions and the public with the Guyanese workers and other citizens in struggles that may develop and against repression and denial of civil liberties.

The PCD delegation, after talking with heads of governments in particular, is convinced that these heads are aware that the claims that the December 9, poll was rigged are not trivial and need to be investigated.

Alleged Internal Rift

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 pp 4-5

[Text] A marriage of convenience never lasts. The so-called Patriotic Coalition for Democracy is a marriage of convenience that is already heading for the rocks.

New Nation understands that the People's Progressive Party is watching the Democratic Labour Movement since the latter is suspected of wanting to "steal" PPP members. Reports reaching New Nation state that the PPP has issued a call to its members to beware of the DLM. The DLM has also issued a similar call to its members.

At the same time the PPP is planning to join with the Working People's Alliance to double-cross the other members of the coalition. Reports from within the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy indicate that the PPP and the WPA are planning a further coalition. This one is to be called the "Coalition of the Left."

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CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

CATHOLICS VOW TO WORK FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Feb 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A LARGE gathering of mainly prominent Roman Catholics Thursday night affirmed their intentions to work for good relations with the Guyana Government and for the development of the country.

Their pledge was made at a reception at the Georgetown Club in honour of President Desmond Hoyte and Prime Minister Hamilton Green. Father Compton Meerabaux and United Force leader Marcellus Fellden-Singh were among those present.

Mr. Fellden-Singh is the brother of Roman Catholic Bishop, Benedict Singh.

The members of the Catholic community took the opportunity to discuss a number of national issues with the President. These included Government's relations with the Catholic church.

In the words of Mr. Fellden-Singh, it was an opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation.

"Tonight there has been a genuine approach to bring about peace and reconciliation. There has been dialogue. There will be further dialogue..." Mr. Singh said in concluding the meeting.

In the course of the discussions, President Hoyte reminded his audience that

Guyana is a plural society in which the freedom of religion is guaranteed constitutionally.

He said that while the Government has had a few problems with individuals in the church, it does not have a problem with the Catholic church.

DIALOGUE

The Government, the President added, has the overall responsibility to protect the security and interests of the State.

Referring to the Father Connors affair, Cde. Hoyte expressed regret that certain Catholics who attempted to resolve the issue through Prime Minister Hamilton Green were later branded as traitors.

"What we want is dialogue," Cde. Hoyte said, and noted that one of the main functions of Government is to reconcile conflicts which sometimes inevitably arise in the development process.

During the meeting, several Catholics expressed their views on Church-State relations and one participant called for the Connors' affair to be considered a thing of the past.

And the search of Bishop Benedict Singh's home by the Police late last year, was described as an unfortunate incident.

Also speaking on the need for dialogue, was Father Meerabaux who called on members of the Catholic community to view issues in proper perspective.

He spoke of his experiences in Columbia where, he said, no fuss is made about such issues and referred to Zimbabwe where Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was having talks with Bishops.

Earlier, Mr. Fellden Singh alleged that he was subjected to several telephone threats in which callers told him if he attended the meeting he will be deemed a traitor.

Mr. Singh said he defied such threats because he was a believer in peace and dialogue.

Mr. Singh also levelled a number of criticisms against a pastoral letter alleged to have been written by the Roman Catholic clergy in Georgetown.

Also making contributions were Yvonne Gouvlea and Jose Da Silva.

Thursday night's discussions with the Catholics followed similar discussions President Hoyte had in recent times with members of other religious denominations including the Methodists and the Muslim Missionary Guild International.

GUYANA

TUC COMPLAINS OF LACK OF INPUT TO BUDGETARY PROCESS

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 9 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

"IT IS REGRETTABLE that our involvement in the budgetary process comes at a time when presentation of the budget to Parliament is imminent".

So declared the TUC Economic and Research Committee, chaired by Prof. Clive Thomas in a memo dated Jan. 22, 1986.

"The continuation of the cosmetic and token involvement of the TUC in the annual budgetary exercise is not in our interest to perpetuate", the memo stated.

The Committee also complained of the lack of basic data that would make a meaningful dialogue on the budget possible, either because the data had not been compiled or, as frequently happens, they are not passed on to the TUC.

The quality/availability of economic and social data in Guyana, the Committee stated, is far below that of other Caribbean territories. Surveys of the IMF-World Bank, made available to the Government, for example, are not passed on to the TUC.

Among the recommendations made by the Committee are:

- Increase in wages and salaries.

- More expenditure on food and nutrition for children and the aged.

- Introduction of systematic mechanisms and incentives designed to increase employment (unemployment estimated at 20-48% of labour force).

- Deregulation of economic activity especially in the area of foreign exchange by extending to others and making more automatic foreign exchange retention schemes now available to certain exporters.

- Movement away from indirect taxation which fuels price inflation.

- Reduction in excessive and unconscionable mark-up in force at state retail agencies, such as Guyana Stores and GNTC.

- Indexing of wages/salaries as promulgated by the TUC during the 1985-86 Public Sector wage settlement.

- Stepping up incentive schemes.

The TUC Committee does not believe that the crisis can be solved by financial tinkering, but by a serious effort to redress the social basis of the crisis.

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GUYANA

DUTIES OF ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SPELLED OUT

Ministerial Responsibilities

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Feb 86 pp 6-7, 5-7 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

DEPUTY Prime Minister, Planning and Development Cde. Haslyn Paris, who is also a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet is, by virtue of a notice to the effect published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette published recently, responsible for the following

Ministries/ Departments:
Economic Planning and Development — Ministry of Planning and Development, State Planning Commission, Statistics — Statistical Bureau; National Data Management Authority.

Operating and developing computer systems — Information Systems Division.

Thermal and Hydropower — Ministry of Energy and Mines Hydropower Division; Guyana National Energy Authority.

Mining in relation to minerals other than bauxite, gold, precious minerals and semi-precious minerals — Other Minerals Division.

Geology Surveys, Scientific Research — National Science Research Council, Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Guyana National Bureau of Standards.

Manufacturing and Industrial Development — Guyana Manufacturing and Industrial Development Agency.

Supervisory Council for Commercial Companies (GROUP II) — Chairmen — Guyana National Engineering Corporation Ltd., Senata Textiles Ltd., Guyana Glass Works Ltd.

Also responsible for supervising the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade.

CDE. ROBERT CORBIN, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture, who is also a Senior Minister and a Member of the Cabinet, is responsible for the following Ministries/ Departments:

Agriculture — Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Department, Planning Department;

Lands and Surveys, Acquisition and beneficial occupation of non-beneficially occupied lands — Lands and Surveys Department;

Sea Defence — Hydraulics Department;

Drainage and Irrigation — Drainage and Irrigation Department, Tapacuma Irrigation Project;

The Rice Industry;

Fisheries — Fisheries Division, Small Farmers' Development Project, Mahalica/ Mahalcony/

Abary Agriculture Development Authority, Black Bush Polder, Guyana School of Agriculture, Guyana Marketing Corporation, Livestock Development Company Ltd.

Zoo — Zoological Park.

Forestry — Ministry of Forestry;

Charcoal production;

Supervisory Council for Agriculture-based entities — Chairman — Guyana

Fisheries Ltd., Guyana

Nichimo Ltd., Demerara

Woods Ltd., Guyana

Timbers Ltd., Guyana Rice

Milling and Marketing

Authority, Guyana Rice

Export Board, National Padi

and Rice Grading Centre,

National Edible Oil Com-

pany Ltd., Quality Foods

Ltd.

Cde Rashleigh Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is also a Senior Minister and a member of the Cabinet is responsible for Foreign Affairs--Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As Foreign Minister he is responsible for Guyana's High Commissions, Consulates and Embassies overseas and for Guyana's Foreign Policy based on Non-Alignment and the pursuit and protection of the nation's vital interests.

And Cde Carl E. Greenidge, Minister of Finance, is also a Senior Minister and a member of the Cabinet. He is responsible for the following Ministries/Departments.

Monetary policy--Ministry of Finance;

Fiscal policy--Customs and Excise Department, Inland Revenue Department;

Budget, taxation and tax incentives;

Government accounting and financial control--Accountant General's Department, Exchange Control;

Banking and credit--Bank of Guyana, Co-operative Finance Administration, National Bank of Industry and Commerce Limited, Republic Bank (Guyana) Ltd., Guyana National Co-operative Bank, Guyana National Mortgage Finance Bank, Guyana Cooperative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, Guyana National Co-operative Bank Trust Corporation.

Government Lotteries--Government Lotteries Control Committee;

Insurance--Guyana National Co-operative Insurance Services, Ltd.

National Insurance--National Insurance Board.

Relations with domestic financial institutions and external financial bodies;

Regional and international economic organisations.

CDE Seeram Prashad is Minister of Transport, a Senior Minister and a member of the Cabinet. He is responsible for the following matters and groups of matters falling under the Ministries/Departments indicated:

Transport planning and services--Ministry of Communications;

Licensing of motor buses, hire cars and goods vehicles--Central Transport Planning Unit;

Civil Aviation--Civil Aviation Department;

Shipping and Harbour Services--Transport and Harbours Department.

Also appointed a member of the CRbinet is Cde. Winston Murray C.C.H. who is also a Senior Minister.

As Minister of Trade, he is responsible for Internal Trade and Consumer Protection--Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection;

Foreign trade--Division of Foreign Trade;

Export promotion--Guyana Export Promotion Council;

Caricom and Tourism.

Tasks of PNC MP's

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 p 2

[Text]

PNC Members of Parliament are to be assigned specific areas of responsibility in addition to their Parliamentary duties. This decision was taken during the recent General Council meeting of the People's National Congress. These new areas of responsibility include the monitoring of development programmes and providing leadership. PNC backbenchers, too, are being charged with the duty to be knowledgeable in areas of economic and governmental activities and so be in a position to participate meaningfully in debates in the National Assembly.

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CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

COMMITTEE TO STUDY, PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS FOR POLICE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Retired Chancellor of the Judiciary Cde Victor Crane has been appointed to head a committee to examine conditions of service of members of the Police Force and to recommend improvements.

President Desmond Hoyte made the announcement yesterday morning when addressing the opening of the annual Police Conference, being held over three days at the Police Officers' Mess, Eve Leary.

Cde Hoyte was hopeful that the work of the committee would bring results which would "enhance the morale of members of the Force and inspire them to higher levels of performance in the service of the people of Guyana."

Other members of the committee are expected to be named next week. The committee has been set up in response to representation made last year about anomalies affecting policemen.

The committee will examine:

- recruitment and promotion procedures,
- arrangements for training and personnel development; and
- remuneration and conditions of service generally.

In his address to the conference, Cde Hoyte emphasised, that the Police Force is "a valuable and essential institution." It is important, he said, that it continually evaluates its performance and assesses its relevance and effectiveness in serving the purposes of the society.

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CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

HIGH-LEVEL TEAM OFF FOR PETROLEUM TALKS IN UK, U.S.

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

A TOP-LEVEL delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Planning and Development, Haslyn Parris, left yesterday for the United Kingdom and the United States on a mission to stimulate interest in Guyana's petroleum potential.

The petroleum sector is one of five sectors targeted for special emphasis and attention as Government intensifies its efforts to stimulate the national economy. President Desmond Hoyte told the National Assembly earlier this week in his address at the ceremonial opening of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament.

More than 100 oil companies, including major companies from the East and West, have been invited to meet the Guyana team at seminars in London and Houston, Texas, on February 11 and February 18 respectively.

The companies will be presented with technical data on Guyana's hydrocarbon potential as well as information on the local investment climate. The seminars were organised by the Energy and Mines Ministry in collaboration with the British consultancy firm, Exploration Consultants Limited (ECL).

It is intended that interested companies will bid for exploration licences, and the bidding procedures, the financial package being offered, and legal procedures related to oil exploration in Guyana are among matters to be examined at the seminars.

The local team includes Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mines, A.P. Crawford; Commissioner of Inland Revenue Edgar Heyliger, and other officials of the Energy and Mines Ministry and the State Planning Commission Secretariat.

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CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

WPA OFFICIAL CITES FUEL RATIONING AS SIGN OF 'CRISIS'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 86 p 18

[Text]

THE situation in Guyana is at a crisis point, Wazir Mohammed of the Working People's Alliance (WPA) said in an interview with the SUNDAY EXPRESS on Thursday.

Since last Wednesday the government has been forced to initiate a system of fuel rationing, because it did not pay Trinidad and Tobago for the last shipment. Since then Trinidad and Tobago has held back on future consignments.

Mohammed, who was on a brief visit to Trinidad, said: "People are going back to coals and woodfires. There is no domestic gas on the market."

At present there is a "rush" for charcoal and for wood because kerosene was now going officially at \$8 a gallon. "And the black market price is much more."

"There are long lines at those petro stations

which happen to have gas," he said. Housewives have to stand up for hours in fuel lines on the roadsides. The whole transport situation has also been affected both on sea and on land. Private cars and motor boats cannot get fuel and school children and workers on most days are unable to reach their destinations.

Guyana already owes a \$400 million dollar debt to this country and only recently Prime Minister George Chambers insisted that Guyana pay for its oil in cash.

Now, according to Mohammed, the Guyanese Government is thinking of approaching Venezuela because, it is felt, it has exhausted its credit opportunities with Trinidad and Tobago.

At present there is also a petroleum mission to London and Texas to encourage investment in oil exploration in Guyana.

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CSO: 3298/357

GUYANA

IMPROVED LETHEM AIRSTRIP OPENED; OTHERS SCHEDULED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

THE NEW Lethem airstrip, the first level runway to be built in Guyana's interior, was yesterday officially opened by Region Nine (Upper Essequibo-Upper Takutu) Chairman Patricia Fredericks.

Capable of handling aircraft of up to 100 000 pounds "all-up weight," the new airstrip is 6 400 feet by 150 feet and is, in Guyana, second in size only to the Timehri International Airport.

Among those present at yesterday's official opening ceremony was Transport Minister Seeram Prashad, who described the event as marking another significant stage in the development of civil aviation in Guyana.

Cde. Prashad further announced that work on the Aishalton Airstrip, serving the South Rupununi, will begin shortly. This airstrip will be 5 000 feet by 150 feet and will be paved to permit all-weather operations of Guyana Airways's HS 748 aircraft.

The Transport Minister referred to the many passengers and the large volume of goods that have to be moved to and from the Lethem area, and said the new Lethem airstrip will serve as "a facilitator of development" in Region Nine.

It is another concrete example of Government's commitment to "the balanced development of the country's resources which implies the accelerated development of the resources of each of the regions, especially those in the hinterland."

The airstrip was built at a cost of over \$3 million (Guyana) with the bulk of the funding coming from the Guyana Government. Financial inputs also came from the Canadian Government and the Home Oil Company.

Cde. Prashad explained that there are plans to put an asphalt-concrete surface on the runway. This will allow for the accommodation of short and medium range jet aircraft.

Meanwhile, the Transport Minister has thrown out a challenge to the local Civil Aviation Department to complete the Aishalton airstrip within one year. The Lethem airstrip took about four years to complete, but this was due, in large part, to difficulties encountered in transporting equipment and materials into the area.

Also present at yesterday's opening ceremony was Director of Civil Aviation Anthony Mekdeci who gave a background to the project.

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GUYANA

BRIEFS

PNC-PPP TALKS--The future of the inter-party talks involving the People's National Congress and the People's Progressive Party now rests with the PPP which is still to respond to a letter from the People's National Congress. Dr Jagan had requested that the December 9 general and regional elections be postponed until the talks were completed but PNC leader, Cde Desmond Hoyte had replied that there was no nexus between the talks and the elections. The apparent reality is that the PPP will not reply to the PNC in the near future. One political analyst has said that nothing is going to happen in the near future. However, the People's National Congress will keep the door open for further talks. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 p 5] /9274

PNC COUNCIL DOCUMENTS--It is incumbent that delegates to General Council report back to their groups and other arms of the Party on the tasks these must undertake as part of the Party's programme for the period. To facilitate thereporting the Secretariat of the People's National Congress is preparing a summary of the issue discussed at the recent General Council meeting. General Council members are the link between the Party and its arms and it represents the democratic nature of the Party. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 p 1] /9274

IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING--Region Four is soon to begin a programme of ideological education at the various work sites with a view to raising the level of ideological awareness of the workers. During an address on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the People's National Congress in Government and to thank the nation for the overwhelming victory at the polls following the December 9 general and regional elections, Leader of the Party, Cde Desmond Hoyte, announced that one of the areas of focus in the life of the Party would be the intensification of ideological training. Already the Secretariat of the Party has initiated ideological training for its workers. Steps are underway to extend this programme. During the recent General Council meeting of the Party Comrade Leader stated that the Party was being organised for service to people. Deputy Leader and General Secretary of the Party, Cde. Ranji Chandisingh, has been charged with preparing a comprehensive programme of ideological training especially for the young people of Guyana. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 86 p 5] /9274

DIAMOND PRODUCTION--Declared gold production last year was 10,323 ounces, a decrease of 808 ounces compared with 1984 figures, but diamond production showed a substantial increase. A Geology and Mines Commission statement shows diamond production declared for 1985 at 11,556 (Old English) carats, an increase of 4,257 carats on the declared production of 7,299 carats in 1984. Commission officials said the declaration of just over 10,000 ounces of gold, compared to 11,131 ounces declared in 1984, could have been caused in part by unfavourable weather in mining districts last year, resulting in extended periods of "high water." The total value of gold declared by the end of the year was \$12,25 million compared to \$12,29 million in 1984. The value of diamond production declared in 1985 increased to \$1,73m from the \$1,09m in 1984. Royalty increased to over \$116,000 from some \$73,000 in 1984. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 9 Feb 86 p 3] /9274

CSO: 3298/357

NICARAGUA

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN 1985 REPORTED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Jan 86 p 5

[Text] The material aid provided to the Nicaraguan Association of Friendship with Socialist Countries (ANAPS) in 1985 by the countries in the world socialist system, including donations, consumer goods, capital and technical aid, came to \$260 million, Socorro Galan, secretary general of that organization, has informed BARRICADA.

The ANAPS carried out three major activities in 1985, Galan explained. They were the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism, the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the celebration of the triumph of the October Socialist Revolution.

He said that progress had been made toward the main purpose of the association, which is to make known the goals of socialism, with the decisive support of the organized people.

In the realm of collaboration, Cuba headed the list with a total of \$96,500,000, followed by the Soviet Union with \$17,200,000, Czechoslovakia with \$16,600,000, Bulgaria with \$14,900,000, the GDR with \$10,000,000, and Poland and Hungary with \$8,400,000, he noted.

"In the 5 years since our organization was founded, it has been possible to establish a real and important friendship with the socialist countries, particularly through the exchange of counterpart delegations."

Galan stressed that "in 1986, our organization will continue to consolidate the bonds of friendship with the socialist countries, with particular emphasis on their militant solidarity, under the slogan 'Nicaragua must survive'."

Another of the important tasks for 1986 will be explaining to the people the congresses of the communist parties which will be held this year, which marks the 25th anniversary of the victory at the Bay of Pigs and the 65th anniversary of the revolution in Mongolia, he added.

"Also, along with our brothers in the socialist sector, we will celebrate this International Year of Peace, established as a goal of our counterpart .pa

organizations, as well as the fifth anniversary of the founding of the ANAPS, next 11 June," Comrade Galan said.

"With our counterparts in the socialist sector, we will celebrate three main activities. They are the seventh anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist Revolution, the 25th anniversary of the founding of our historic vanguard, and the 10th anniversary of the date on which the leader of the revolution, Commander Carlos Fonseca, fell in battle," he said.

On the other hand, he announced that greater impetus will be given the Russian language school, at which courses will begin in the first week of February, with more students participating. Last year there were 130 students.

In conclusion, Socorro Galan said that specific requests for technical and material aid have already been made to the socialist countries. Jointly with them, exhibits of arts and crafts and photography will be held, for the purpose of "deepening our relations, which are the product of our commitment to peace."

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CSO: 3248/243

NICARAGUA

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR REPORTS STATISTICS FOR 1985

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Dec 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] Although absenteeism continues to prevail among the support personnel, the Bertha Calderon Hospital did excellent work during 1985, its director, Dr Francisco Orochena, has said.

This physician indicated that the work done at this medical aid center included almost 100 percent fulfillment of the medical consultation plan. It had been estimated that 113,512 patients would be seen, while the actual number was 113,000, plus all those given emergency aid.

Births at the Bertha Calderon Hospital totaled 16,364, yielding an average of 45 per day, an acceptable number.

"At all times we check on the quality of care given the workers, to avoid complaints from the numerous patients we care for, since it serves no purpose to exceed the goals for care to the public if the quality of the care does not improve. And this is a goal which, despite the effort made, has not been achieved," he added.

The total number of patients discharged was 27,407, representing 99 percent plan fulfillment. Major surgical operations came to 10,256 during the year, yielding an average of 97 percent.

According to Dr Orochena, the average time a patient stays at this facility is 2 and a half days. This is regarded as too low a figure, since the ideal would be 6 days, which period of time would guarantee better patient supervision. However, lack of capacity makes this impossible. The demand for beds is such that each bed serves 10 patients monthly, and is only empty for 16 hours per month.

The director said that the mortality rate at the facility he heads is 3.4 percent, which is acceptable, although it could be reduced.

The majority of the deaths occur among newborn infants, for reasons within the list of the 10 main causes of death established for this hospital.

They include, among others, immaturity of the organs of the newborn infants, asphyxia and hypoxia (lack of oxygen in the tissues). Many of these infants are born depressed.

The director of the Bertha Calderon Hospital noted, moreover, with regard to scientific development sponsored at the facility, 37 specialists are being trained in gynecology and obstetrics, while seven ophthalmologists are in training. During the year, 20 specialists in gynecology and obstetrics and three ophthalmologists graduated.

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CSO: 3248/243

NICARAGUA

CUS REVIEWS ACTIVITIES, DIFFICULTIES IN 1985

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Dec 85 p 7

[Text] The Confederation for Trade Union Unity (CUS) will continue in 1986 to promote farm production, clothing, woodworking and traditional fishing cooperatives, leaders Alvin Guthrie and Jose Espinosa told the DIARIO DE LOS NICARAGUENSES.

The positive assessment of the trade union administration of the CUS showed that the workers class cannot meet its needs through wages, but there are also cases of unemployed workers, and this sector will be served by the development of cooperatives.

Difficulties

The members of these cooperatives, the officials interviewed said, encounter difficulties in obtaining farm tools, boat engine replacements, tools and fabrics, so that they can continue to operate.

In the year just ending, an increase in the membership of the CUS was seen, making it necessary for the national leadership to redouble the effort to bring prosperity to the members of the organization.

Activities Carried Out

The leaders interviewed explained that last Saturday, 21 December, 800 members of the clothing, peasant and miscellaneous trades workers unions met in Nindiri for an end-of-the-year ceremony.

The participants exchanged gifts and announced the various programs to be carried out in 1986 for the sole purpose of improving the family economies of their members.

Alvin Guthrie, secretary general of the CUS, announced that support for the social welfare programs for the working class in Masaya will be continued.

Espinosa Navas said that the members of the Peasants Union, the Clothing Workers Union and the Miscellaneous Trades Workers Union, all of Chinandega, met in El Viejo on Sunday to celebrate the year's end.

A total of 800 persons participated, demonstrating that the CUS enjoys great support in the department of Chinandega.

Plans call for the better-organized planting of seeds for the production of sesame seed, yucca and other crops, with a view to overcoming the difficulties encountered this past year.

Concluding Activities

One of the last activities of the CUS in 1985 will be the inauguration of the Trade Union House in Chinandega, as well as the election of new officers for the Chinandega Stamping Mill Workers Union (SITRAVOCHI).

Also, a new union will be established in the city of Leon, followed by the time-honored end-of-the-year celebration, with all of those present, including invited guests, participating.

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CSO: 3248/243

NICARAGUA

CUS UNIONS DECLARED ILLEGAL BY LABOR MINISTRY

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Jan 86 p 7

[Text] The leaders of the CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity] have refused to respond to the appeals of the MITRAB [Ministry of Labor] for justification of the existence of at least 12 illegal unions.

Yader Valerio Cortes, chief labor inspector, said that last 13 December, Omar Baca Castillo and Jorge Morales Vallecillo, both CUS leaders, were summoned to his office, but failed to appear.

The illegal trade unions include the Managua Professional Farm Workers Union (SITPA), the Miskitos Workers Union (SITRAMIS), the Clothing Workers Union (SITRAVENS), the El Viejo Miscellaneous Trades Workers Union, the Posoltega Workers Union, the SITRACAMPO, the Office Workers Union (SITRAOFICINICHI), and the Casares Fishermens Cooperative Workers Union.

Valerio Cortes said that the Ministry of Labor deals with all the applications for trade union membership, and where the CUS is concerned, the MITRAB is requiring that "the status of these unions be updated whenever applications are made."

Despite the fact that the legal requirements for establishing a trade union were simplified after the revolutionary triumph, the truth is that the CUS "unions" do not meet the requirements. Some of them do not have even 25 members.

Johannes Lopez Fonseca, the official in charge of trade union associations, said that the MITRAB, through its regional offices, has made inspections, "but the location of the premises is unknown, while in other cases, these unions simply do not exist."

The various trade unions in the country can choose among various categories of union groups to represent their workers. They may be guild, enterprise or miscellaneous trades groups, among other categories, this official said.

ISA Union Disqualified

However, the CUS has not been able to meet the requirements in any of the instances for the legalization of the ISA Faustino Martinez "union." The leaders of the CUS have represented this union as a guild, a form in which workers in the same profession are organized, but this group included farm, administrative and other workers.

Then they described the union as including several enterprises, seeking to link it with the Nicaragua Sugars workers. However, since together with the mill, they represent a single productive unit, operating the same machinery and directed by the same management, they therefore could not be enrolled as a union representing several enterprises either.

Lopez Fonseca says that in order to establish an enterprise union, it is necessary to include 60 percent of the workers. The application for legal status in 1981 showed 236 members, while the mill had 5,000 active workers.

In view of the evidence of illegality presented by the Ministry of Labor, the CUS turned to the Supreme Court, which refused to accept the petition for relief appealing its 27 January 1984 judgment.

Despite the response of the Supreme Court, which was reported in the CUS periodical SOLIDARIDAD, a publication was put out reporting falsely that the Supreme Court had not issued a ruling. This claim was made by the CUS to the representatives of the American Federation of Labor who visited Nicaragua, under the title "Comrade Reyes Cantillano Denounces the Silence of the Supreme Court on the Faustino Martinez Petition for Relief."

Almost all of the issues of the CUS periodical contain references to the Faustino Martinez "union," in an effort to make it appear that there is no trade union freedom in Nicaragua and to obtain economic aid.

The director general of labor said that "these trade unions, along with their opposition to the government, are adopting a series of negative attitudes and making false charges in an effort to distort the image of the government in the trade union sector."

He added that the Faustino Martinez "union" is an example of the way in which the CUS violates the principle of legality within the revolution and attacks the unity of the workers class.

Simplified Procedures

Currently, the procedures for legalizing a trade union have been simplified, and involve only submission of the minutes and bylaws approved at a workers assembly. These documents must be accompanied by three account books, the first for checking on the minutes and agreements, another containing data on the members, and the last for checking on the finances and administrative control of the union.

Prior to the revolutionary triumph, there were only 130 unions in the country, while there are today, organized in the various central federations, 1,347 union groups.

Johannes Lopez Fonseca says that "with the revolutionary triumph, some of the previous hindrances, such as the interventionist government requirement that a notary be present, have been eliminated."

Other requirements dropped, Lopez Fonseca added, include the tedious procedure of reporting in the government daily LA GACETA, and the requirement that the union "must define the period of its duration, with inspections of a special nature and the corresponding questioning, involving attitudes which almost forced leaders to abandon the creation of a union."

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CSO: 3248/243

NICARAGUA

DOMESTIC TRADE MINISTRY COMBATS ILLEGAL PRACTICES

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 9

[Text] The battle against those who engage in speculation and usury is continuing throughout the country. Explanatory meetings attended by consumers, merchants and MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] officials, as well as popular campaigns and various operations, have been taking place in recent days in various parts of the country.

The organized people have provided a combative response to the criminal resistance of some merchants and producers, who refuse to adhere to the official prices.

"Speculation and usury are forms of attack upon our people," popular leaders have said. They have reiterated the determination to "use every weapon against the attackers."

Many Merchants Fined

Inspections of markets, meat sales, restaurants, dining rooms and clothing and shoe stores have been carried out in the city of Esteli by the MICOIN.

As a result of these inspections, 58 unscrupulous merchants were penalized in one 7-day period. They were given fines totaling more than half a million cordobas.

Reports from the regional office of the MICOIN indicate that prices had been changed on soft drinks, shoes, clothing, meals, beer and meat.

Six hardware stores were fined when it was found that they were earning disproportionate profits, reaching in some cases up to 980 percent.

Seizures and Fines in Occidente

"By striking a blow at speculation, we are defending the revolution," and "by combating the speculators, we defend our conquests." These were the slogans chanted by the thousands of citizens of Leon who marched through the streets of their town last Tuesday in a combative demonstration.

The demonstrators voiced their total support of the measures the MICOIN is sponsoring in accordance with the Consumer Defense Law, and they pledged that they would continue to maintain a permanent attitude of vigilance and mobilization.

In various operations sponsored by the MICOIN in the markets of this city, in addition to the imposition of fines on those who change prices, a number of items have been confiscated because the required documents showing their origin were missing. Also, those who had violated the law were fined.

Together with the above, a series of meetings has been held in this region to explain the Consumer Defense Law and to discuss its application with various sectors.

An example was the meeting held at the Miguel Angel Ortey National Institute in Chinandega, in which sellers at the central market in the city participated.

Trade union leaders met last Tuesday, also in Chinandega, and they expressed their decision to make each worker a people's inspector capable of confronting any speculator or usurer. The regional CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] proposes to continue the explanation of the various measures sponsored by the MICOIN at each labor center.

Merchants Fined in Region IV

Some 400 merchants were penalized with fines ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 cordobas in connection with the operation sponsored by the MICOIN in this region under the slogan "every weapon against aggression."

In Jinotepe, 12 individuals have been fined since 10 January last, the date on which the operation began. In Masaya, 2 tons of citrus fruits, bananas, and pork, 30 quintals of corn, oil and soap, and other basic consumer items, worth some 4 million in all, have been confiscated from the Ernesto Fernandez market.

A number of those who rent space at the market voiced the need for control of the prices they must pay producers and wholesalers. "We cannot sell for less than we pay," they said.

A Million Cordobas in Fines and Seizures

The fines imposed and goods confiscated by MICOIN Region V [Boaco, Chontales and Zelaya Central] officials in the war to the death against speculation and usury have totaled more than a million cordobas to date.

Among the items seized were milk products, clothing, shoes, basic grains, tools for farm production and medicines.

The zones most affected in the battle against speculation are Juigalpa, Boaco, Santo Tomas and Nueva Guinea.

Pompilio Fitoria, a regional MICOIN official, has revealed that among the goods confiscated on the weekend were 13,469 units of popular medicines and 629 units of various items needed for farm production. These were seized from merchant Alberto Espinoza Lopez, who had changed prices to the detriment of the rural and urban residents in the municipality of Camoapa.

In Juigalpa, moreover, Adalberto Martinez of the regional MICOIN office announced the fines imposed on merchants Eduardo Ruiz and Julio Lacayo, as well as the CACHO, which produces milk products. The first two individuals will have to pay 50,000 cordobas each, while a fine of 70,000 cordobas was imposed on the cooperative.

Clandestine dealers in illegally priced goods have also been dealt with harshly. This group includes Florentin Arguello, who was fined 100,000 cordobas. Also, it was announced that the supply source of merchant Juan Corea was blocked, because of the relations his business maintained with clandestine suppliers.

Violations by Dairy Cooperative

Florencio Jarquin, a MICOIN official in Jinotega, denounced the criminal attitude of the milk producers organized in the Otto Casco Cooperative

These producers refused to accept the official prices established by the MICOIN for milk and dairy products. "They prefer to release the cattle, lose the milk and the curd," this official said. He added that the decision had been made to "impose fines, and not to allow these individuals, misnamed producers, to engage in manipulation."

During his explanation, this official announced the main fines imposed to date by the people's inspectors, working with the Sandinist police and with the support of the organized people.

Alejandro Castro, a CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] leader, on the other hand, voiced his organization's support of the MICOIN, in connection with the criminal activities of the dairymen, and he proposed that contact be made with milk producers in other zones and regions in order to ensure a supply of this vital product.

At the same time, this popular leader announced that his organization is drafting a proposal concerning the slaughter of cattle. "It calls for the municipality to exert control and for sale outlets to be established in each neighborhood," Castro said.

The regional office of the MICOIN, for its part, has announced the decision to sponsor various seminars in order to provide the population with knowledge enabling the citizens to be active participants in the campaign against speculation. Workers, housewives and the people in general will participate in the meetings.

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CSO: 3248/242

NICARAGUA

CTN MEMBER UNIONS ANALYZE 1985 ACTIVITIES

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 86 p 5

[Text] The trade unions in the agro-industrial branch affiliated with the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers], such as those at Poultry Enterprises, Corona Oil Production and Nutribal, are summarizing their activities with a view to the better development of their role as defenders of the workers class.

One of their proposals is to pursue internal discussions about social, economic and trade union problems, the secretary of this trade union organization in charge of organization and training, Miguel Angel Salgado Baez, said.

This leader spoke of 1986, at its beginning, as a year of the greatest importance to the workers class in general, since various social problems exist throughout the country.

He said that in the Corona Oil Production union, no problems have developed. All that has happened is the wage adjustment consistent with the new provisions of the SNOTS. He said that the membership includes 25 workers at that enterprise.

The collective bargaining agreements are being reviewed, and both the enterprise and the workers retain the rights provided by the law in effect.

As to the trade union organization in the poultry sector, including the Nutribal Concentrates Enterprise, which is a part of the MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], this trade union leader said that in July of last year, the new agreement in effect, which benefits a total of 250 workers and employees, was signed.

Salgado Baez also said that at the La Estrella poultry concern, a positive advance was seen in relations between workers and management.

In connection with Nutribal, he said that there were some problems, which have been resolved on the basis of frank dialogue. The agreement signed by 180 out of the total number of workers remains in effect.

The CTN maintained close relations during last year with the SIMOTUR [Trade Union of Urban Transportation Drivers], but to date the legal status of the union, which made application a year ago now, has not been approved by the Departmental Inspectorate of Labor and the Associations Department.

The demand for a total sum of 3 million cordobas for the workers, on which a favorable ruling was handed down, could not be met by management. As a result, a new appeal has been filed with the Appellate Court for a review of the case by the Ministry of Labor.

At the ENABUS [National Bus Enterprise], a number of workers who had been dismissed were reinstated, with payment of back wages.

These reinstatements included some 12 workers who had no reason to become a cause of labor conflict again, since the SIMOTUR has explained to and directed the workers that they must first be responsible in their jobs and comply with the internal regulations of the enterprises in order to have a right to claims.

Salgado Baez said that 1986 will be a year of labor improvements. Without any doubt, the trade unions throughout the country are now very mature, he said.

Achievements at LA PRENSA

The CTN has announced that the LA PRENSA Workers Union also achieved helpful results during 1985. A number of benefits were provided by the enterprise, with more than 250 employees sharing in profits or receiving bonuses as well as all their social welfare contributions. Also, there was faithful adherence to the wage tables, and there were no dismissals or misunderstandings other than the normal cases of resignation or simple legal notices on ordinary matters.

The LA PRENSA union was also reorganized, where its board of directors is concerned, and it has been reactivated to function in 1986 on the basis of the law and the demands of the workers, the representative of the CTN said. He added that the workers union at this newspaper is affiliated with the central organization.

Siemens Union

The CTN also directs the activity of the workers union at the Siemens enterprise, of German origin. No adverse problems have occurred there. On the contrary, the year has been one of very positive activities, although some branches of production were down considerably, for various reasons.

There were no dismissals at Siemens in 1985. However, this union is still awaiting approval of its legal status, although it does in fact exist.

"The Department of Trade Union Associations has been asked to convoke elections of officers at various unions, but the ministry has not dealt with this case, strangely enough, as it has with the other central workers organizations," the CTN leaders said in conclusion.

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CSO: 3248/242

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

NEW ANIA OFFICERS--The Nicaraguan Association of Engineers and Architects (ANIA) has announced that the boards of directors of the four collegiate groups were elected last Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. The results of the elections were as follows: College of Civil Engineers--Rene Gutierrez Cortes, director; Ernesto J. Robleto, secretary; and Marcos Delgadillo, treasurer. College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers--Humberto Miranda S., director; Moises Gutierrez U., secretary; and Reinerio Montiel, treasurer. College of Industrial Engineers--Noel Cuarezma; director; Alfredo Solorzano, secretary; and Armando Sequeira, treasurer. College of Architects--Hugo Zambrana S., director; Jose Tercero B., secretary; and Erasmo Vargas S., treasurer. With the elections for the ANIA colleges completed, its board of directors for the 1986-1987 period is as follows: president--Jaime Icabalceta M., secretary general--Donald Delgadillo T., controller--Joaquin Zepeda A., and publications director--Mario Martinez. Voting members include Rene Gutierrez, Humberto Miranda, Noel Cuarezma and Hugo Zambrana. In accordance with the bylaws of the ANIA, the new officers will be installed early in February. The date and hour of the installation of the new board of directors will be announced in due course. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 86 p 8] 5157

CSO: 3248/242

PARAGUAY

COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER ON U.S. INTERVENTIONISM

PY300003 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish to Latin America
0310 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Article by Paraguayan Communist Party member Ananias Maidana]

[Text] Just recently Daniel Clare, charge d'affaires [title as heard] of the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, and other high-ranking U.S. diplomatic officials invited several Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] leaders to a working luncheon. During this meeting the participants exchanged opinions about the Latin American political status quo, especially that of the southern cone countries, the main issue being democracy U.S.-style, that is democracy without communists.

In early January this year, U.S. Ambassador Taylor met at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party [PRF] with the leaders of the political parties that belong to the National Accord, namely, the MOPOCO, the PRF, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

Faced with the active and overt participation of top yankee embassy officials in the nation's political activities, the criminal interior minister, Sabino Augusto Montanaro publicly stated, among other things, that the U.S. ambassador was interfering in Paraguayan domestic affairs.

But who is unaware of the fact that the U.S. imperialism, the international gendarme and exploiter and the (sworn) enemy of all the people, was the one that organized and financed the bloody [as heard] coup d'etat on 4 May 1954 through which Nazi General Alfredo Stroessner and his gang of traitorous generals gained access to power.

Even Stroessner, trying to prove that he is a faithful servant of the imperialists, has repeatedly stated that the U.S. ambassador is a member of his government. The people also know very well that the great patriot, Augusto Montanaro, is the main executor of the criminal plans for repression, torture, murder, kidnapping and disappearances of Paraguayan patriots and democrats prepared by CIA advisers at the Interior Ministry.

Then what has been happening in Paraguay to compel the representatives of Reagan's terrorist administration to start running around and making all sorts of contacts with not only government political leaders and those of the bourgeois and landed opposition, but also with certain union leaders and those of other Paraguayan social sectors?

It is obvious that after the total failure of last October's electoral farce, the position of Stroessner's crowd has been further weakened, the economic crisis has gotten dangerously worse and corruption has reached unbearable levels. Dissatisfaction and indignation are spreading through many popular sectors, the bloody terror has not managed to thwart the mobilization and the ever increasingly more aggressive organized and united onslaught of the workers, the peasants, the students and other sectors of the population in the quest for their most pressing economic and democratic requirements.

The (dictatorship) is more isolated and hated than ever, divided into two factions, the militants and the traditionalists, a division that is weakening it even further. All parties and movements are stepping up their efforts to regroup, and the confrontation between a traitorous and scheming minority and the majority of patriotic, democratic and revolutionary groups is getting more and more severe.

This is why the U.S. Embassy, following orders from the Reagan administration is again scheming with bourgeois and landed opponents to implement something they have shamelessly and publicly declared more than once: it is better to plan an orderly and moderate transition in order to move toward a democracy without communists.

Even Stroessner, who has always mocked democracy and prided himself on being the head of a government free from weakness and closed to alien ideas, is now being forced to talk about democracy without communists.

The U.S. interventors and their native serfs hope to come up with a scheme to prevent revolutionary, democratic and patriotic movement. All these efforts are helping fuel the hate that the masses feel toward the imperialists and the pro-yankee traitors of the opposition. They help the Paraguayan people to understand better that it is impossible to destroy the dictatorship and establish a system of total freedom without releasing the country from U.S. domination at the same time.

The Paraguayan Communist Party wants to announce that conditions are now appropriate to defeat the dictatorship's plan to remain in power and the imperialist projects, even before the electoral farce that is being prepared to reelect the tyrant Stroessner for the 1988-1993 term in office.

For this possibility to become true all antidictatorial civilian and military forces, especially the workers, the peasants, the students and the young patriots of the Armed Forces must develop unity, organization and decisiveness. Unity without any exclusions is the key to the victory of antidictatorial forces.

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

POLICE RAID OPPOSITION--The residence of a Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] leader Miguel Angel Gonzelez Casabianca was raided this afternoon. The police carried a search warrant signed by Judge Cesar (Rey) Martinez. Reliable sources also reported that the houses of another MOPOCO leader, Marcos Bibolini Quarante, and of Authentic Radical Liberal Party Secretary General Miguel Abdon Saguier were also searched by the police. [Text] [Asuncion Radio Paraguay in Spanish 2104 GMT 17 Feb 86 PY] /9738

RELIEF FROM HARASSMENT SOUGHT--National Accord President Waldino Ramon Lovera's home is still under police surveillance. He is not allowed to receive any visitors or travel freely throughout the city. His relatives have also reported that he receives telephone threats as part of a campaign of harassment. Given his difficult situation, Lovera requested the court to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus and to lift the restrictions imposed on him because they contradict the National Constitution. Lovera was seen this morning in the Supreme Court of Justice filing the case on his own behalf. [Text] [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Feb 86 p 10 PY] /9738

CSO: 3348/449

SURINAME

BRIEFS

SHIPMENTS TO AMELIORATE MEAT SHORTAGES--Surinamese Airlines will fly in beef and pork tomorrow from California, the United States. On Friday, an air shipment of chicken will come in. As a result of the shortage of specified kinds of meat that has arisen in local markets, the Ministry of Transportation, Trade, and Industry has decided "to import meat for a very short time" in order to assure protein intake levels. This is being done "in order to insure that the especially large group of people possessing the most modest resources are able to get a good piece of meat at affordable prices." [Excerpts] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 19 Feb 86 p 1]

CSO: 3214/38

VENEZUELA

LIBYAN BUREAU ON 'ZIONIST, IMPERIALIST' PROPAGANDA

PA32029 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Feb 86 p 1-27

[Statement issued by the People's Committee of the Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Venezuela; no date given]

[Text] In the face of the fierce and insatiable information campaign carried out by spokesmen of Zionism and imperialism by spreading hatred and an aversion through propaganda and biased and false accusations in a barefaced and dishonest way, this People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wants to express regret for and reproof of this campaign of intrigue and slander launched by certain media, under the pressure of agents of imperialism and Zionism, in order to harm the existing relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Venezuela, two friendly countries and OPEC members.

This campaign is also aimed at covering the crimes and aggressions of imperialism and Zionism, which continually and constantly attack the peaceful peoples of the world, especially those fighting for their liberation.

In view of these facts, the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wants to assert the following:

1. With the greatest effort, we zealously protect the good relations with the people and government of Venezuela and, regarding this, it would be unthinkable for us to give any support for acts that are aimed at stirring and disturbing the security of this friendly country, much less for us to be interested in upsetting the good relations between Libya and Venezuela.
2. This campaign is just one more link in a chain of actions planned and organized by imperialism and Zionism against the Libyan people, the objective of which is none other than isolating them and obstructing their noble and courageous attitude of support for and solidarity with the oppressed peoples who are fighting for their freedom in different parts of the world.
3. The attempt to interpret the existence of Arab and Islamic congresses, centers, and clubs as nests of terrorism is just a propagandistic, malicious, and unrealistic lie. Such falsehoods are nurtured by the hatred, the fanaticism, and the racism that become evident in each action carried out by imperialism and Zionism. In this case, these false arguments are being used to disturb the peace prevalent between the Arab Islamic colony and the Venezuelan people.

4. The relationship of Libya with the Arab congresses, clubs, and associations are of a noble and honest nature and are aimed at fomenting understanding, comprehension, and cooperation between the Arab and Venezuelan peoples in all aspects, especially in the cultural and social ones.

5. We warn that, after failing in their attempts to terrorize our people with their fleets and planes in order to subject them to a policy of vileness and treason, imperialism and zionism sought the implementation of deceitful but cunning methods to hurt the relations of the Jamahiriyah with friendly countries and especially with those that are members of, together with the Jamahiriyah, international organizations such as OPEC, by sowing discord and division, thus breaking the efforts made to again create a balance in the oil market.

6. The true terrorists are those who violate the people's freedoms by navigating with their fleets through the seas of the world, threatening peaceful countries with their constant military provocations, flying with their planes to engage in air piracy and threatening world peace persecuting and striking freedom fighters throughout the world, promoting conspiracies, sowing disagreement, and nurturing military confrontations in order to back and benefit imperialist interests.

7. The Green Book is not a dictionary of terrorism as some may think. It is a new guide to improve civilization, whose goal is to solve man's political, economic, and social problems. Those who attack the Green Book, in fact, do not understand its message that becomes crystallized in the Third Universal Theory to solve human problems.

8. Ties of blood and roots unite us with the Arab colony. Our mission as a unifying Arab country is that we are concerned about the tranquility and welfare of the Arab colony and we feel that we must participate in the development of their historical message, in the construction of warm and friendly relations between the Arab nation and the countries where they reside. We offer simple aid to this colony; not to sow terrorism or disturb regimes, but to develop their programs of friendly relations and the dissemination of the Arab culture and civilization among the Venezuelan people.

9. In conclusion, we are convinced that with the consolidation of the liberator Simon Bolivar's noble principles and free objectives, the people and government of Venezuela will not permit the spokesmen of lies and the corrupt agents to attain their goals and deteriorate the relations between the two peoples, the Arab and the Venezuelan, through the attempted implementation of a policy of division and hatred.

We again reiterate that we have come here to strengthen the relations and the ties of love, friendship, and cooperation between the Libyan Arabs and the Venezuelan people so that our policies will not be affected by this biased propaganda.

/12232

CSO: 3348/453

VENEZUELA

TARRE MURZI ON POLL RELIABILITY, OTHER ISSUES

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 19 Jan 86 p 17

[Article in the column "Political Labyrinth" by Alfredo Tarre Murzi]

[Text] The Gaither Poll and Popularity

The Gaither public opinion poll is so objective, so independent and so honestly truthful that it is necessary to go to Miraflores to give the president of the republic the good news about his unchanged popularity. The members of the AD [Democratic Action] themselves do not believe in this 61 percent popularity with the man in the street, to judge from the daily chaos in the ill-advised measures of the government. It would be useful, timely and desirable if other enterprises engaged in taking polls and less closely linked with the government party were to tell us, at the end of this crucial January, how the creditability of the government and the prestige of the president are really developing, following the increases on foodstuffs, services and fuels. And all of that quite apart from the dramatic deterioration dragging down a regime which is increasingly at odds with the humble classes because of its tendency toward indulgence in luxury and bureaucratic excesses, its constant flirtation with the oligarchy, its abandonment of the workers class, and the chaos and administrative corruption above and below, in the midst of outrages committed against journalists and the disaster in the police and court systems. Gaither is a part of the world of invention and "deals." It would be good to know how much this enterprise is paid out of the secret Miraflores funds and what links the leaders of the official party have with these businessmen who measure public opinion on the basis of the requirements and demands of an official who lives and breathes good fellowship and likeability in order to promote his personal image.

The Other Survey

In this matter of public opinion polls concerning the nature of the government in office, it is obvious that everything depends on the lens through which one views the national reality. As compared to the rosy and well-paid view of Gaither, there are data, figures and results from another recent survey, that published by the Mercanalis firm. The people can judge which of the two is more serious and convincing.

Mercanalisis made a survey in December, prior to the measures establishing new and higher prices for foodstuffs and services, with results rather close to the real situation and with the appearance of credibility, because Mercanalisis is not an AD enterprise.

Let us look at the results of the Mercanalisis survey.

To the question as to how those interviewed would describe the Lusinchi government, 24 percent answered "good," 55 percent "normal," and 13 percent "bad."

A word to the wise is sufficient. Adding together those who said "normal" and those who said "bad," we get 68 percent. Among ourselves we know what "normal" means. It is a euphemism used to avoid saying "bad," or at a very minimum, it indicates a lack of total approval of the government administration. The 24 percent figure for the people who merely said "good" has no value, because it represents the AD membership. Thus the popularity reported by Gaither only exists in the minds of Gaither and those who pay Gaither.

Mercanalisis provides other very important information.

More than 50 percent of the population thinks that the situation in the country is worse than before, or will not improve in 1986.

With regard to the point scores of the various parties, the AD obtained 44 percent, the COPEI [Social Christian Party] 20 percent, and 25 percent declared themselves to be independents. Thus 55 percent of the citizens of Venezuela today do not support the government, and, on the basis of tradition, these people will vote in the end for the slate of the majority in the opposition. Thus after 2 years of AD government and with all of the frantic demagoguery and blatant populism, the AD represents a minority. Imagine what the situation will be like within 2 years!

Caldera continues to head the list of political leaders, with a solid 32 percent, followed by Carlos Andres Perez with 29 percent. But as the latter is not to the taste of the government and Lusinchi does not favor his own reelection, the actions of the COPEI are intensifying considerably. This party has, moreover, a reserve in the person of Eduardo Fernandez, with 19 percent, with which to surpass Penalver, Lepage and Leandro Mora. A large majority expresses great concern about the deteriorating quality of life and the increase in crime and corruption. Good for Mercanalisis, which had the happy opportunity to reestablish the truth!

A Certain Way of Governing

This experienced and most marvelous government, a model of seriousness and an example of responsible conduct, so popular in the surveys, has within one week committed tremendous blunders to the detriment of the public treasury and the credit of this state. First it promulgated a decree on tax withholdings from income, a worthless and unexpected decree, and 10 days later it found itself forced to amend it by the elimination of major norms and changes in

other articles. This has not been seen since the days of the October Revolution, when daily changes were made in the decrees of the council "due to copying errors." In another country the minister of finance would already have been dismissed for incompetence, as revealed by this outrage, and another sizable error involving an erroneous estimate of the fiscal cost of increasing the salaries of government employees. Now there are 500 million bolivares more than had been established and guaranteed by Dr Azpurua, a minister who should resign, in the qualified opinion of Dr Jose Vicente Rangel, but not just to be replaced by the Keynesian Sanchez Bueno, because the cure would be a thousand times worse than the disease. This is the method of government used by the AD through the years, not to mention the increase in the foreign indebtedness by an additional \$458 million, without ever paying back a cent of the foreign debt. And not to mention the instances of corruption, to which the response has been a deafening silence.

Freedom and Protection

Journalist Ruben Chaparro was jailed and then released, with the judge recommending that he abstain from exercising the right to criticize, and meanwhile the sword of Damocles continues to hang over his trial. A former president of the Central Bank of Venezuela and minister under the last government also went to prison because he voiced an unfavorable opinion of a voting member of the Supreme Court. Retaliation and petty sectarian vengeance continue under the cloak of justice and the state of law, while honorable government leaders have obtained a writ of habeas corpus for Diego Arria from their own judges, and while the scandalous case of corruption with the vice minister of agriculture as its protagonist, which has been denounced in the Congress on the basis of clear and indisputable evidence, is being covered up. At the same time there are silence, concealment and protection for very high police officials, such as Commissioner Juan Oswaldo Granadillos, director of the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], who owns and operates a private investigation firm. At the same time, the daily newspapers are reporting that jewelry worth 200,000 bolivares "was lost" at the DISIP, according to an explicit charge made by an officer in the armed forces. Government criminals enjoy freedom and protection, while the lot of opposition journalists is jail and threats. Here we have a partial assessment of this "popular" and honest government, while the Protection Law and the Safeguards Law are notable for their absence. Long live AD [Democratic Action] democracy!

The Death Agony of the Tripartite Commission

The effort to promote collaboration among the state, businessmen and trade unionists was born after World War I, through the International Labor Organization, and it has been a constant factor for almost 66 years. But under the Jaime Lusinchi government in Venezuela, it has been a failure, a futile task, a chimera. This has not been due to ill will on the part of the employers and the workers, but rather the irresponsibility and stupidity of the government. The brand new and famous Tripartite Commission, the successor to the no less celebrated CONACOPRESA, is on the brink of disappearance today due to the drastic impairment of the understanding vital to the attempt to resolve the tragic social and economic problems of the country. Businessmen

complain of the lack of seriousness on the part of the government and its rash and one-sided decisions, while the trade unionists, for their part, protest against the deception of which they are the victims, and the incomplete, timid and partial wage measures characteristic of a dissembling populist regime which does not know how to govern, or tries to govern with the "immense popularity" of the president as its sole justification. We are witnessing the death agony of and last rites for the much-vaunted tripartite system, for which we have a dissolute, irresponsible and arbitrary government to thank. The labor prospects, with dialogue and consensus lacking, are becoming increasingly alarming, in the midst of the social explosions prophesied by the authorized voice of the church.

Depression and Paralysis

The voices heard in the streets, surrounded by the official brouhaha, are lugubrious in tone. The recent cabinet change served the purpose of deepening the crisis and the skepticism of the entire nation, despite the siren song of the "admirers" in the press sector and the "pollsters" whose pockets are being lined with government money. As serious and calm a man as Dr Alfredo Morales Hernandez, president of the Caracas Stock Exchange, notes the dramatic depression of the stock market due to the deterioration resulting from economic stagnation. Currently, and as a consequence of the policy of the government party, there are fewer enterprises registered with the Caracas Stock Exchange with every passing day, and the activities of that body, which measures and records the fluctuations in the financial situations of the National Stocks Commission and the economic bodies in the public sector, are becoming increasingly sporadic and feeble. At the Industrial Bank, on the contrary, there is a hint of internal crisis, while former minister Rafael Martin Guedez is indignant in his rejection of the administration of the BANAP [National Savings and Loan Bank]. The stock market is as depressed as the construction industry, now in a state of collapse, while Lusinchi rubs his hands in satisfaction at the results at the Gaither poll and the success of his economic policy. The Venezuelan "crash" is spreading everywhere except in the minds of these new incarnations of Pangloss to be found in Miraflores.

5157

CSO: 3348/426

VENEZUELA

RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL REPORTEDLY IMPROVING

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 21 Jan 86 p 14

[Text] The new ambassador of Brazil appointed by the government of President Jose Sarney to serve in Venezuela, Paulo Enrique de Paranagua, will arrive in this country in the second half of the month of February. This will be prior to the final arrangements and the possible delivery toward the middle of the year of the 30 Tucano training planes purchased by the Venezuelan Air Force (FAV) from Brazil.

The new Brazilian representative is replacing Ambassador Affonso Arinos de Mello Franco. He is a career diplomat and has most recently been serving as ambassador to Morocco. Venezuela is also sending a new ambassador to Brasilia.

De Paranagua will arrive in Caracas at a favorable moment in the bilateral diplomatic relations with Venezuela, which have been undergoing gradual improvement since the administrative term of Carlos Andres Perez. They have benefited from the more open approach and the process of democratization which Brazil has experienced internally.

Negotiations for and the purchase of the Tucano planes, although this was not a transaction between governments, are in part due to the improvement in the relations between Venezuela and Brazil, and this step is interpreted by those who sponsored it as an evidence of confidence between the two nations.

Diplomatic sources consulted have said that the Brazilian training planes will arrive in the country toward the middle of the year, since one small detail of a technical nature still remains to be resolved.

The Venezuelan Air Force purchased the 30 Tucano planes from the EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] for a total of almost \$50 million. This transaction was approved by the Congress of the Republic through the Chamber of Deputies Defense Commission, where the matter was discussed at length last year.

Brazil has increased its industrial park, with the establishment of a military industry as a part of its development. The export of weapons and planes has come about as a consequence of a pragmatic government policy, as well as

thanks to the need to acquire foreign exchange because of the critical economic situation being experienced, diplomatic sources said.

One of the questions raised in connection with the purchase of the Tucano planes by the FAV was the geopolitical "issue," that is to say the potential danger posed to Venezuela by the purchase of war materiel by a neighboring country. A Brazilian diplomat recently told this reporter that the question should also be considered from the Brazilian point of view, in terms of the risk, also geopolitical, to that country in selling planes, even if only for training purposes, to Venezuela. Therefore, he said, this truly is an evidence of confidence between the two countries.

At present Venezuela and Brazil are reviewing the possibilities for trade and cooperation. The Casa Amarilla and Itamaraty Palace have not wanted to hurry the date for a meeting of the Venezuelan-Brazilian Mixed Coordinating Commission, before the areas in which agreement is needed could be precisely and creatively identified. In addition, the process of increasing trade exchange, for example, involves more than just the governments, since it is also the task of the state to provide incentives to private businesses to participate. In the past year, the trade balance was not favorable, and it showed a decline in comparison to earlier years.

Support from the EEC

A new message from the European Community and its 12 members, addressed to governments of the member nations of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, was made public yesterday in all of the capital cities of the EEC countries, and it was delivered to the eight Latin American governments through their accredited representatives. The emissary in Caracas was the ambassador of The Netherlands, Christianus Thürkow, who handed the message to Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Alberto Consalvi.

In its message, the EEC expressed its satisfaction with the impetus given to the process of peace in Central America by the Contadora and Support Groups, and in particular the fact that the principles and goals agreed upon in Caraballeda were endorsed by the five Central American countries in Guatemala. The balanced and comprehensive method used in the efforts of the Contadora Group, as set forth in the Caraballeda Message, was also stressed, and the EEC made its good offices available to the Contadora Group with a view to contributing to the process of peace, stability and democracy in Central America.

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VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES--According to the most recent figures issued by the Central Bank of Venezuela, the country's international reserves as of 14 February stand at \$13.928 billion. [Excerpt] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Feb 86 p 1-1 PA] /12232

MEASURES TO CONFRONT OIL CRISIS--The Venezuelan finance and development ministers have announced cuts in operating expenses, a strong control of the supply of foreign exchange, and greater use of national products. These are some of the measures adopted to confront the crisis caused by the drop in the price of oil. Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi recently reported that due to the drop in the price of oil, foreign exchange revenues would drop by \$4 or \$5 billion. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 86 PA] /12232

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