

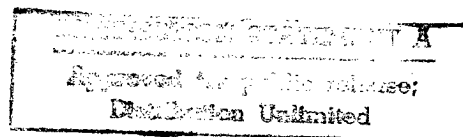
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Latin America Report

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23 May 1984

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GOVERNOR SCORES IMPORTATION OF EUROPEAN COAL

PY031909 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] Santa Catarina Governor Espiridiao Amin expressed his anger today upon learning that Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals will import coal from Europe when coal abounds in Santa Catarina State. Here is a report by [Alvir Rend):

[Begin recording] [Rend] Good afternoon, Ferreira Martins.

[Ferreira Martins] Good afternoon.

[Rend] Here in Santa Catarina State and in all southern Brazil, the telex that Minister Cals sent to Governor Amin has exploded like a bomb. This telex confirmed the upcoming importation of 60,000 metric tons of Colombian [as heard] coal. This coal, according to Cals' message, will be used for technological tests for industry by the steelmaking enterprise Vale do Rio Doce seeking to substitute coal for diesel oil. Santa Catarina State Industry and Commerce Secretary (Edimar de Silva) immediately decided to call an urgent meeting of an inter-state group that is made up of mines and energy, and industry and commerce secretaries, mineworkers' unions, and industry federations to decide on what actions to take. [End recording]

CS0: 3342/102

GOVERNMENT OIL 'LOAN' TO TEXACO EASES GASOLINE SHORTAGE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Bert Wilkinson]

[Text] The gasoline supply situation improved considerably yesterday when an emergency loan from the State-owned Guyana Oil Company (GUYOIL) to Texaco permitted the latter to start deliveries to its service stations.

Deliveries to the Texaco stations in Georgetown will continue today but by late yesterday afternoon the long queues, evident just the day before, had disappeared.

Some Texaco stations had already begun to sell and with other stations still selling, owners of vehicles were getting their supplies.

Texaco had been hit by a shortage since last week and this triggered panic-buying by motorists in various parts of the country. The shortage became evident around Thursday.

National Energy Authority Chairman Abel Felix said yesterday that Texaco's rural service stations should also receive their quotas later today.

Agreement between the two companies was reached Monday and they held follow-up discussions with Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid yesterday.

A senior Guyoil spokesman told the Chronicle that supplies loaned to Texaco should be enough to last until weekend, the expected arrival time of a Texaco vessel.

And reports that a Texaco company vessel arrived Monday evening with gasoline proved false. According to Cde Rashid a vessel did arrive, but it brought gas-oil.

Meanwhile, the GNEA has appealed to motorists not to hoard gasoline which, it says, further compounds the shortage. Authority officials yesterday afternoon ordered a city hire-car driver to throw 15 gallons of fuel in his tank after it was discovered in containers in the trunk.

CSO: 3298/765

TANKERS SEIZED WITH ILLICIT GASOLINE, DIESELENE

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA) yesterday seized 1 000 gallons of gasoline and 800 gallons of dieselene from two fuel tankers on the West Demerara.

A GNEA statement issued yesterday and signed by Acting Chairman Karran Singh said that the consignments were illegally being diverted to gold and diamond miners who had attempted to acquire the fuels outside the normal channels. The Parika Police have detained the vehicles.

The 1 000 gallons are believed to be from a 1 600 gallon consignment to a Zeeburg filling station. Six hundred gallons were reported to be unloaded at Zeeburg.

Regional Administration officials, who were visiting the Parika Marketing Centre at the time, discovered the tanker off-loading fuel in a government compound. They became suspicious and informed the police.

While on their way to investigate the Zeeburg incident, GNEA officials spotted an Esso tanker parked miles from where it was earlier seen, off-loading dieselene at the Esso Filling Station at Anna Catherina.

"The tanker was not carrying a permit for transporting fuel, as required by law," the statement said. The Police seized 800 gallons of gasoline and 400 gallons of dieselene.

Earlier this year the GNEA closed fuel pumps at service stations for allegedly hoarding fuel. The GNEA plans continuing its spot checks on filling stations and tankers.

CSO: 3298/765

BRIEFS

ENERGY TEAM IN MEXICO--A three-member team of energy officials leaves Guyana today for Mexico to hold talks on the development of Guyana's petroleum industry and programmes for the utilisation of alternative energy sources. The team will be led by head of the Energy and Mines Ministry's Petroleum Unit, Brian Sucre. The other members are National Energy Authority Chairman Abel Felix and Geology and Mines Commission chief G.W. Waldron. Guyana hopes to benefit from the experience and expertise of Mexico, a large producer of petroleum. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/765

STABLE OIL PRODUCTION, TAXES ON INDUSTRY UP FOR DISCUSSION

Optimistic Forecasts

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] Oil producing companies will this year invest \$600 million which is \$125 million more than was pumped last year, into the search for more of Trinidad and Tobago's black gold on land and sea, despite uncertain market conditions.

And it was also projected yesterday that the 1984 oil production figure will show a stabilisation from the previous ten percent decline and move into a one percent increase over 1983.

These forecasts were made by two senior government petroleum experts in papers presented at the Geological Society's seminar on the petroleum industry held at Farrell House Hotel, Claxton Bay.

Mr Hayden C. Toney, Director of the Energy Planning Division in the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, said his Ministry hopes that the \$600 million figure will be substantially increased if Government gives reliefs in marine activities.

And Senior Energy Analyst Frank Look Kin gave a production prediction of 161,500 barrels a day this year, as against 159,943 last year and 176,971 in 1982.

He referred to two land production companies, Trinidad Tesoro and Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) which will be ploughing massive sums into secondary recovery programmes this year.

Trinidad Tesoro will spend "its highest budget allocation" of \$48 million (including drilling) in the increased production drive.

Its total spending for 1984, Trintoc is putting \$27.5 million into secondary recovery projects.

Mr Look Kin stressed that the matter of taxation involving marine oil was a crucial one. In the offshore oil operations, he said, there are at least three possible secondary projects that could be expanded or initiated--but the companies are not now prepared to invest any more because of a current deadlock over taxes. It is expected, he said, that with the possible change in petroleum taxation, activities will begin.

Mr Toney said his Ministry expects the oil sector to contribute about \$2.225 billion to the country this year. This, he pointed out, was nowhere near the revenue decline of last year and the year before. This was because there was not now an anticipation of any marked drop in oil production this year.

He, too, spoke of the crucial issue of taxation:

"In keeping with its commitment to review the rates of supplemental petroleum taxation," he said, "the Government implemented a reduction in rate of supplemental taxation tax on land production from 35 percent to 15 percent, effective January 1, 1983.

Long Term Objective

"It is estimated that this measure resulted in a drop in overall petroleum taxation of approximately \$160 million in 1983.

"While it is clear that this measure implies an immediate reduction in Government revenue, it has the long term objective of stimulating activity in the industry so that the production decline of the past two to three years could be stemmed and production levels stabilised."

The head of the Energy Ministry's planning division said that the matter of marine oil taxation was almost complete, and that any relief given to the companies in this area would be another boost.

Mr Toney went on with figures relating to the overwhelming importance of the petroleum industry to this country.

He said about Balance of Trade:

"1983 saw a worsening of the overall balance of visible trade position for the second successive year resulting in a negative balance of trade of \$410M for that year. If the oil trade is reduced the balance of trade deficit is whopping \$5.0 billion.

"Given the prediction of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of no marked decline in oil production and hence exports, it is expected that the oil sector itself will not contribute directly to a further worsening of the balance of trade.

"Exports: The oil sector therefore is expected to continue its role as the leading export sector, accounting for approximately 70 percent of domestic imports.

"Contribution to G.D.P.: The contribution of the oil sector G.D.P. (in current prices at factor cost) declined from a high of 42 percent in 1980 to 23 percent in 1983. There is expected to be a minimal decline in this figure in 1984.

"Foreign Reserves: The sector's role as the biggest earner of foreign exchange is also not expected to change significantly though the quantum of such reserves may decline somewhat below the 1983 level.

"Contribution to Government Revenue: Whereas in 1980 the oil sector accounted for two-thirds of Central Government revenue, this contribution declined to 37 percent in 1983. The fiscal measures in the 1984 Budget are expected to result in a further increase in the contribution of the non-oil sector to Central Government revenue such that by year end the contribution of the oil sector may be in the order of 30 percent."

Bank Report

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] A signal that the local petroleum industry has seen the bottom of its two-year decline in crude oil production came towards the end of last year because of two significant developments.

According to the Quarterly Economic Bulletin published by the Central Bank, "marginal increase in crude oil production and the successful completion of a new producing well" showed some light at the end of the dark pipeline.

Output in the fourth quarter of 1983 amounted to 14.63 barrels, an increase of 0.9 percent from the 14.49 million barrels of oil produced in the third quarter.

"This small increase," added the bulletin, "was due largely to incremental output from two wells which were activated in the East Coast marine area during the first quarter.

"However, crude oil output in the fourth quarter was still five percent less than the 14.5 million barrels produced in the corresponding period of 1982.

"For all of 1983, production has been estimated at 58.3 million barrels, a decline of ten percent from the previous year's output of 64.5 million barrels," continued the bulletin.

But in the midst of all this decline the successful completion of a new oil-producing well in Penal is expected to boost land production by an average 1,600-2,200 barrels per day when it becomes an active producer in early 1984.

"The success of this well is expected to stimulate further exploration activity on land," added the bulletin.

But on the other side of the petroleum "coin"--refining--the depressed situation remained unaltered during the fourth quarter.

Refinery throughput in October averaged 12,000 cubic metres per day or 25 percent of the current rated capacity of the refineries.

"In the third quarter of 1983," according to the bulletin, "throughput totalled 1,048.4 thousand cubic metres (6.5 million barrels) marginally lower than the 1,058.5 thousand cubic metres of crude processed in the second quarter, but 49 percent less than throughput in the corresponding period of 1982."

Government's Tax Options

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 15 Apr 84 p 6

[Article by Oil Man]

[Excerpts] Mr George M. Chambers, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, in his 1984 Budget Speech delivered on Wednesday, January 11, on the petroleum industry, had this to say in part:

"The offer of Tesoro Petroleum Company to sell to the Government its minority holding in Trinidad Tesoro remains an outstanding issue. The present position is that in accordance with the Heads of Agreement the determination of the price of sale has been referred to the auditors who are being assisted by financial advisors acceptable to both parties. The price so set will be binding on Tesoro but the Government will have the option of accepting or rejecting it."

And later on:

"The entire question of the role and direction of the oil industry was discussed at the National Economic Planning Commission against the background of a report prepared by a committee of the Commission which made far-reaching proposals. The options recommended to Cabinet by the Ministerial Committee have been further refined so that the Government is now in a position to commence formal negotiations with Texaco."

In the second instance a team under Mr Dodridge Alleyne was appointed to undertake the negotiations on behalf of the Government. The first meeting between the two parties was held on March 13 and the next meeting is carded for the last week of April.

A third issue is the overall question of taxation and unless these three issues are resolved speedily the economic downturn which we are already experiencing will continue its down hill slide and the social problems insidiously accelerate.

I now turn to the Trinidad and Tobago scenario. Effective January 1, 1974, Government introduced new tax legislation in the oil industry, the effect of which was to ensure that any excess profits made by the oil companies from the sudden increase in crude and product prices would go to the state and would not be passed on to the companies which produced them. While the mechanism did not appear unreasonable at the time it was soon apparent that it did not take into consideration the heavy increase in inflation that took place both in the country and globally.

In other words, cost increases in the form of wages, materials and other inputs rendered Government's action punitive insofar as the oil companies were concerned. It should be noted also that refining was taxed separately from production even within the same corporate entity.

From 1974, the refining tax was based on the volume of throughput at 16 cents (US) a barrel. This tax on volume remained at the same figure for many years and failed to take into account the increased costs of refining over the period. As a result of amended oil tax legislation at the beginning of 1980, it was reduced to 5 cents (US) a barrel and in 1982 it was removed altogether.

Instituted

On the production side, the method of tax instituted was called Tax Reference Value (TRV). The mechanism was based on Government ignoring the actual gross revenue from crude sales and instead fixing a TRV figure which ensured a high tax take from the companies by the state. This method which followed TRV prices fixed in other OPEC countries (e.g. Venezuela) did not give recognition to the rapidly increasing lifting costs a barrel of crude in Trinidad.

On January 1, 1980, the tax formula was changed from TRV to a Corporation Tax Structure plus a Supplemental Petroleum Tax (SPT) of 35 percent of the gross crude oil fair market value on land production and 60 percent on marine production. This SPT was to be treated as an expense item in computing Corporation Tax. Later in 1983, retroactive to January 1, the SPT on land was reduced to 15 percent. A promise to reduce the SPT on marine production at the same time has not yet materialised.

It is noteworthy that in the case of Trintoc, the Shell (Trinidad) Oil Company had taken steps to reduce its payroll prior to the acquisition of the company by Government, but Texaco, who were grossly over-manned both on the producing and refining sides, were forced more recently to take steps to correct the situation and early retirement and retrenchment followed.

Levels

This process is continuing in order to bring that company in line with other oil-producing/refining companies in the region. So whereas in the case of Trintoc the manning levels were reasonable when that company began operations, such was not the case with Texaco.

On the question of adjustments to the tax structure within the industry, some of the major issues are:

(a) The removal of SPT in respect of heavy oil recovery. It is well known that the production of heavy oil on land, of which there are considerable reserves in Trinidad and Tobago, by new secondary recovery methods requires heavy capital investment to which the present 15 percent SPT presents a serious deterrent. This is of special importance as far as employment in the industry is concerned because the largest proportion of jobs is sustained by the production of crude oil on land.

A decision should be made immediately, also, on the proposed reduction of SPT on marine production as promised a long time ago.

Profits

(b) Submarine Production Allowance. It is understood that this is the subject of an undertaking which the former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is alleged to have given to the companies.

(c) Separate tax regimes on production and refining. It is a fact that for many years those companies which refine in Trinidad have been paying more than 100 percent of their profits in tax.

(d) Capitalisation of work-over. Repairs to producing wells are required by the Inland Revenue authorities to be capitalised, whereas the producers feel that such repairs should be expensed.

(e) The designation of separate marine fields so as to qualify them individually for taxation. The present method is to tax them as a group and not individually.

It has been reported recently that certain senior government technicians at a recent seminar on the petroleum industry have stated that \$600 million will be invested this year by oil producing companies in further exploratory activities. It is assumed that this relates solely to those companies which are controlled by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. I believe, however, that insofar as the foreign oil companies are concerned, considerable further investment will take place, but only provided that some, if not all, of these tax adjustments are implemented first.

Impacted

The total lack of resolution of these tax problems has impacted adversely on all production by all companies. In the case of Trinmar, the situation is further aggravated by the fact that as the second largest marine producer, two of the partners, Texaco and Trinidad Tesoro, are locked in ownership battles with Government.

The choice before the Government therefore is either (i) to sacrifice in the first instance some tax revenue by reducing or eliminating those taxes which are, in the present circumstances, punitive, and therefore inhibiting production and/or new exploration; or (ii) to maintain the status quo with the result that income to the state will remain at the present low levels and with the further inevitable consequence of continued decline and stagnation accompanied by more retrenchment and contraction of company operations within the industry.

It is past the time for decision and while the decisions necessary may be considered hard ones there is no doubt that in the interest of the country they should be made and made quickly.

Appeal for Government Action

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 15 Apr 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] The silence over the status of the negotiations between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Texaco Trinidad Ltd concerning the proposal by Texaco to sell 75 percent of its refining capacity here to the Government and some associated petroleum companies, is neither golden nor comforting.

Silence with regard to the insistent need for structural changes in oil taxation is frightening.

A writer on this page today makes the telling point that too much is at stake for the country to be kept in darkness about events in the petroleum sector.

The country cannot afford to wait much longer.

The issues appear to be plain: there is serious downturn in our oil output; there is global outlook for grimmer days for petroleum producers because of immense technological bypassing of oil for industrial energy and heating.

Texaco is not in the least bit dependent upon this country's oil resources at this stage (hence its desire to retain only a 25 percent presence here) and the Government has virtually wrecked the chances of any oil company here getting a return on its shareholders' money comparable with what it can earn elsewhere.

The reality of the situation must be faced.

The substantial reduction of petroleum taxation simply has to be undertaken, to ensure that the industry gets the necessary encouragement to keep going. The country cannot live on the low levels of refinery throughput now flowing and it cannot hope for any push forward unless heavy exploration and vigorous refining are resumed and they score dramatically.

The future must concern us. Where the petroleum taxes are an obstacle to the attainment of higher levels of production, they ought to be removed or suitably amended and cast in a more dynamic form.

To fail to deal with this issue now is to lay in store for ourselves greater problems and difficulties than we can even imagine.

The southland is already reeling under the strain of closures, cutbacks, layoffs and their attendant problems. This virus of hard times will spread all over the country unless the Government acts now!

CSO: 3298/762

PRESS ASSOCIATION RAPS U.S. FOR GRENADA RESTRICTIONS

IAPA Resolution

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Ocho Rios, April 9 (AP)--The U.S. Government's restraint on press coverage of the Grenada invasion came under fire today at the mid-year conference of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA).

The Freedom of Press Committee approved the resolution, endorsing a statement of principle on press access to military operations adopted on January 10 by a special committee of senior representatives of 10 major American news organizations.

The resolution as originally proposed here by David Kraslow, publisher of the Miami News and vice chairman of the IAPA Freedom of the Press Committee for the United States blamed the restrictions on the "Reagan Administration." The version approved by the full Committee replaced the words "Reagan Administration" with "U.S. Government."

The resolution is virtually assured of approval when the board of directors votes on it later this week since many committee members are also board members.

The statement of principle approved by the 10 news organizations asserts that "prompt media access to U.S. military operations can and should be allowed by the Government" and urges government officials to assure that historic free press reporting to the American public about military activities will be a planned part of future operations under conditions which also assure mission security and troop safety."

The proposed IAPA resolution says the U.S. Government acted "insensitively and unreasonably in prohibiting any press coverage during the early days of U.S. military operations in Grenada in October 1983."

Principle of Press Access

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Ocho Rios, Jamaica (AP)--Editors and publishers from the Western Hemisphere approved a basic principle Thursday intended to avoid the kind of press restrictions imposed during the invasion of Grenada last year.

Members of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) attending a mid-year conference in this North coast resort town endorsed the principle of press access to military operations adopted on Jan 10 by a special committee of senior representatives of ten major American news organizations.

In another resolution approved Thursday by the IAPA, the Reagan Administration was condemned for its plans to have more than 100,000 civilian government employees sign contracts restricting their rights to release information to the public.

The military coverage principle endorsed by the IAPA calls for prompt media access and urges the U.S. Government "to assure that historic free press reporting to the American public about military activities will be a planned part of future operations under conditions which also assure mission security and troop safety."

The IAPA said the U.S. Government had "acted intensively and unreasonably" by prohibiting any press coverage during the early days of the U.S. led invasion of Grenada on Oct 25.

The Commander of the operation at one time threatened to sink private boats chartered by frustrated reporters attempting to slip through the ring of U.S. boats and helicopters around the tiny Caribbean island.

The IAPA said the restrictions "violated a basic principle of a free society and has contrary to the traditional role of the American press in covering U.S. military operations."

It stated the decision "denied the American people and the world independent press reports that could have been delayed for possible security reasons--of what occurred during the early stages of the Grenada operation.

By passing the resolution at the closing session of its five-day mid-year conference, the IAPA joined ten other news organizations which have endorsed the principle.

There are about 1,300 members of the IAPA.

The organizations which adopted the principle are the American Newspaper Publishers Association, the American Society of Magazine Editors, American Society of Newspaper Editors, National Association of Broadcasters, Radio-Television News Directors Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Sigma Delta Chi (Society of Professional Journalists), the Associated Press and United Press International.

The IAPA said the U.S. administration plans "to impose by contract on more 100,000 civilian employees a restrictive and cumbersome clearance policy on release of information constitutes a clear danger of prior restraint in violation of the spirit of the first amendment."

The resolution noted that the administration had suspended implication of the directive, but had not shown any intent to withdraw it.

"The administration's intention to extend this preclearance policy to employees who signed such a contract even after they leave government service will result in arbitrary censorship," the resolution said. It urged the government "to abandon the contract plan and the clearance procedure that is part of that plan."

CSO: 3298/755

ARMY GENERALS UNDERLINE FINANCIAL NEEDS, URGE EMERGENCY FUND

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] The General Command of the Army requested that the Finance Ministry provide "emergency economic assistance so that we can solve or partially relieve the plight of our troops," the commander general, Gen Simon Sejas, told PRESENCIA.

He claimed that at this time there is a shortage of food, clothing and other necessities among the soldiers in the Army.

"The crisis is hitting everyone. A few days ago we met with the finance minister to analyze the Army's budget and see if we could do something, because there is not enough money to feed and clothe the soldiers."

The commander of the Army Engineers, Gen Bernardino Zurita, stated that his command does not have enough funds to maintain highways or construction projects, including the expansion of the Cobija airport and access roads, on which work has ground to a halt.

"At this time it is impossible to carry out the plans we have made, and that is very serious. The country needs to open up new roads, because that means interconnection and integration. The machinery has stopped operating; we have no spare parts or funds."

Anniversary

At a ceremony held at the Miraflores Great General Headquarters, the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the Engineering Command and the creation of that branch was celebrated.

The commander general of the Army, Gen Simon Sejas, stated in his speech that the actions of the military engineers have enabled the country to become truly integrated, particularly in remote areas.

He emphasized the work done in the last 23 years by the Bolivian Army "in an effort to achieve progress and development" through highway networks, which are "the fundamental groundwork for contacts and relations with the other countries of the world."

Gen Zurita contended that highways have a preponderant influence on the country's growth and well-being, because achieving control over national territory through highway links means that the state can exercise its sovereignty and ensure the growth of depressed areas "that so far have not played an important role in the national economy."

8926

CSO: 3348/397

BRIEFS

MINERS' DEMANDS--Oruro, 30 March--The Departmental Chamber of Mining is demanding that the government give it a fair price for its minerals, regular supplies of basic consumer items, and payment for surplus production in dollars free of any discount, as a means of reactivating the mining industry that is "now strangled by a false and incoherent official mining policy." This request was made by the president of the Departmental Chamber of Mining, Hugo Campos, during the swearing-in ceremony of the new board of directors of this organization last night at its main office. During the ceremony, Hugo Campos presented a detailed analysis of the small-scale mining situation, remarking that the country's current mining policy is causing a dangerous decapitalization, which could mean the downfall of mining. "And if mining goes, that will be fatal for the country in general." Referring to the lack of supplies at mining company stores, he stated that it is causing serious problems and urged that the government provide an immediate solution. The president of the Federation of Private Businessmen, Freddy Tejerina, administered the oath of office to the new board of directors of the Chamber of Mining. He stressed that "only those who participate actively in free enterprise understand how valuable minerals are for the country's development." Finally, Jose Fernandez Mosca, president of the National Chamber of Mining, noted the tenacity and determination of small-scale miners in contributing to the country's development in the face of adversity. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 10] 8926

MINERAL EXPORT PROBLEMS--The 400 percent increase in railroad freight charges in less than 3 months has had an enormous impact on mineral exports. In some cases, such as zinc and lead, 90 percent of revenues must be earmarked just for transporting the product from Oruro to the border. This information is contained in "Mining News," the publication put out by the National Association of Medium-Scale Miners, which asserts that the increases in the rates charged by the National Railway Enterprise (ENFE) were "consecutive and cumulative." It explains that in September 1983 these rates doubled with a 99.65 percent raise. Seventy-six days later, on 17 November they were hiked by 150 percent, and so on until the total rise amounted to 400 percent. "ENFE's rates rose because of two factors that coincide: inflation and the change in the exchange rate," points out the publication. It indicates that rates for the transportation of minerals are higher than those charged to transport other goods, and are equally discriminatory in their increases. No one understands that there is no alternative cargo, and if it were not for minerals, the railroad trains would travel to the border practically empty, to find

various imports to transport there. "It is felt that minerals are the product most able to absorb costs, but it is not taken into consideration that certain exports, such as zinc and lead, have a low unit value on the market and therefore must be marketed in large quantities." It indicates that lead provides a "dramatic" example, because it is incapable of supporting any further rise in freight charges; the amount of revenues the producer must devote to transportation alone has jumped from 45 percent to 90 percent.
[Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Apr 84 p 8] 8926

CSO: 3348/397

'RECIPROCAL CREDIT CONVENTION' MAY BOOST ALADI

PY040430 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 84 p 22

[By Michael A. Alaby, Coordinator General of the Foundation Center for Foreign Trade Studies of Sao Paulo]

[Summary] Over the 1981-83 period Brazilian exports to Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Paraguay tended to decrease from \$4.2 billion to \$2.0 billion, while Brazilian imports from those countries went from \$3.1 billion to \$2.2 billion. In general, these are decreasing trends of Brazilian export trade to and import trade from the 10 aforementioned Latin American countries.

In these circumstances, it would be beneficial to implement more forcefully the Multilateral Agreement of Reciprocal Credit Convention [CCR] which was instituted in 1965 and first implemented in 1982. The ALADI member-countries should encourage negotiations under this system as an alternative form of increasing trade relations or at least restoring them to prior levels. Signatory countries of the CCR are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic. Paraguay was not included.

"Negotiations under CCR can include any type of products, whether basic, semi-manufactured, or manufactured ones. All CCR negotiations will be transacted in U.S. dollars. The CCR is based on reciprocal (ordinary or extraordinary) credit lines between central banks of signatory countries on a country-to-country basis, for the purpose of guaranteeing the payment for imports or exports, and the financial transfer involved in any operation.

"The CCR is an multilateral clearing agreement on the credit balances being administered by the countries' central banks. The overall clearing operation is performed every 4-month period by the convention's agent on the last of April, August, and December of each year. The convention's agent is appointed through common consent, and this year it is Peru's Central Reserve Bank. This agent clears the debits and credits of the central bank of each country."

This agreement is beneficial for both exporters and importers, because there is justified fear of trading with Latin American countries and Mexico. To have more commercial security, the Brazilian exporter should request of the importer that the transaction be made under the CCR through authorized financial institutions or the central bank of the importer's country.

Institutions authorized to operate under the CCR must register transactions with the central bank of the country, and all the documents involved will have clearly stamped this caption: "Upon falling due, payment will be automatically made in U.S. dollars through the CCR."

CSO: 3342/101

BRIEFS

RAINS IMPACT ON NORTHEAST--Today SUDENE [Superintendency for Economic Development of the Northeast] disclosed that at present there are 57,218 homeless persons in the northeastern area due to the heavy rainfalls in Ceara, Pernambuco, Maranhao and Piaui States. According to the SUDENE report the most affected state is Maranhao where there are 30,000 homeless persons and the Mearim River water level continues high. In Ceara, where 13 cities have been affected by the floods, there are 22,700 homeless. One child died and four persons were injured as a consequence of the 8-hour rainfall on Manaus and surroundings yesterday. In view of this situation, Governor (Joberto Mestrinho) decreed a state of emergency in Humaita, Canutama, Boca do Acre, and Ponte Boa Districts that were affected by the overflow of the Madeira, Purus and Solimoes Rivers. [Excerpt] [PY040434 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0230 GMT 4 May 84]

CSO: 3342/101

BRIEFS

PASSAGE OF BUDGET--After six working days on the 1984 Budget which was introduced by the Minister of Finance (Chief Minister) in the Legislative Council on 22nd February, and sent to the Standing Finance Committee, the report of the Committee was presented to the House, and after second and third readings of the Appropriation Bill, it received passage by voice vote. The Standing Finance Committee made no change of the Estimated Revenue which, as introduced, showed \$19,788,000. However, on the estimated Expenditure side the figure showed \$19,048,315, leaving a surplus of \$739,685.00. This surplus was added to the Estimated Capital side of the Budget, bringing the figure to an Estimated \$3,287,499. This estimate includes monies from external sources for capital improvements such as roads, public buildings construction, technical services, etc. However, revenue estimates for operation of the Government (known as the recurrent side of the Budget) are solely from local revenues. [Excerpt] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 24 Mar 84 p 1]

AIRPORT AID--A grant of US\$521,633 has recently been approved by the British Development Division in Barbados to cover the cost of further development at Beef Island Airport, it was announced by the Ministry of Communications & Works. This phase of the development will include construction of a new taxiway, construction of an aircraft maintenance and refuelling apron and the construction of a new culvert. Provision has also been made for additional lighting, and the relocation of the airport perimeter fence in order to take in the newly constructed taxiway and apron. All of these improvements combined will reduce the congestion on the existing parking apron and the risk of collision while aircraft are manoeuvring. In addition, runway utilization will be increased thus enhancing air traffic control procedures. This phase of development is part of the master plan produced in 1978 by Mr R.J. Wainwright of the Civil Aviation Authority for the expansion of Beef Island Airport and its facilities. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 31 Mar 84 p 1]

DEVELOPMENT VIOLATIONS--In a Press Release bearing date of 26th March, 1984, it is stated that an increasing number of development projects are taking place in the Territory without the permission of the Land Development Control Authority. This is in direct contravention of the Land Development Control Ordinance of 1969 which states under Section 6 (1) that no person shall:
"(a) sub-divide or develop any land except under and in accordance with the

terms of planning permission granted for the purpose by the Authority;
(b) without the permission of the Authority construct or commence to construct any building upon any land for the sub-division or development whereof planning permission is required for the purpose of this Ordinance." The Authority is gravely concerned about this unauthorized development which includes reclamations, buildings, wood works along with related activities and intends to enforce all applicable laws, resorting to prosecution where necessary. Developers are also asked to note that even where work has been started on a particular project, without prior grant of the necessary approval, permission may be denied, should the Authority consider it expedient to do so, it was further stated by the Land Development Authority. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 31 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/756

BRIEFS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICERS--St George's, April 12, (CANA)--The Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce has elected Charles McIntyre to replace Richard Menezes as its new president. McIntyre, who held the post of first vice-president and is one of the leading Grenadian business executives, was elected yesterday at the organisation's annual general meeting. Brian Pitt was elected first vice-president and Edwin de Caul was re-elected second vice-president. The Chamber is the country's main private sector organisation. It is more than 50 years old and has a membership of 114 firms represented by 176 individuals. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Apr 84 p 7]

CSO: 3298/757

BURNHAM'S ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS NOTES SUBVERSIVE PRESSURES

Text of Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] A people's movement cannot be killed and the Guyanese revolution will survive regardless of attempts at active subversion, President Forbes Burnham stressed last night.

He was addressing the nation from the National Park at the flag-raising ceremony ushering in the 15th year of the Republic.

He spoke about the "unconquerable will" of the Guyanese people to survive and prosper, and warned that reaction was abroad and that it has been emboldened by its apparent success in Grenada.

He hit at the North American based Conservative Liberal Party of Guyana which has declared its intention to assassinate the leadership of the People's National Congress and overthrow the Guyana Government.

"...The removal of Forbes Burnham, even if it is achieved, will profit the reactionaries and obscurantists nothing. For, if I should go, they're others younger and more hardened who will come forward to take my place," he said. And, quoting a popular calypso, he added: "Shooting me is a waste, another Rasta gwine take me place."

He reviewed the local economic situation against the background of the depressed global economy and the wasteful arms race.

He also reminded the nation that though Guyana was not without friends, Guyanese must rely on themselves in promoting national development.

He referred to plans for the reactivating of the glass factory, rehabilitating the bauxite industry and embarking on three small hydropower projects.

The Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation, he said, will shortly start using the "humble Sijan" in the manufacture of the baby cereal, "Cerex."

In addition, the production of gold will be more than doubled in 1984 and Guyana will enter into consortia with friendly countries for the exploitation of its resources.

In the case of bauxite, he pledged that the industry will continue to be Guyanese owned and operated.

Following is the complete text of the President's address:

My Dear Comrades,

This is Mash 1984 and we are still here! This is 1984 and we have not perished. We can laugh in the faces of our enemies and hypocritical friends as well. They have lied. They have connived. They have forecast our doom and yet we are still here. They have tried active subversion and we are still here. They have sought to starve us and we are still here, the only net exporter of food in Caricom. Have they not seen that ours is the unconquerable WILL TO SURVIVE and prosper?

In the authoritative Economist's weekly, "Foreign Report," of January 19th this year, it is remarked that "The White House is watching Guyana closely." Watching for what? To see whether we will bend or break?

As last year, 1983, drew to a close, we learnt that a renegade group of adventurers, formerly of Guyanese citizenship, was plotting the assassination of our leaders and the overthrow of the PNC Government. When some of them were brought before the court in Cleveland, Ohio, in the United States of America, one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution, one Mr Courtesi, admitted that he knew, that they, the plotters, had established contacts with the present US Administration. These miscreants, these clumsy amateurs, who in the past have smuggled abroad our hard earned foreign exchange, had ambitions to return to Guyana and to destroy both the PNC and the main Opposition--let it be noted--and with the help and for the benefit of their Mafia-type patrons, establish a neo-fascist regime for the ruthless exploitation of our people and resources for the enrichment of a few greedy bandits.

The Caribbean Times, a rag which issues out of Canada, editorialising on January 6, 1984 said: "This (1984) could be the year that Forbes Burnham's nightmares of being deposed violently in Guyana come true, as Maurice Bishop's was in Grenada last year. Guyana has serious problems and very soon something will have to be done...Guyana is in the U.S. backyard and ripe for the plucking." --We have always been cast in the role of an exotic fruit. First, we were not "ripe for independence," now, we are "ripe for the plucking."

But let me tell them this is not Grenada. This is the Cooperative Republic of Guyana led by Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham.

Comrades, reaction is abroad, and has been emboldened by its apparent success in Grenada. So it was in Guyana in 1953. But the history of our former masters tells us the tale of King Canute, who in his misplaced arrogance sought unsuccessfully to turn back the tide and the waves.

George III also sought to turn back the waves of change; and was humiliated by the American patriots who went on to found the nation of the United States of America.

In this case, the removal of Forbes Burnham, even if it is achieved, will profit the reactionaries and obscurantists nothing. For if I should go, there are others, younger and more hardened, who will come forward to take my place--"shooting me is a waste, another Rasta gwine take me place." You cannot kill a people's movement.

When Guyana, in 1966 assumed independence, and again, when our country in 1970 became the first Cooperative Republic in the world, and ever since, we made it clear that we intended to revolutionise our economy and society, there were some who either did not take us seriously or chose not to believe us; crediting us with indulging in mere rhetoric. Be it noted that at the same time we also made it clear that we had no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any neighbour or permitting our soil to be used as a base for the subversion of the society of any country--barring none--in this hemisphere.

There was a honeymoon period. The sheen was still on the ball. But then as it became palpable that we were carrying out the revolution, albeit without physical violence, the atmosphere changed. Our resumption of the ownership and control of our natural resources was looked at askance. When we took over king Sugar, and followed that by making education free from Nursery to University, under unapologetic government control, and it was perceived that we were serious about economic and social democracy, many an eyebrow was raised. We were storming the bastions of privilege, we were attacking the ramparts of neo-colonialist and imperialist exploitation. We were considered a dangerous aberration in the placid and respectable English-speaking Caribbean. Even our mode of dress was in some quarters thought to be unseemly and offensive. Our revolution was to them who wanted it over like a virulent, contagious and infectious epidemic, which had to be eradicated.

All dissident groups were mobilised and even men of the cloth were recruited. It became a crusade. But let me remind these twentieth century crusaders of the outcome of the Crusades. The latter are but a patch, if not a blotch in history, and did not achieve their objective. Let me remind the men of the cloth, that Caiphas, who counselled the crucifixion of Jesus having been appointed by the foreign procurator, was deposed by the foreign Emperor Vitellius when his usefulness had passed and then he disappeared from history.

Our Human Rights record was, after careful and meticulous falsification, attacked, even though we've never had a single political prisoner. We were ranked with, if not below, El Salvador, that hell on earth where since 1980, over 30,000 innocent souls have been murdered but whose government receives millions of dollars in military assistance. Those who cavort in bed with the racist regime of South Africa dare to lecture us on the tenets of democracy.

Simultaneously, war is declared on the economic front. Our massive hydro-power complex in the Upper Mazaruni is considered economically, technically and commercially feasible by the World Bank; but then it is put on the back burner and then is heard no more. Credits are refused on political grounds, loans applications on concessionary terms, are vetoed and on-going loans are cancelled, and we are gratuitously lectured by these modern Pilates on the advisability--no not advisability but "need" to denationalise and privatise bauxite and other industries. Wrapped up in a tidy package, garnished with politico-economic jargon if not garbage, we are offered advice to ensure that we cannot use our important product rice, to pay friendly Trinidad and Tobago for her petroleum products which she ships to us.

Shortages are contrived and one transnational oil company threatens to pull out, and to cease importing its product because government refuses to agree to an increased and extortionate price for its products. And this is when another transnational oil company assures the government that the present price for that product is satisfactory and profitable for that product.

We enter into negotiations with the International Monetary Fund the (I.M.F.). We are informed by the IMF that even if agreement were to be reached, if the IMF has not got at its immediate disposal the resources necessary to implement such an agreement. Yet, at the bilateral level, some governments with whom there are agreements in principle, make the disbursement of their loans dependent on our signing an agreement which they know we cannot sign with the IMF! How kind of them? How considerate? How generous? I am tempted to invite them to place the loans where the monkey placed the nuts.

Some, in the tradition of Job's comforters, advise that we change course; adjust it (this course), and forswear our ideology, our philosophy and our development tactic. In this context, my dear comrades, without attempting to be critical of a fellow Caribbean government, it is apposite enlightening and educative to learn that Jamaica which has adopted the "right course" and who has done all that the IMF has stipulated still cannot get a new programme because she cannot find directly or indirectly the resources that her deficit demands. This is most instructive and significant.

Comrades, you and I, who have sprung from the bottom, who in the past counted for nothing, we who now benefit from truly free education; we who now enjoy free medical service; we who now experience freedom and equality; we beyond whose reach no post or office now lies--look at the Managers and Executive Chairmen of the Public Corporations, and compare them with what they looked like before; look at the heads of Ministries we who have tasted freedom and

equality, must all now ponder how these changes came about. Compare our society with that of any other Caricom country without exception or those of most developing countries and mark the difference.

Revolution

To alter course so as to pick up the paltry crumbs that fall from the tables of our new would-be masters is at the same time to lose, by choice, what has been gained, in tangible and intangible terms, as a result of the revolution. But as one surveys the world scene, one notes that where there has been such an alteration of course or the following of the so-called right course, the masses of people and the national economics are no advertisement of the courses followed. The governments sometimes as in the case of a certain Caribbean country, has to accept gifts of food for the people, gifts like tinned sardines.

A country like ours--Guyana--with rich and limitless resources has the capacity, has the ability to withstand the onslaughts of its enemies, their slings and arrows.

We are not poor. How can we be poor, with such huge resources? Already, we are the only Caricom country that is a net exporter of food. We have secured markets as far apart as North America, Western and Eastern Europe and Asia--near and far for our rice. Hence, the agricultural thrust proposed by your Government on the motion of the Congress of the People's National Congress, and endorsed by the Parliament and the Supreme Congress of the People. We cannot lose. We shall not lose if we show the will and the discipline. Incidentally, it is refreshing to learn that for the first rice crop this year, one hundred and twelve percent of the targeted acreage has already been prepared and sown. In Region Four from which I hail, the percentage is one hundred and forty.

But agriculture, in its narrow sense, is not our only resource. There are those of our seas and rivers. What about forests, for the products which we have assured markets in the Caribbean, in North America, in Western and Eastern Europe and in the Far East? What of our minerals? Production of gold will be more than doubled in 1984 and we shall further be entering into consortia with two friendly countries.

We are not without friends--as members of the Non-Aligned Movement and a leading Third World country--these friends straddle the continents of the world. With these friends we shall undertake among other projects a significant expansion of the gold and milch cow industries, the construction of three mini-hydropower complexes, the activation of the glass factory and the final exploration stages with respect to iron ore and uranium.

In the meantime, work will continue apace on the commercial production of commodities other than sugar from the sugar cane. The first stage of our Agricultural Research Institute is programmed for this year 1984; again in co-operation with a friendly nation.

As a result of the initiative of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, and the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation, the humble "Sijan" will be used in the manufacture of the baby cereal Cerex, replacing imported soya bean, and as a source also of high quality edible oil. We are sitting on resources which, with some imagination and initiative, can be processed into valuable commodities and relieve us of dependence on imports. The advantage we have over many other Caribbean and developing countries is that we have the material resources. It is for us to make the best use of these and our human resources. Thereafter, there's no stopping us. We have no need to be sycophants and mendicants.

Our enemies state with obvious regret that there are no food riots in Guyana. This regret springs from their own idiocy which leads them to believe their own lying propaganda, that there is a food shortage in Guyana. We admit that there are distributional problems induced for the most part by hoarders and exploiting black-marketers. These we shall wipe out, cost it what it will. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana is not intended to be a haven for rascals, bandits and extortioners.

Bauxite, as you are aware, has for sometime represented one of our main and vital industries. It has been a victim of the world economic recession and our own national problems related to available foreign exchange resources. In spite of the difficulties, however, our production for the months of January and February so far in metal grade and calcined ore, has been above target. This trend, we have every reason to forecast, will continue for the rest of the year. During this year, as a result of arrangements made with international agencies, we shall be in a position to begin the overhaul and rehabilitation of our alumina facilities. Consequently, this industry should be back to optimum production by 1985-86. We shall have to engage in some cases, the services of experts and consultants from abroad and be prepared to pay for their services. But I promise you that in sum, this industry will continue to be a Guyanese owned and operated industry.

In many parts of the world, particularly in the developing world, this year, 1984, looks unpromising. Apart from the general international, economic malaise, there are droughts and untimely floods, and the number of those faced with hunger, famine and destitution runs into millions. All this does not take into account the further millions of refugees and displaced persons whose lot has been occasioned by the political and social instability which characterises so many parts of our planet. We cannot divorce or insulate ourselves from this worldwide tragedy; but we may perhaps take solace from the fact that we, if we take advantage of our national circumstances, will not be primary sufferers. We have, however, to contribute to helping our brothers. Ours is a fortunate position for which we should be grateful.

In the presence, so to speak, of all this human suffering, most of which is traceable to human action and inaction, one wonders about the claims of progress and advanced civilisation when at the same time billions and trillions of dollars are expended on sophisticated weapons of destruction. Space is being explored, and already we hear of plans to make that part of the universe not merely an area of competition, but also an arena of struggle and war.

We are not, and have no ambition to be numbered amongst the super powers; or those who deploy nuclear weapons which threaten devastation. We do not have the capacity too, to deploy technologically the more sophisticated conventional weapons but, at least, we can add our voices to those in the developed and developing world which cry out for peace; the banning of nuclear weapons and general disarmament. We, like others, have a vested interest in having the fabulously substantial resources now being spent on arms, spent instead on alleviating human suffering and improving the quality of human beings.

Pause and Review

Comrades, as we stand and sit here, as the seconds tick away towards the dawn of the fourteenth Anniversary of our Co-operative Republic, let us pause and review how far we have come since 1970. Let us not be frightened by the machinations of the enemy and those of his minions. Let us remember that every revolution like ours which seeks to end exploitation of the many by the few, every revolution like ours which seeks to give the people, the masses, their just deserts, every revolution like ours which seeks to establish a just social order, which has as its objective socialism in our time, will be relentlessly and ruthlessly opposed by those who falsely believe that they were born and ordained by God to rule the lesser breed without the law to rule those who believe that God ordered the estates of the rich and the poor nationally and internationally.

Comrades, we have the resources, let us show them that ours is the necessary RESOURCEFULNESS.

Happy Mashramani!
Long Life Mashramani!
Long Live the People!
Long Live the People's Resourcefulness!
Long Live the People's National Congress!
Long Live the Socialist Revolution!
Long Live the Co-operative Republic of Guyana!

MIRROR Report

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Making a policy speech on wide-ranging issues on the eve of Republic Day, February 23, President Burnham gave assurances that there will be no de-nationalisation of the bauxite industry and that Guyana will not abandon its objective of building socialism.

Burnham spoke about various pressures on his administration from the ruling circles in the United States, loggerheads with the IMF and some unnamed governments over loans to Guyana, the refusal of credits on political grounds, the cancellation of on-going loans and denial of those on concessional terms, hostile anti-government propaganda, and the abortive plot emanating overseas "to destroy both the PNC and the main Opposition."

He quoted one source as saying that the "plotters" who were arrested while trying to ship arms to Guyana "had established contacts with the present US Administration." Reaction, he added, has been emboldened by its success in Grenada. He warned, in the words of a calypso, that "shooting me is a waste, another Rasta gwine take me place," alluding to the professed rightwing assassination plot against him.

Burnham, sensitive about attacks on Guyana's human rights record, poured scorn upon the Reagan Administration, though not naming it directly, for its military assistance to El Salvador and for cavorting in bed with the racist regime of South Africa. He described El Salvador under the US-backed Magana fascist regime as a "hell on earth where since 1980, over 300,000 innocent souls have been murdered."

About those governments which were making loan disbursements to Guyana on condition that it signed an agreement with the IMF, he said that he is tempted to invite them "to place the loans where the monkey placed the nuts."

He revealed plans for collaboration, again with unnamed "friendly countries" to step up gold production, construction of three mini-hydropower complexes, activation of the glass factory and to complete final exploration stages with respect to iron ore and uranium. He further said that government would contract the services of foreign experts and consultants in the bauxite industry.

Burnham boasted that Guyana has not perished, that there is no food shortage, only distributional problems which have been induced mostly by hoarders and blackmarketers whom he promised, once again, to wipe out.

WPA Organ's Assessment

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 27 Feb 84 pp 2-3

[Editorial]

[Text] Mr Burnham's last Republic Day talk was remarkable in many ways. It confirmed the suspicions of some Guyanese that he is actively seeking the support of the main opposition party which saw his speech as "Burnham Defies External Pressures" (MIRROR, February 26, 1984).

The speech showed Mr Burnham's ambitions as a second Sir Walter Raleigh. The first Raleigh flattered the British monarchs with tales of the riches of El Dorado, of the "region in Guiana, all gold and bounty." Sir Walter Raleigh II is trying to flatter a starving nation with a long list of its resources and natural advantages. He declared, "We are not poor. How can we be poor with such huge resources?"

Truly, in Guyana some are not poor. Can the poor buy a Datsun for \$83,000?

The President still claims, as in December 1964 when he began his long rule that all we need is "imagination and initiative."

This country has had ample proof of President Burnham's imagination and boldness: Global Agri, Caricom Food Project, Belbaag, Jonestown, the overseas voters registration, Carifesta and claybrick (the only exceptions), Hope Estate, the 1763 Monument, National Security Act, the Mazaruni Hydro Project, Mahdia Road, the GEC turbines, Kimbia cotton, Hmong refugees plan, Supt McLean as Chief of Staff, Sir Harry Bollers as Chairman of Election Commission, scrapping of the railway, newsprint control, wheat ban, milk substitutes, bauxite for cars export deal--all hopelessly inhuman and wasteful.

Mr Burnham claimed that he "never had a single political prisoner." Most dictators make this claim. They say they arrest people for breaches of the criminal law. In this the imagination is not original.

The PNC Leader did not claim "no political murders." But he claimed that he was carrying out a revolution without physical violence! Does he admit to using violence which is not physical? This confession is very timely. Political killings have been selective (to avoid the El Salvador image), torture is coming into use more and more. Other forms of violence are widespread; victimisation, forced labour and starvation.

As he attacked the amount of money being spent on arms, a new shipment was expected from North Korea.

Referring to plots against his life, Mr Burnham rushed for spiritual refuge to the Rastafari he has always despised: "Shooting me is a waste/Another rasta gwine tek me place." And who will take the place of the long list of rastas shot by Mr Burnham's police?

Mr Burnham brushed aside all the human rights he signed to, all the human rights in his own constitution and proclaimed a new right as supreme: "Look at the Managers and Executive Chairmen...look at the heads of Ministries, we who have tasted freedom and equality..." The right to top positions for natives is a right proclaimed in the late 40s--in colonial times.

As to no food riots: what does he call what is happening daily in Wis-Mac? And how does he account for the shooting of Batson?

Burnham on Foreign Reactionaries

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

"Reaction is abroad and has been emboldened by its apparent success in Grenada....But Guyana is not Grenada", Leader of the People's National Congress, Cde Forbes Burnham told the nation Wednesday night on the eve of the nation's 14th anniversary as a republic.

One authoritative weekly Foreign Report, stated, "The White House is watching Guyana closely". Toward the end of last year "a renegade group of a adventurers, formerly of Guyanese citizenship" plotted to overthrow the PNC government and to assassinate our national leaders.

The Caribbean Times, published out of Grenada editorialised, "Guyana is in the US backyard and (is) ripe for plucking".

Cde Burnham said Guyana has always been seen as an exotic fruit which

at one time "was not ripe for independence" and which is now "ripe for the plucking".

But those who wish for violent overthrow of Cde Burnham will gain nothing and as he observed, "The removal of Forbes Burnham, even if it is achieved, will profit the reactionaries nothing. There are others, younger and more hardened who will come forward to take my place. You cannot kill a people's movement."

He described the group of former Guyanese who were plotting the overthrow of the government as miscreants and clumsy amateurs "who in the past have smuggled abroad our hard-earned foreign exchange."

They intended to establish a neo-fascist regime for the ruthless exploitation of Guyanese and the resources for "the enrichment of a few greedy bandits", he added.

PPP Criticism

Georgetown MIRROR in English 4 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party in a response to the fiery speech delivered by President Burnham at the National Park on Republic Day 1984 described it as "a mixture of defiance, abuse and bluster" and insisted on there being an early political solution to the problems of Guyana. The full text of the statement released to the mass media says further:

It's one thing to stand up to the pressures of the imperialists; it's another thing to be insulting and 'invite them to place the loans where the monkey placed the nuts.' It's one thing to emphasise the 'Sampson' in Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham; it's another to be realistic about Guyana's ability in the current state of affairs to resist the enemy, outside and inside.

Is the President unaware of the near-bankruptcy of the country, the almost complete alienation of our people, and the widespread discontent, disgust and exodus?

Some of our best sons and daughters with drive, skills and money are emigrating. They have been and are leaving because, as the General Secretary of the TUC pointed out in early 1983, life had become unbearable with the working man eating one meal a day and his child going to school with only tea in the morning. And may we add, ever-declining standards of education, maggots coming out of wounds of patients at the Georgetown Public Hospital because of lack of basic essentials like cotton wool, disinfectant, anti-biotics and adequate medical and nursing care.

They are running away in spite of our huge resources. The President asserts: 'We are not poor. How can we be poor with such huge resources?'

They are running away not as a result of revolution, but because there is no revolution and because the progressive steps of 1974-76 have been aborted.

They are running away not from a revolution 'which seeks to establish a just social order, which has as its objective socialism in our time,' but from an inequitable and corrupt system of state, bureaucratic, co-operative and parasitic capitalism which takes away even the little mite from the poor (like old age pensioners with \$45 per month) to fatten the elitist rich.

The President is an angry man. He is angry because his regime, in an accommodation with the Carter administration, has retreated from its anti-imperialist position in the 1974-76 period, but the Reagan administration has been pressuring it to retreat further, to dismantle (denationalise) the productive state sector, and transform the existing type of capitalism to another form--free enterprise, dependent/distorted capitalism and it has been using financial economic leverage.

In a letter to the World Bank in 1981, the government had indicated its willingness to retreat. But the new harsh IMF terms are deemed "a recipe for riot." The 1984 budget indicated some concessions--25% devaluation; removal of controls and the operation of free market forces; overseas management contracts; denationalisation or joint ownership of "non-strategic" state enterprises. But the USA and the IMF want more.

The dominant group in the ruling PNC faces a dilemma--it does not want to denationalise as this would rob it of its power for financial accumulation and political control; but at the same time, it wants imperialist aid.

The regime should realise, however, that external foreign exchange assistance alone is not the answer to the grave economic and social crisis.

In the 1974-76 period, with extremely high sugar prices, Guyana greatly increased its foreign earnings and reserves. And in the 1978-80 period, foreign exchange poured in through the IMF, World Bank, IDB and USAID. But production continued to decline. Internal factors--lack of genuine democracy, political and racial discrimination, corruption and extravagance, attempted solution of the crisis at the expense of the working people--inhibited the productive forces.

CSO: 3298/766

N. AMERICAN-BASED DISSIDENT CONSERVATIVE PARTY DESCRIBED

Attack on 'Fascist Outfit'

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 84 p 8

[Article by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] As a nation we have tended not to pay enough attention to recent disclosures that a group of North-American-based "former Guyanese" was (and perhaps still is) plotting to assassinate this country's political leadership and to overthrow the government.

This is lamentable for by their mouthings and their actions, members of that little-known political grouping calling itself the Conservative Party of Guyana (CPG) have erased all doubts that their's is a fascist outfit forged in the same mould as the Pinochets of Chile and an outfit bent on promoting mayhem in this fledgling republic.

Equally disturbing as their attempts to purchase sophisticated weapons for their mission of destruction is their current wicked propaganda campaign being waged overseas.

Their's is a campaign intended to malign the Republic, besmirch its name and poison the mind of international public opinion against the country's leadership. Their's is a campaign that defies reason and incites mischief-- a campaign built on a platform of untruths.

In one of their recent publications--impressive in presentation but putrid in content--they tell about Cubans "building in Guyana's Essequibo Backlands ten 5 000 to 8 000-foot asphalted airstrips" and about "towers identified as sophisticated communications equipment" near the said airstrips.

That, all Guyanese wishing to be true to themselves know, is a remouthing of the old balderdash peddled some years ago by some sections of the Western media hostile to Guyana.

In the same vein, the publication, "Objective Guyana" repeated the old zombie story about there being "15 000 Cubans (military personnel) in Guyana today."

Spreading even thicker its poisonous potion, the same publication spoke about the House of Israel led by Rabbi Washington being involved in "controlling of agricultural communes in which school children are coerced to provide 'voluntary' labour," in providing "chauffeur services and sexual favours to the top brass of the regime" and in controlling the distribution of essential food commodities.

Quite evidently, their main thrust is to court international public opinion while destroying Guyana's image overseas thereby laying the foundation hopefully for the implementation of their fascist programmes.

They do this even as they parade with and desecrate the Golden Arrowhead as they did at a meeting in Toronto earlier this month attended by half a handful of like-minded fascists.

From their mouthings at that meeting there could be no doubt that the members of CPG are fascists. There could be no place for them in the Guyanese society and they should be treated as all fascists should be treated: They should be condemned, shunned, despised and expurgated.

'Adventurer' Named

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] The Sunday Chronicle today publishes the photographs of seven persons referred to by President Forbes Burnham as "adventurers, formerly of Guyanese citizenship" and who are allegedly involved in a plot to assassinate the leaders of the People's National Congress and to overthrow the Guyana Government.

The men have been linked to the Conservative Party of Guyana, a little known political grouping of fascist-oriented persons based in North America, mainly Canada.

The men, six resident in Canada and one living in Ohio, USA, together with Irish National Thomas Hunsdale appeared in Courts in Canada and the U.S.A. recently to answer a number of charges pertaining to the overthrow plot.

They have been allowed bail totalling \$2,750,000.00 (U.S.).

They were charged for offences including possession of unregistered firearms; Conspiracy to export unregistered firearms; Conspiracy to possess prohibited weapons, and conspiracy to possess prohibited ammunition.

They are also charged with having knowingly received and possessed and aided and abetted each other to receive and possess, firearms which were not registered to them in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer

Record, namely destructive devices, firearm silencers, machine guns and other automatic weapons.

[Photographs not reproduced]

Thalcarehandradeo, known as Lionel Persaud of Felicity, Mahaicony Branch Road.

Miguel Carpentano Muneshwar, known as Phillip Muneshwar, formerly of Mora Point, Mahaicony Creek.

Devanand Sukhoo, known as Dave Sukhoo of No 2 Village, East Canje Berbice.

Keshava Chandra Gupta Moonasar, formerly of Mora Point, Mahaicony Creek.

Sridatt Lakhan of Fyrish Village, Corentyne.

Tayshwara Tribhwan, known as Taphwara Nauth Tribhwan of Pin Highbury, East Bank, Berbice.

Parsram Ramrup of Whim Village, Corentyne.

CSO: 3298/767

COMMENTARY SCORES 'FALSIFIED' U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 4 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] A careful study of the recently-published US Report on Human Rights Practices in Guyana shows up the report as a document mischievous in intent and outrageous in its flirting with untruths and half truths.

It was an exercise in what has been referred to as "careful and meticulous falsification."

The Report was prepared by the staff of the US Embassy in Guyana for the US State Department which is required by US law to submit such reports to the US Congress.

According to the United States Information Service (USIS) in Guyana, "the reports are printed to assist members of Congress in considering legislation in the area of foreign assistance."

Unfortunately, however, the authors of the report seemed to have been desperately bent on fanning the embers of racism in Guyana and on poisoning the minds of US Congressmen against this green land.

In addition, the report passes judgement but offers no supporting evidence.

The obsession about race is evident from the first paragraph of the report in which the authors contend that 'the ruling party has consolidated political power in the hands of Afro-Guyanese who constitute 43 percent of the population, compared with 51 percent who are Indo-Guyanese. It added: "Race is one of the most important factors in determining a person's position in Guyana."

The report also makes allegations about racism in the public sector, the disciplined services and the judiciary.

For example, the authors repeat allegations that distribution outlets for basic commodities give preferential treatment to the 'Afro-Guyanese supporters of the PNC and that "most jobs in the large public and co-operative sectors are allocated through political patronage to Afro-Guyanese who support the ruling party."

The United States of America, the world knows, has wide experiences of ethnic polarities and racial apartness, so much so that today, even as the preparations are being made here for the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in this part of the world, one hears court reports about ethnic slavery still being practised in some parts of the USA.

What the US Human Rights report on Guyana clearly ignores is that as a result of Guyana's Colonial history and studied policy of "divide and rule" as practised by the imperial administrators on the basis of the doctrine of "competing races," the urban working class in Guyana, like the public service and the disciplined services, has traditionally been largely Guyanese of African descent.

Workers in the sugar and rice industries, it is also known, have been mainly Guyanese of Indian descent with the Chinese and Portuguese being in business activities and commerce and the Amerindians engaged in agriculture, fishing, forestry and other activities in the hinterland.

It is also widely accepted that because of these inherited divisions, racial factors have tended to intrude in the working of the body politic but the PNC Government has adopted a number of enlightened policies in its bid to eliminate racial friction and to create a unified and harmonious nation.

This has not been explained for the benefit of the US congressmen.

It is difficult to reconcile the report's contention that the government has been pursuing racially-oriented policies in favour of Afro-Guyanese with the fact that the principal beneficiaries of the government's development programme which gives top priority to the agricultural sector will be the people in the rural communities.

Unfortunately the authors have erroneously concluded that in 1983 race was synonymous with political affiliation in Guyana.

Maintaining its flirtation with untruths and half truths, the report accused the government of appointing its Afro-Guyanese supporters as judges, accused it of allocating a disproportionate amount of foreign exchange for the importation of newsprint, accused the national media of distorting the news and contended that "in almost all matters, Burnham himself makes the final decision."

It also spoke about the water and sewer systems breaking down frequently and about school buildings being in poor condition.

What the report did not say, however, was that last year even when the shortage of newsprint caused the Guyana National Newspapers Limited not to print a newspaper for two weeks, the Minority's Mirror newspaper still appeared on the streets.

Neither did it say that even though some school buildings might be in poor condition, the majority are today in much better shape than when the government intervened and rescued them from the clutches of the church close to 10 years ago.

The report nevertheless, rather grudgingly acknowledged some truths.

The authors reported for example, that "there is full religious tolerance in Guyana," "Guyanese are free to travel abroad and emigrate and to return to Guyana from abroad"; in practice, generally, freedom of movement is permitted by the government; "there were no politically motivated disappearances, clandestine detentions, or abductions in 1983," there are no political prisoners in Guyana and "judges of high integrity continue to sit on the bench."

In the view of many, the report is an example of some interference by one country in the internal affairs of another sovereign and independent state. Perhaps, nowhere is this more evident than when the authors of the report implied there is need for "political and economic change."

"By and large, the report seems a reproduction of the local opposition's viewpoint. This is perhaps understandable when one realises that one of the authors' major sources of opinions seems to have been the Guyana Human Rights Association whose membership comprises a number of hard political opponents of the government in pursuit of their own narrow political ambitions."

CSO: 3298/767

REID TELLS MINORITY PARTIES TO KEEP REALITY IN MIND

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] General Secretary of the People's National Congress and Prime Minister Cde Ptolemy Reid, had to urge members of the two Minority parties in the National Assembly not to lose sight of international realities in discussing the budget for 1984. The urging was done during the final session of debate on the budget when the comments by members of the Minority parties, ignoring realities, raced and galloped about in the manner of horseplay.

Cde Reid told the galloping minority partisans: "If we lose touch with the reality of the international scene we will lose all that we have struggled for. Events in other parts of the world can affect Guyana and there is need for food security as the way to political independence. New mercenary activities are being planned against this country and all of these events should serve as a warning so that Guyana will always be on guard against all forms of aggression."

In reply to the galloping of the minority horsemen, the Prime Minister confronted them with the reality of our agricultural thrust and the relentless drive after self-sufficiency in food.

Further galloping horseplay was seen when minority partisans tried to prevail on the Prime Minister that certain food items should be re-imported.

The reality was disillusioning and it came with the question--why should scarce foreign exchange be spent on commodities which have been replaced by local food items? Eating habits and tastes should be changed to meet national priorities. Preference for imported commodities and prejudice against local food should go.

The logic in the realities was unanswerable and the galloping of the minority partisans petered out into a political circus stunt.

CSO: 3298/767

DEBATE IN MEDIA OVER BASIC CHARACTER OF WPA UNDER WAY

David DeCaires Views

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 26 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by David De Caires]

[Text] We carry today a long reply to the WPA's letter published last week. We feel that the questions raised in this article are vital to our society and warrant the space we devote to it. It is not our intention to attack the WPA or anyone, but to air the issues.

I read with interest your recent article on the WPA. The reply from Messrs Roopnarine and Kwayana appeared to leave some questions unanswered.

What is the position of the WPA on the Grenadian debacle?

Did it support the Bishop faction or the Coard faction? Has that issue provoked debate in the party?

Arising out of this, is the WPA a Marxist-Leninist party and what does that mean in practice?

It would be extremely desirable but perhaps naive or optimistic to hope that these questions could be dealt with squarely and not ignored or sidestepped for several reasons.

In the first place, the other two major parties in Guyana claim openly to be Marxist-Leninist. What does that really mean? Has it any significance?

Secondly, the Grenadian debacle and in particular the activities of the Coard faction have raised the question of Leninist tactics and strategy in acute form.

Whatever the personal ambitions and personality clashes involved, the underlying reality in Grenada seems to have been that the Coard group was a hard line Leninist faction which took control of the party and purged Bishop and which enjoyed the support of the Soviet Union even after the death of the Bishop.

Thirdly, and most importantly, it really is time we had some discussion in Guyana on what Marxist-Leninist parties stand for (at least in theory) without euphemisms or evasions.

In its constitution, the WPA declares itself to be a Marxist-Leninist party.

A few years ago, the late Walter Rodney met the COMPASS group when that group was engaged in discussions with the various political parties in an effort to clarify their respective positions on national issues.

In his opening remarks, Dr Rodney effectively described the WPA as a democratic socialist party.

When asked directly about its constitution, he engaged in a certain amount of rather delicate equivocation and eventually stated that the label was internationally and historically significant, but virtually indicated that it should not be taken too literally.

This kind of ambivalence is not unusual and represents a failure or an unwillingness to think through a position that contains deep contradiction in it, perhaps even a mental block.

It springs, I suggest, from an inability to relate the concept of Marxist-Leninism to the context of democratic politics which still formally prevails in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Even in the most decent and principled Marxist intellectual circles in the Caribbean no one is willing to articulate clearly the kind of politics they stand for.

If pressed, they make vague criticisms of the inadequacies of parliamentary democracy and often couple this with a somewhat offhand acceptance of free elections and other democratic rights (see for example the first sentence of para 2 of the letter) and that's about it.

Nothing is spelt out too clearly, certainly not while in opposition. But in the final analysis that is no basis for a proper relationship with other parties or the public.

People want to know where they stand.

Are they mere tactical allies, for example, temporarily useful but marked down for destruction by the ideology?

Leninist politics explicitly avow such tactical alliances.

The ultimate question is whether the declared democratic position of the Leninist parties in Guyana on various issues such as, freedom of the press and the rule of law is in fact compatible with Leninism.

If not, have they really abandoned Leninism, are they, for instance, Eurocommunist?

If so, why use the label? Is it merely to establish an easily acceptable position with Third World "socialist" countries or to make oneself eligible to the Soviet Union and Comecon?

(For brief history of Leninism see 'WHAT IS LENINISM' below).

Leninism is an amalgam of Marxist theory and the authoritarian political conditions of early 20th century Russia. It is based on the idea of a tightly controlled party as the vanguard of the proletariat.

It represents in practice a party dictatorship ostensibly as representatives of the working class which is in Marxist theory destined to overthrow the bourgeoisie and to institute the dictatorship of the proletariat.

It is fundamentally incompatible with multi-party constitutional democracy, as experienced in Western democratic countries.

What is perhaps even more relevant for our purposes, in every country in which Marxist-Leninists have gained power, that has been the end of democratic politics.

The paramouncy of the party has become the order of the day and organised opposition has become impossible.

The present experience in Nicaragua, though not yet perhaps conclusive, leads one to fear that when the Marxists take power even in co-operation with other parties, that is the end of the road for other democratic parties of whatever hue.

In Guyana, both the Marxist-Leninist parties in opposition call for democratic freedoms in the face of press control, restrictions on public meetings, etc., but the "Marxist-Leninist" party in power and other Marxist-Leninist" parties elsewhere have committed precisely these abuses.

The debate in the SPA arising out of the Grenadian debacle is therefore of legitimate public interest.

Does it have a critical attitude to the Leninist inheritance?

Has it modified the theory?

Does it really accept a multi-party state, free elections and the other requirements of western democracy or is this just a tactical position?

In the final analysis one can never know in advance, but it would be a real step forward in the political culture of the Third World, steeped in shibboleths, loose thinking and hypocrisy as it is, if one party would take the lead and feel free to discuss an issue of this kind openly, whatever the immediate cost.

Call for Internal Discussion

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 4 Mar 84 p 3

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text] Sir, The thirty years between 1953-1983 saw PPP Marxism attempting to expand State control and PNC Leninism imposing a paramount party over the State.

Surely the devastating effects of their combined rule offers sufficient reason for the Working People's Alliance to want to demonstrate that the WPA is not a Marxist-Leninist party.

If additional reasons are necessary, recent events in Grenada provide them. The New Jewel Movement (a Marxist-Leninist party) enjoyed the "undoubted support" of the WPA (Dayclean Feb 18) but only "a minority" of the WPA executive thought pressure should be brought to bear on them to hold elections.

It is an open secret that the Elections Commission in Grenada was a Bishop initiative disapproved of by Coard. Does this mean that the majority of the WPA executive favoured a Coard-type hard-line party dominance?

David De Caires (CS Feb 26) presumes the debate reported in the previous week's Catholic Standard is taking place, denial from Roopnarine and Kwayana notwithstanding.

The same issue of Dayclean offers a good illustration of what irritates De Caires. To the question whether they would import a "Grenada model" to Guyana the WPA response is that "there is only one Grenada."

This is slick and evasive and while it might pass on campus, cuts little ice with the man-in-the-street.

In the light of these facts if the debate is not taking place within the WPA then it clearly ought to be. Observer

WPA Reply to DeCaires

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 4 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Dear Editor, In spite of its call for a free and open debate on issues the writer considers vital for the democratic movement in Guyana, the article by Mr David de Caires leaves surprisingly little room for engagement.

He presents us with a form of the Cretan paradox: every Cretan is a liar and it is a Cretan who says so.

Let us admit right away that we do not expect to reach agreement with Mr de Caires on the nature of Leninism, often on what he calls its "historical context."

What we have no disagreement on is his right to fight for his point of view.

The WPA is fighting now, and will continue to fight in or out of office, for a Republic in which ideas can come into unfettered conflict with other ideas, and people can be won or lost through argument and reason.

Those of us who attended the meeting with the Compass Group have a somewhat different recollection of Dr Rodney's responses to questions of belief.

It is regrettable that Mr de Caires did not raise publicly the question of Walter Rodney's "gentle equivocation" during his lifetime.

Our party was not willing then, nor is it now, to submit itself to what it does not impose on others. We have consistently argued for anti-dictatorial unity "without ideological pre-conditions."

For this we have drawn fire from the left. Our position applies equally to the centre or to the right.

Without expecting to put at rest Mr de Caires misgivings, some of which we do not blame him for, the WPA will state the following:

1. The alliances which we seek and enter into are not opportunistic or self-serving. They are necessary and vital to the reconstruction of our country, which will require the energies and the talents, as well as the political and social wisdom of all patriotic Guyanese committed to democracy and a multiracial future.

Democracy for us is not a tactic. Even if the WPA were to win the majority support among the population, we would seek to set up a government on the principles, and not on a short-term holding basis either.

What we would see as short-term is a caretaker government which comes to power other than by elections and this is so because of the long season the people have endured without the right to choose.

- 2) The WPA believes in free and fair elections, fully elected represented bodies and legislature at all levels of the state, and the freedom of special interests to campaign for due process and the constitutional behaviour of all who exercise authority.

The publicly owned media should set the example and aid the state in guaranteeing freedom of expression.

- 3) The WPA in respect of Guyana, does not support a one-party state formal or informal.

The WPA is not working for and does not support any kind of dictatorship--whether of persons, of a class, a grouping of classes, a party or a set of parties.

For information of how these principles will be implemented at the political level in the near future, the party will have to complete its internal consultations, ending with a general members' conference.

Finally, we must make the point that it is not through questions and answers, examinations and cross-examinations that freedom will be won, preserved and guaranteed, but rather through the willingness of various political, social, professional and other interests to organise and wage an ongoing resistance in the ways available to them.

Eusi Kwayana/Rupert Roopnaraine, Co-Chairs, WPA

CSO: 3298/768

AMBASSADOR TO USSR: SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT TO CONTINUE HERE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Cde Philip Chan, Guyana's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, has emphasised that Guyana's chief ambition is to make the people masters of their natural resources and to wrest from the monopolies the basic industrial enterprises.

He said also that Guyana, undaunted by external threats, will continue to follow the path of socialist development. He was speaking in Moscow on the occasion of Guyana's National Day.

"Historically," said Ambassador Chan, "the Guyanese have shared with the Soviet people the desire for peace, freedom and cooperation among nations."

Earlier, at the function held at Moscow's Friendship House, Secretary of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Latin America, Pyotr Yakovlev noted Guyana adheres to progressive anti-imperialist positions and develops relations with many countries, including socialist states.

Cde Yakovlev touched on the evolution of the Guyanese State, the restructuring of its economy, the expansion of foreign links and the consistent efforts to further reinforce the industrial basis of the country and to diversify agriculture.

He noted that Guyana was first among the newly-independent Caribbean States to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR in 1970.

Concluding, Cde Yakovlev said: "The reactionary circles are conspiring against Guyana but the people of that country express firm resolve to defend their right to sovereignty and independence. In this they find full support on the part of the Soviet Union."

CSO: 3298/768

ANTICRIME PROTESTS SMASHED BY POLICE ; ARRESTS MADE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 4 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Despite pronouncements to the contrary, the police authorities do not seem interested to any great degree in public cooperation in the fight against crime. A handful of policemen are believed to be acting in consort with armed gangsters and in some localities broke up anti-crime demonstrations sponsored by the PPP with the participation of residents in the said localities. These peaceful demonstrations were taking place in front of police stations.

There was a record number of armed hold-ups and robberies in 1983, and indications are that this trend is continuing in 1984. A fresh wave of armed rascality is taking place in the rural areas, particularly Berbice. The reaction of the police there has been varied.

Reports reaching the MIRROR say that Black Bush Polder farmers staged a picketing protest outside the New Amsterdam police station recently, demanding among other things the arming and training of vigilante groups to help police combat crime.

The New Amsterdam demo went off smoothly, but at Whim on the Corentyne, police pounced on protesters (mostly farmers) who were about to picket the Whim Police station. The cops seized the placards carried by the demonstrators, dispersed the crowd and detained 4 of them. After a further protest was organised and a march on the station made, the 4 were set free. These persons were merely expressing their alarm over the spate of robberies.

The arrest of citizens protesting against crime is viewed with grave suspicion by the public at large. The police should normally be glad that citizens are seeking to assist them, and are calling on government to provide them with adequate vehicles, arms, communications equipment and personnel.

MIRROR's correspondent in New Amsterdam said:

"The police told picketers that they had no vehicles to deal with criminals and requested that the farmers buy a vehicle for the police. The demonstrators explained that they are already contributing enough in taxes, etc, to government and expect the government to provide that facility to the police force."

The correspondent further said that a picketing demonstration took place at the office of the Regional democratic Council, and Regional chairman Surujnarine Singh met with a delegation. They discussed demands for the training and arming of vigilante groups.

Further reports from the terrorised Berbice area reveal that up to 2 weeks ago in the BBP area alone, there were 19 cases of armed hold-ups, robberies, beatings, threats and other lawlessness. The victims included 2 Blacks, the rest being Indians.

While the citizens are willing to form vigilante groups, PNC officialdom is dragging its feet on this question for over 2 years. Recently in Parliament Home Affairs Minister Thomas was asked the following question.

"Will the Minister say how soon a plan to train and arm community police groups (vigilantes) will be put into effect, with priority given to high crime areas?"

He replied saying that there is no immediate plan to do so, but that some members have already obtained licences to carry firearms. This reply did not meet with the satisfaction of the PPP in the House.

CSO: 3298/768

GOVERNMENT, PNC ADVANCE POLICIES TO IMPROVE LOT OF FARMERS

Land Acquisition Bill

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] The Land Acquisition Bill implements Government's policy of giving Land to the Tillers; ensures that all lands lying idle will be brought under beneficial cultivation by farmers; and that maximum agricultural production and attainment of the goal of self-sufficiency in food will be realised in minimum time.

An attempt to obstruct passage of the Bill through the National Assembly was unsuccessfully made by Minority Party spokesman Repu Daman Persaud who argued that the 'Bill' placed too much power in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture, the authority responsible for identifying lands for acquisition. The minority spokesman had urged that a Tribunal of Appeal takes the place of the Minister.

Demolishing this contention Comrade Desmond Hoyte, Central Committee member and Vice President, Production, said that farmers should have no fear that lands under cultivation would be taken from them because the Land Acquisition Bill was intended to give idle lands to farmers for cultivation.

Cde Hoyte further explained the process preceding the acquisition of land. Before lands could be taken away, the Commissioner of Lands would have to investigate the case, submit a report, issue a public notice, send registered letter to the last known address of the land owner, describe the understandable terms the land which would be taken away and to make the necessary recommendations.

This explanation silenced the fears farmers will be despoiled.

On the contrary the 'Bill' guarantees that the maximum acreage of land will be kept under cultivation by the maximum number of farmers for achieving maximum agricultural production for self-sufficiency in food with surplus for export and foreign earnings, the final triumph being economic recovery, survival and the immunity of the nation from attacks against our independence by imperialists using their food as a weapon of political aggression.

PNC Concern

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] One of the most pressing problems of Guyana and the entire world is increased food production, Cde S.K. Joseph, Councillor of the Regional Democratic Council of Region Five told farmers of the Mahaica district last week.

Cde Joseph said the various farming communities in Region Five were doing a lot and they were responding to the efforts by Regional Chairman Cde Barkat Alli and his team of Regional Officers who are bent on solving the many problems in the Region.

"The leadership of the People's National Congress has the interest of farmers at heart and it is bent on doing everything to help those who till the soil," he said.

Cde Joseph told the farmers that they must work with a determination and perseverance to produce more food for all. They should not be discouraged, he added.

And as if to highlight the cohesion among the farmers in Region Five the meeting was conducted at the home of Cde Tikaram Dhanpaul of Wash Clothes, Mahaicony.

Resistance to Reforms

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] Throughout the country farmers have growing faith in the government and the leadership of the PNC for honouring their pledged word and giving "Land to the Tillers" through the provisions of the Land Acquisition Bill.

Since the age of colonial stagnation, lands were left in idleness. But in this, the age of the Co-operative Republic on the irreversible road of Socialist construction, with agriculture being pivotal to recovery and survival, lands acquired under the provisions of the Bill, are given to farmers for cultivation.

As is expected, however, the farmers have enemies among those who resent their idle lands being acquired by the State, and

given to the tillers, and a report by the Commissioner of Lands, published in a recent issue of the Official Gazette, indicates the dodges and ruses being resorted to by those who want to hold on to state lands, and thus prevent these being given to the tillers.

In the issue of the Official Gazette, the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys, Cde T. A. Earle, has issued a warning to members of the public that it is illegal for them to transfer leased state lands and government lands to relatives and friends without the prior consent of his department.

The Commissioner's warning is based on the fact that many reports concerning such illegal transactions have reached his department which is a branch of the Agriculture

Ministry.

This sudden and illegal transfer of lands leased from the state and left traditionally idle, is evidently intended to thwart government in its determined bid to give land to the farmers for cultivation, leading to recovery and survival.

It is a ruthless and selfish attempt to obstruct agricultural production, with surplus for export earnings; self-sufficiency in the food we need to safeguard our independence from erosion by those who want to feed us and control us.

One ruthless effort, justifies another, and the farmers for whom the Party leadership continues to show concern, are confident that they will not be left at the mercy of these "killers of the tillers of the soil."

CSO: 3298/769

GUYMINE PERSONNEL ASSUME NEW TASKS; UNION ROLE URGED

New Contract With Green

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Mining Enterprise [GUYMINE] has entered into a new one-year contract with Green Overseas Corporation, formerly Green Construction Company, according to a Guymine Communication Department release.

The new contract, the fourth of its kind since the expatriate company arrived in Guyana in 1980, has a new focus.

From yesterday, the US-based corporation is no longer responsible for mining and other related operations. These have been taken over once more by Guymine personnel who, until now, have only played a monitor role.

President Forbes Burnham had pledged in his Republic Anniversary speech last week that the vital bauxite industry will remain in Guyanese hands.

Green was given management of the East Montgomery mine in September, 1981, with responsibility to supply Guymine with crude bauxite ore for 14 months. That contract was since extended.

The new contract stipulates that Green will now be responsible for the removal of overburden (a total of 3.2 million banked cubic metres) from the East Montgomery and Kara Kara mines.

Other features of the contract are the maintenance and repair of specific equipment in the East Montgomery mine, and the establishment and maintenance of formal mechanic and supervisory training programmes. Such training will ultimately lead to a reduction of the dependence on expatriate supervisors.

Guymine's Stan Massiah takes over as Manager of East Montgomery mine, the company's largest mining project which will swing into top gear on Saturday when the massive bucket wheel excavator begins operations after being idle for more than a year.

Jim Patton, former Mine Manager is now Green's Project Manager "until further notice."

The operations of the two organisations will be co-ordinated by Guymine's General Superintendent of the Production, Engineering Division, Brian Ralph.

(GNA)

Call for Union Involvement

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Linden (GNA)--Calls for more union participation in the management of the bauxite industry and for improved industrial relations marked the opening session of the second biennial conference of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisor's Union (GBSU) yesterday at the Lichas auditorium in Linden.

Highlights of the session were the opening address by GNEC's Executive Chairman Claude Saul and the presidential address by Acting President Herbert Harry.

Cde Saul, a one-time executive of Guymine (then Guybau), and one of the company's officials who signed the first labour agreement that gave birth to the GBSU in 1973, called upon the company to recognise the important roles the union can play in maximising the use of the company's vast resources.

He said it was imperative that there be free communications between front-line managers and company executives. The level of consultation and depth of discussions will determine the union's contribution to the development of the company, the bauxite communities and the nation as a whole, he added.

In his presidential address, Cde Harry hit at the attitudes of some of Guymine's top management personnel whom he accused of rejecting suggestions from employees outside an elite circle.

He called on frontline managers who are members of GBSU to take steps to reduce the accident rate within the industry and to strive for higher standards of discipline and performance.

Among the invitees at the opening session were top officials of unions and the TUC who extended fraternal greetings to the GBSU.

Also present were Vice-President, Infrastructure, Cde Hamilton Green and Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives, Kenneth Denny.

The conference continues today and is expected to progress well into the evening when general elections will be held.

CSO: 3298/769

VISAS NOW REQUIRED FOR ENTERING AMERICANS, CANADIANS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 4 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] A new Immigration (Passports) Order which is now effective in Guyana will require citizens from countries including the United States, Canada and the Netherlands, to produce a visa to enter Guyana.

The new Order provides for exemptions of citizens from Caricom countries and Suriname. Provision is also made in the Order for the Minister of Home Affairs by notification in the Official Gazette, to exempt passports issued to subjects or citizens of any foreign country not specified in the new schedule, on such conditions as he may deem fit.

A release from the Ministry of Home Affairs explained that prior to the making of the Immigration (Passports) Order, 1984, there was an Act which permitted every Canadian and US citizen to enter Guyana without a Passport. In effect, such a person could have used an identification card as a means of establishing his National Status.

One of the conditions was that such a person should satisfy the Immigration Officer that he was a citizen of Canada or the US, that he was in possession of a return ticket and that he intended to remain in Guyana for a period not exceeding three months from the date of his entry into Guyana.

The old Order provided that while the passport of a citizen of any foreign country was not acceptable unless it bore a Guyanese Consular visa valid for Guyana, a US citizen could spend six months without requiring to have a visa. This also applied to citizens of the Netherlands.

The new Order revokes this regulation.

The countries exempted under this new Order are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts, Nevis, St Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

CSO: 3298/769

COORDINATOR GARCIA TURCIOS DISCUSSES STATUS OF REFUGEES

PA030454 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 May 84 p 5

[Report by Javier Gabino Villalobos]

[Excerpts] Colonel Abraham Garcia Turcios, retired, coordinator of the Honduran National Commission for Refugees, yesterday said that "the camps have not yet been rid of rebels because that is a complex task."

Garcia Turcios discussed different aspects of helping the refugees and the constant and massive influx of refugees into Honduras.

He reported that 1,700 persons have entered Honduras from Nicaragua in the past 20 days, adding to the thousands of refugees that are already in Honduras.

Asked about Honduras' capacity to shelter the refugees, he replied that there is no ceiling on the number of refugees who can enter the country and that therefore all those who want to come may do so.

The refugee coordinator reported that most of the Nicaraguans who have recently arrived in Honduras are Miskitos. Therefore, they must be transferred to northern Honduras because they are fishermen, he added.

Garcia Turcios stated that the Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees will be the only ones relocated. This is for security reasons, both for themselves and for Honduras, he indicated.

We are trying to prevent the refugees' maintaining contact with their countries, because many of them are guerrillas who pose a threat to the peace and tranquillity of the Honduran population. He added that the approximately 30 soldiers stationed at the various camps cannot prevent the refugees' maintaining contact with their relatives in El Salvador or Guatemala, some of whom support totalitarianism.

CSO: 3248/604

ELECTRICAL WORKERS SEEK EXPLANATION ON MISSING COWORKER

PA032148 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 May (ACAN-EFE)--The workers of the Honduran electric power company began a permanent vigil at noon today to demand a meeting with President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

Delegates from all branches of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) workers' union carried placards criticizing the Liberal government. They said they have established shifts to maintain the vigil.

The workers said they expect President Suazo to receive them "to explain to us the disappearance of our companero, President Rolando Vindel Gonzalez, or promise to investigate the matter."

Vindel Gonzalez disappeared in Tegucigalpa more than a month ago, and his companions believe he is in the hands of the secret police or some other state security corps.

The secret police and military intelligence have denied that they are holding Vindel Gonzalez.

Gustavo Morales Funes, deputy director of the Honduran lottery, disappeared on the same day as Vindel Gonzalez, but in another sector of Tegucigalpa.

With Vindel Gonzalez and Morales Funes, the number of persons missing in Honduras from 1981 to 1984 totals 112. In addition, the bodies of 88 labor and peasant leaders have been found during the same period.

CSO: 3248/604

BRIEFS

ANTICOMMUNISTS ALLEGE PLOT--Dr Rigo Navas, Commander Rigo, spokesman for the Central American Secret Anticommunist Organization [Organizacion Secreta Anticomunista de Centro America, OSACA] has charged that General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was removed from the Honduran Army because of a plot by leftist groups who have infiltrated the Armed Forces. [Summary] [PA151554 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 6 PA]

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT DRAWS COMMENT--Amado H. Nunez has been appointed labor and social welfare minister. Many political sectors have described his appointment as strange. The new minister has not been a member of the Liberal Party of Honduras since 1966 and is described as a National Party of Honduras supporter. [Summary] [PA031644 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 May 84 PA]

CSO: 3248/604

PNP DEMONSTRATIONS PROTEST ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Absence of Government Approval

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Demonstrations planned for today by the People's National Party in Kingston, Montego Bay, Mandeville and Ocho Rios have received no permission from the police as required by law.

According to the Commissioner of Police, Mr Joe Williams, the Law requires three clear days' notice and he was only told of the Party's plans on Wednesday.

"These things have to be done within the strict confines of the law, and I have not given any permission," Mr Williams told the Gleaner last night.

First intimation of the Party's plan to hold the demonstrations was given on Wednesday by the Minister of Tourism, the Hon Anthony Abrahams, who said that the demonstrations could represent "a serious blow" to the tourist industry.

Mr Abrahams said in a statement which he issued that day that it has come to his attention that the PNP and the Workers Party of Jamaica intended to mount demonstrations to coincide with the final session of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) meeting in Jamaica.

"If this information was correct, this proposed action by the PNP and the WPJ could represent a serious blow to the tourist industry, as clearly would be its intention," Mr Abrahams said.

Mr Abrahams added that the timing of the demonstrations to coincide with an international gathering in Jamaica would only spell the same kind of disaster to the industry that occurred when demonstrations were held to coincide with another international gathering in 1976.

He said that the 10,000 workers of the industry in all categories would be the victims of the negative press fallout of this proposed demonstration and would hold the PNP and WPJ responsible for the consequence.

A statement issued yesterday by the PNP, through the General Secretary, Dr Paul Robertson, said that the timing of the demonstrations had nothing to do with the meeting of the Inter-American Press Association currently taking place in Ocho Rios.

"The demonstrations, instead, have everything to do with the continued erosion of the standard of living of the Jamaican people brought on by the misguided policies of the Seaga regime.

Dr Robertson said that the fact that the demonstrations were taking place while the final sessions of IAPA were on was merely coincidental.

He said that the PNP fully intended to carry out peaceful demonstrations today and that the demonstrations would be within the law and was an exercise of their democratic right.

"Indeed we have already concluded discussions with the Commissioner of Police and told him of our plans and emphasised the peaceful nature of our demonstrations," he said, adding "it is a right exercised in free democracies all over the world."

A statement also issued yesterday by the WPJ denied that it was planning any demonstrations to coincide with the closing meeting of IAPA in Ocho Rios.

"The Workers Party has never and will not do anything to damage the tourist industry. At the same time, the Party wishes to point out that the pressures on the people are reaching the point where peaceful protests and demonstrations are very likely," the statement said.

Report on Regional Rallies

Kingston. THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

The People's National Party said it staged "successful and peaceful demonstrations" in Ocho Rios, Mandeville and Montego Bay yesterday.

"The demonstrations were staged to highlight the skyrocketing cost of living and the continued erosion of the standard of living brought on by the misguided policies of the Seaga regime," a PNP statement said.

"In Ocho Rios, the crowd which began gathering just after 11.30 a.m. grew to around 3,000. The demonstrators carried placards highlighting the continued high cost of living.

"The peaceful demonstrations which received the full co-operation of the Security Forces, ended after brief addresses by the General Secretary, Dr. Paul Robertson and Vice-presi-

dent, Mr. Seymour Mullings.

"Both Dr. Robertson and Mr. Mullings thanked the demonstrators and the Security Forces for their support.

"Over in Mandeville, the demonstrations which attracted about 4,000 demonstrators, were peaceful and received full co-operation from the Security

Forces. The demonstrations were led by Deputy General Secretary, Mr. Donald Buchanan.

"The demonstrations in Montego Bay were led by Vice-President, Miss Portia Simpson. The demonstrators, numbering just over 1,000, began gathering at about 10.00 a.m. but grew to just over 4,000

by the time the demonstrations ended at 2.00 p.m.

"The demonstrators also carried placards and sang Party songs.

They were addressed by Vice-President Miss Portia Simpson and the constituency representative, Mr. Francis Tulloch".

St Ann Demonstration

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

ST. ANN'S BAY, St. Ann, April 13
(From our correspondent):

Over 200 placard-bearing PNP supporters, led by General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson, and other top officials of the party, staged a two-hour protest demonstration in the vicinity of the clock tower square in Ocho Rios this afternoon.

They were protesting against what they described as continuous increases in the cost of living for Jamaicans, as well as calling for an increase in the present minimum wage.

The demonstration started at approximately 12 noon and ended at 2 p.m. after short addresses by Dr. Robertson and PNP Vice-President Seymour Mullings.

According to Dr. Robertson, the main issues on which the protest was based were a demand for an increase in the present minimum wage paid to workers, maintenance of subsidies for basic goods, a protest against the \$138.5 million taxes which he said will be further increased after the Budget; and to remind the Government that elections should be held when the new voters' lists are ready.

Dr. Robertson also said that the demonstration is in support of Tourism and against Prime Minister Seaga. He added that it was "only a signal" to the Government.

The PNP General Secretary said that the protest action had received good response from the people and also good response from members of the Security Force whom he described as most co-operative.

Mr. Mullings observed that the demonstration showed that the PNP could demonstrate peacefully.

During the protest, most PNP supporters were in a jovial mood and danced in the Ocho Rios square to music played on a public address system. One supporter, who identified himself as "Ivory Man." of St. Ann's Bay, said that he would "rather die than bite Seaga's buller".

Other PNP officials present included Messrs. Horace Clarke, Terry Gillette, Harry Doiuglas, K.D. Knight, Bobby Pickersgill, John Junor, Arnold Bertram, Manley Bowen, caretaker for the North-east St. Ann constituency; and Vinroy Brown, former Member of Parliament.

SENATE STANDS FIRM ON DELAY IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Two amendments proposed by Opposition Member, Senator Errol Miller, to have Local Government elections held by December 31, 1984, instead of June 30, 1985, were defeated in the Senate yesterday.

The Senator was seeking to amend two Bills passed by the House of Representatives on April 3.

The first Bill sought to have the deadline for holding Local Government elections under the Parish Councils Act postponed from June, 1984, to June, 1985.

The second Bill sought the same extension for Local Government Elections under the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (K.S.A.C.) Act.

The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons of both Bills said the extension was necessary because it was unlikely that the Director of Elections would be able to prepare and make necessary revisions of the voters' list in time for the elections to be held not later than June this year.

Provisions were also included in the Bills to postpone the holding of by-elections under both Acts.

When the Senate went into committee to study the Bill postponing the Parish Councils Elections, Senator Miller proposed an amendment to have the deadline set at December 31, 1984, instead of June, 1985 as proposed in the Bill.

When those opposing the amendment carried the voting which followed, Senator Miller asked for a division. The result of the division was 13 "Noes" and five "Ayes". Only four of the other seven Opposition Senators voted with Senator Miller in support of the amendment which was seconded by Senator Keith Worrell (Opposition).

When the Bill extending the period in which the K.S.A.C. Elections should be held was taken into Committee stage, Senator Miller proposed a similar amendment, which again appeared defeated.

But Senator Courtney Fletcher (Opposition), who had also voted with him in support of the first amendment, called for a division.

The result of that division was eleven "Noes" and four "Ayes."

Senator C.S. Reid, who had voted with Senator Miller in favour of the first amendment had left the Chamber.

Senators Errol Miller, Courtney Fletcher, Keith Worrell and Lloyd Barnett, all Opposition Members, voted "Aye" on both occasions.

Senator Charles Sinclair and Emil George (Opposition) voted with the Government against the amendments on both occasions.

Senator Barbara Blake (Opposition) voted against the first amendment, but was absent for the vote on the second amendment.

Opposition Senators who voted with the Government said during the debate that they would support the

Bill if the Government side could give an expression of intent that as soon as the new Voters' List was ready and things were in place for the elections, the date would be announced.

Senator Sinclair said that he would hate to think what would happen in the country if the expectations of the people that the elections would be set once the system was in place, were not met.

Senator George said that he had no difficulty in supporting the Bill if there was the expression of intent, as he felt that it was unfair to ask the Leader of Government Business, Senator Ronald Irvine, for an assurance.

Senator Miller said that it seemed to him that from the state of preparedness of the new lists and their projections, it was entirely possible to use the approach of law with a postponement for three months since the new system could be in place by the end of July.

If some unforeseen circumstance arose, then the Government should approach the House for another extension, he said.

Senator Irvine pointed out that the extension of the time to June, 1985, did not mean that the elections would be held then. But it would give the Electoral Commission enough time to put in place all the prerequisites for the holding of the elections under the new system.

Senator Irvine said that it was the intention of the Government to call the elections whenever the new lists were ready and everything was in order.

GLEANER REPORTER BEATEN UP COVERING PNP MEETING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

Mr. Winston Malcolm, a news correspondent for the Gleaner, was beaten while attending a parish conference of the People's National Party at Hope Bay, in Portland, on Sunday.

Mr. Malcolm, who said he had been invited to the conference, was about to leave at the end of the conference, when about five PNP supporters attacked him. He was beaten with a cane and he received injuries to the neck, head, face and back. His note-book was taken away and destroyed.

Mr. Harry Douglas, PNP caretaker for South East St. Mary, and Mr. Errol Ennis, one of the PNP's prospective candidates for Westmoreland, rescued Mr. Malcolm. They both condemned the behaviour of those who had beaten Mr. Malcolm and apologised to him.

Mr. Malcolm was taken by the police to the Port Antonio Hospital,

where he was treated for his injuries. A friend of Malcolm also received injuries to the face, when he tried to save Mr. Malcolm from being beaten.

A statement issued by the PNP yesterday said the party deplored the assault on Mr. Malcolm but stated that on his arrival at the meeting he was told that it was a private party conference, and he was asked to leave.

Expressing regret that the incident took place, the statement said that the Central Executive of the party will hold a "thorough investigation" into it.

Mr. Douglas also issued a statement in which he said inter alia:

"The Incident which allegedly involves PNP supporters was in the precincts of the meeting and resulted from private developments best known to those involved."

ITALY HELPS WITH 6,000-UNIT-CAPACITY HOUSING PLANTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

Six thousand pre-fabricated houses will be produced yearly by three plants to be established in Westmoreland, Clarendon and St. Catherine. Each plant will produce 2,000 units annually, a Jamaica Information Service news release said.

The Llandillo plant site in Westmoreland was inspected by Minister of Construction, the Hon. Bruce Golding on March 28. He visited the other sites — Mineral Heights in Clarendon and Twickenham Park in St. Catherine — on April 4.

The main objectives of the projects are the speeding up of construction of low-income houses to attain the Government's target of providing 160,000 units over the next 16 years.

The factories, part of an Italian Government aid programme, are slated to be completed and put in operation after March 1985.

In addition to speeding up the production of low-income houses through high technology, the plants will also offer an opportunity for Jamaicans to earn and learn. Each factory will carry a woodwork shop to make panes, windows and doors.

The aid agreement also calls for Jamaicans to be sent to Italy to be

trained as factory engineers, managers and supervisors at the executive level.

The Minister praised the co-operation shown by the Italian Government. He said the Jamaica Government was grateful for the response, adding that the people of Jamaica would be equally thankful.

Mr. Golding stressed the need for discipline and hard work among those Jamaicans who would be afforded the opportunity of training and others who would man the three plants.

CSO: 3298/760

BRIEFS

AIR FARE INCREASES--Airline ticket prices will go up again today--after rising twice already in the last two weeks--because the Jamaican dollar has been devalued to U.S. \$1.00 to \$J 3.85 at the upper limit. The sale price of tickets to Miami, New York and other destinations will rise because this devaluation has made tickets, priced initially in U.S. dollars, more expensive to local travellers. Moreover, airline executives feel Jamaicans could be facing such sale price rises on a constant basis if the value of the Jamaican dollar continues to fluctuate as regularly as it has in recent weeks. Mr Don Buchanan, Vice-President of the Board of Airlines Association, said yesterday: "Whatever rate you publish in the Gleaner will determine the ticket sale price for that day." But he added: "I do not think there is any doubt that if the cost of travel has to increase because of constant devaluations that this will have an impact on the extent to which Jamaicans travel." [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Apr 84 p 3]

ARRIVAL OF FERTILIZER--Fertilizer, which has been in short supply, has started coming back to Jamaica. Three shipments have recently come in and are being distributed. A total of 15,676 metric tons has come in for Aruba Chemical Industries, manufacturers of Grace Fertilizer, at the Esso dry-cargo dock in Kingston. Three vessels brought the supply, which was brought in by Jamaica Commodity Trading under a line of credit from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Simultaneously with the unloading of the cargo, manufacture and delivery of fertilizer has started. In response to existing demand, Aruba Chemical has introduced a nightshift and weekend production in addition to the regular Monday to Friday operation. As a result of this arrangement, up to 718 long tons of fertilizer have been delivered to the market in one day, according to Mr Michael Sampson, manager of the plant. Under normal circumstances, Aruba Chemical is called upon to deliver 250 tons per working day. All grades regular and special--are being produced at this time, Mr Sampson said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Apr 84 p 3]

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE--A National Transport Committee will be set up by the Government in the third phase of the transportation system starting early next month, according to the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon Pearnel Charles. Members of the Committee will be transport experts, members of the security forces, and "persons who understand the movement of people," in the Minister's phase. Mr Charles was outlining

moves by his Ministry to improve transportation when he took part in a symposium on the subject, held by the National Students Council at Kingston College on Tuesday afternoon. This committee, he said, would make a comprehensive study of the question in order to help the Government put in "place a rationalised transport system." This study would have to be done at the same time that commuters were being transported and so certain steps would have to be taken to facilitate this. Mr Charles also announced that he had authorised the granting of 1,500 emergency mini-bus licences for rural areas which were now without proper transportation service. [Excerpt]
[Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Apr 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/760

BRIEFS

NORIEGA TO VISIT FRANCE--General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces, will travel to France during the third week of June in response to an invitation from French authorities. To reiterate that invitation French Ambassador to Panama Robert Cantoni today visited Gen Noriega at his command headquarters office, accompanied by Panamanian ambassador to France Guillermo Vega. Gen Noriega said that his visit to France will strengthen the National Defense Forces' relations with that European nation, from which his organization has purchased equipment and where Panamanian students are being trained. [Text] [PA010303 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Apr 84]

CSO: 3248/603

BRIEFS

NEW OPPOSITION LEADER--Kingstown, Wed (Ap)--St Vincent's fragmented Opposition has a new leader in Parliament, the third change since the 1979 elections. Randolph Russell, of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) has taken over the position, replacing James Mitchell of the New Democratic Party (NDP). It is the second time that Russell, a former Health Minister who bolted from the ruling St Vincent Labour Party in 1981 has been named Opposition Leader in the current Parliament. The switch followed Mitchell's announcement last week that his party would support neither Russell nor the third Opposition member, Calder Williams, of the Working People's Party (WPP) in the next elections, due here by March next year. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Apr 84 p 5]

VOTER REGISTRATIONS--Kingstown, Fri (Cana)--Vincentians registered to vote in the next general election here, constitutionally due by March next year, have totalled 47,666 according to preliminary figures released here. The number is 4,412 less than the amount of persons who were eligible to vote in the last general election in December 1979. The figures were presented to the House of Assembly yesterday by Minister of Home Affairs Ken Browne, who explained that 4,669 of the persons enumerated had not completed the registration process by having their photographs taken for identification cards which must for voting here, under the country's Representation of the People Act of 1982. Browne said the preliminary voters' lists for all 13 constituencies would be posted soon as revising centres throughout the state, where "any persons whose names do not appear on the lists, and who claim to be entitled to be electors for the respective constituencies," may make their claims, or may object to any persons included on the lists who are considered eligible. The 4,000-odd persons omitted from the preliminary list would also have the opportunity during this period to complete their registration by having their photographs taken, Browne added. Electoral Office officials said the final list could be ready within the next two months. No date has yet been suggested for the general election. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 84 p 5]

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT--The Caribbean Foresters' Conference which concluded at the Cobblestone Inn on Friday 23rd March 1984 recognised the importance of proper watershed management. The final release from the workshop points out that such resources as land, forest, soil, water, wildlife and coastal ecosystems depend on the maintenance of adequate watersheds. Previous

neglect has made it necessary for the forest sector to be "upgraded to the point where it can perform its role in the economy optimally." Recommendations regarding Organisational or Institution Building covered the need for training, public education, involvement of high level policy makers in watershed and forestry matters, communications among islands including computer linkage and optional legal status to facilitate watershed management. Land and Water Resources Management also received attention in the Conference recommendation as did the monitoring of disturbances like hurricanes, slides, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and human intervention. Finally, since the value of information is best measured by its use and its impact on action programme the importance of integration and synthesis of the recommendations were emphasised. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 30 Mar 84 p 12]

CSO: 3298/761

JULIEN REVEALS PLANS FOR ISCOTT EXPANSION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 84 p 48

[Text]

THE Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) is planning to expand its operations, according to ISCOTT Chairman, Dr Ken Julien.

ISCOTT sources had hinted about the company's plans which were confirmed by Julien in a recent statement in a brochure on the "ISCOTT experience," soon to be released by the company.

Julien said in the statement that "in steel products, we will move into higher quality products and more sophisticated items."

The text of Julien's statement on the "ISCOTT experience" was carried in the most recent issue of the Point Lisas Courant, the monthly newspaper of the National Energy Corporation. So far, Centrin, which is a subsidiary of Dansteel Limited, is the only company which has gone into downstream activity with a \$110 million plant, producing steel products from ISCOTT's billets.

In analysing the situation after the setting up of the local steel company, Julien said if there were a lesson to be learnt from the ISCOTT experience, it was that the metropolitan market should be treated with caution.

He said Trinidad and Tobago, as a developing country, was faced with the dilemma of how to make the "great leap" in transforming the lives of the citizens, who have known only deprivation.

Julien said the company had suffered from the international recession and its "ensuing protectionist measures." Said Julien: "ISCOTT, however, remains undaunted. We hope that current optimistic trends continue. Should this be so, we see ourselves as taking the lead role in the world in direct reduced iron."

Julien added: "At present, we are buying more steel than the developed world ... more steel from the developed world including the United States than we could ever hope to sell, quite

apart from other areas of trading activity."

It was viable enough to carry the debt and to generate sufficient profit for the shareholders — the people of Trinidad and Tobago. No one at that time could have predicted what has happened in the international market place."

Dr Julien said he saw the steel plant as an opportunity for locals "to get up and do it themselves" and at the same time "integrate the two ethnic groups — Africans and Indians and this in his own mind was a very strong objective. He wanted the whole central area of Trinidad which now houses the Point Lisas housing estate to be the focal point of historical development."

Julien added: "The production of sugar had separated those races. The creation of an iron and steel industry was a means of reversing the divisions. In other words, it would serve to reverse the suspicion and discord."

TRINIDAD SAID TO IMPOSE NEW 'COLONIALISM' ON TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 16 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

CONTRARY to the expressed policies of the People's National Movement (PNM) Government when it came to power in 1956, the Government imposed its own brand of colonialism and dependence on Tobago, a university lecturer told a conference on constitutional and political reform yesterday.

Speaking on the final day of a three-day conference aimed at "Forging a New democracy", Selwyn H. H. Carrington told participants at the Valsayn Teachers College yesterday that "in fact, Trinidad has re-imposed its own brand of colonialism on Tobago."

He said it was clear that the "inequalities" which emerged between Trinidad and Tobago reflected the relationship of the developed, industrialised nations with "the so-called third world." This, he said, was rooted in an ever expanding capitalist system.

Carrington, a lecturer in History at the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine), said it was also clear to see that the policies and industrial structures which Britain employed in Trinidad and Tobago to maintain its own imperial interests, had now been reproduced in Trinidad's relationship with

the sister-island. He said this was in order for Trinidad to maintain the dependency of Tobago upon Trinidad.

"Instead of actively developing policies to encourage the growth and expansion of those areas which would stimulate Tobago's internal development," Carrington said, "a series of measures have made Tobago political subservient to and dependent on Trinidad."

Quoting from the speeches of the late Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams in 1956 on the a development focus in Tobago, Carrington said that to date there has been "no significant change" in the relationship between the two islands.

He said in fact that the Government's development strategy "widened the gulf further" by adopting a policy which meant that "little or no industrial units were located in Tobago." He said also that agriculture, which was the mainstay of the Tobago economy, was excluded from the government's development thrust.

Giving examples of the Government's strategy for industrial development which was built around the operations of international oil companies operating in Trinidad, Carrington said "Tobago had virtually nothing."

Two inconsequential factories came out of this phase of development, he

said, a brick factory and an aerated drink factory whose parent company was in Trinidad.

He said Williams in 1956 addressed what he then referred to as the "story of a steady decline" in Tobago, outlining the Government's intention to develop Tobago "virtually as a self-contained unit, independent in so far as day to day administration is concerned, independent of Trinidad, independent of the simplest matters of office routine to be referred by a junior officer in Tobago to a senior officer in Trinidad."

But, he said, the Government's subsequent industrialisation thrust only intensified the differences between the two islands.

SHIPMENT OF ROAD-SURFACING MATERIAL TO TOBAGO RESUMES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Apr 84 p 7

[Text]

NATIONAL Petroleum has resumed shipment of colass to Tobago by ocean-going tankers from its Point Fortin jetty.

Shipment of the road resurfacing material had been suspended since November 1982, causing severe hardships in the island's road building and repair programme.

Hardest hit was the Works Division of the Tobago House of Assembly which has jurisdiction over the majority of the roads in the island.

But Government's Development and Environmental Works Division (DEWD) also suffered from the shortage of colass which is a vital ingredient in all road works.

Shipments to Tobago stopped when the jetty at Point Fortin where tankers are loaded was damaged. It was rammed by a ship in November 1982.

Since then the Assembly had to send trucks to Trinidad by the inter-island boats, and load the drummed colass aboard them for the return trip to Tobago by boat.

DEWD had to resort to this means by getting its supply of colass and both organisations complained about the increase in transportation costs.

The Assembly protested strongly that NP did not bother to repair the jetty since it played no part in the company's Trinidad operations but was used solely to supply Tobago, but NP ignored the complaints.

Late last year however, Hochoy Charles, Secretary for Works at the Assembly, made a personal appeal to the Minister of State Enterprises, Ronald Williams, under whose portfolio falls NP and the

Minister ordered that the jetty be repaired.

"This is one Minister who has kept his promise to Tobago" said Charles yesterday. "He got NP to fix the jetty and we received our first shipment of colass by tanker on April 2nd, said Charles.

The shipment comprised of 1,100 barrels of 45 gallons each and shipments will continue as the need for supplies dictate.

"Now that shipments of colass have resumed, we will see an accelerated rate of road works in Tobago," said Charles.

However, there is still one serious drawback.

"We are still awaiting the release of funds for road development in Tobago for 1984," said Charles. "So now that we have the colass we have no money."

PRESIDENT ELLIS CLARKE TOUTED TO PROMOTE LINKS ABROAD

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 15 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

LOOKING around the world these days, one gets the feeling that these are times of steadily worsening and eroding relations.

East and West are confronting each other more steadfastly than ever before. The situations are dangerously worse in Central America, the Sino-Vietnamese border, Kampuchea, the Sikh Province, the Middle-East, South America and much of Africa. And now, divisive tensions have found their way into Caricom.

So much heat and rhetoric are generated that there is little room for logic. Prayerful appeals are all but overlooked. And many of the people and methods that could help crippled causes are deliberately stood down, since pride takes precedence over reason. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago's estrangement from the rest of its Caricom partners, we too are standing on pride and not a little oversight in discarding a most potent means of creating a rapprochement.

We refer to our highly respected President, Mr. Ellis Innocent Clarke.

POLITICAL CHASMS

To use the words of an old calypso, the politicians have "run their run." Particularly after the rescue intervention in Grenada, a deepening schism has set in. Whereas artificial trade barriers and other discriminatory practices had subtly sought to manoeuvre advantages for certain territories in particular, causing increasing burden and irritation in others, the row over Grenada was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Harsh words and even accusations ensued. Pique set in. Some would not even fly through the other's air space. Geographical distances have become almost unbridgeable political chasms. And what is more, the possibility of improved "weather" is distant. This column feels that the ability, the urbanity, the savoir-faire and the diplomacy of Ellis Clarke are precisely what should be called in to correct a situation that has gone not only far enough, but too far.

The President has no row with anyone. He would be refused by no one. He would be accepted, respected and highly regarded by everyone. Of his ability to communicate, there can be absolutely no doubt. The man is highly gifted in speech and in manner. He has everything going for him.

Look at the facts — he is a former Island Scholar with a brilliant law school record. This does not mean to say that academe is the be-all and end-all, and the answer to everything. Far from it. There are times where, especially in developing nations, it is a distinct handicap when flaunted rather than utilised intelligently. Not so with Mr. Clarke. He has used and employed his training, the knowledge acquired and above all the methodology of doing things, to the benefit of the country. He has served in many high and distinguished posts and, most importantly for the task of salving hurts in our external relations, he has had a long and distinguished record of diplomatic practice, being at one time our Ambassador to the United States.

But principally, Mr. Clarke has the gift of the gab. No one who has listened to any one of his speeches, fails to be impressed. When it comes to meeting people and to communicating effectively, he is among the world's best. He thinks. He plans, weighs and considers. Then what he has to say is carefully, correctly and intelligently delivered, each syllable a tribute to good elocution. The embellishment is an unflawed memory, and an experience and knowledge that make it interesting, enjoyable and educational to listen to our President speak.

Does it take any major stretch of imagination to think of the benefits that can accrue to the country through the use of this, our number one ambassador? Mr. Clarke also has a working knowledge of the nuances and niceties, the needs and practices of the "diplomatic encounter." He knows when to speak, to whom, what to say, who to greet first, placements in the social and political order, dress, practice, etc.

Think of these attributes in the context of a series of visits to key Caribbean leaders (dictator Burnham most decidedly excluded). In Barbados where there is political strain and even rancour, President Clarke would nonetheless be given all treatment due a Head of State with appropriate meetings, viewings, speeches and, above all, private discussions at which a great deal can be done to correct this unnecessary breach in regional co-operation.

BIG ELEMENT

Even the traditional aloofness and distance of Jamaica can be reduced and thawed through the charm and the persuasive goodwill of our President, because the one big element on his side is that he comes not as a political creature, but as an even-handed and impartial representative of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Traditional and entrenched political views are virtually banished from the visit of a Head of State such as the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago who would elicit the same cordiality and warmth as royalty. "Bonny" Prince Charlie, for instance, is so beloved that he can launch a transglobe expedition, or discourse on glass or trade in countries far from his home, always winning approval and

applause. Despite all the heightening tensions, Queen Elizabeth can visit Jordan and be received with acclaim and decorum.

Other nations do it too. Germany's President can win friends and influence people in Brazil, Jamaica and elsewhere. The Emperor of Japan is no longer the feared and arcane apotheosis who

once inspired awe in peasant and Kamikaze. His few trips abroad in recent years are global events and he has become a symbol of rising light from the Rising Sun.

This column feels that for too long has Trinidad and Tobago failed to utilise the impressive goodwill-building potential of our skilled and able President whose only overseas representation, at the wedding of Charles and Diana, was less focal and more retiring than one in which he would have been solitary guest of honour.

Mr. Clarke has been in office for almost a decade during which time he has expertly fulfilled his role as Head of State — visiting, comforting and being the representative of the people, to the people. It is high time this country utilises his talent for overseas missions.

Keeping him strictly at home, however well meaning, has more than a touch of isolationism and xenophobia in it. Because if one takes a review of our external relations, in recent years in particular, there is clear evidence that we are retreating from the world scene into one of tiny and almost pitiful isolation. We have very little to do with our neighbours. Eric Williams went to Venezuela in the late 50s, and after that, almost no attention was paid to South or Central America except when a visiting President from Mexico came to Trinidad shortly after Mrs. Gandhi's visit.

Few as they were, those were

bounteous days in terms of external relations. At least we are communicating. We invited the occasional leader or Head of State. However much he may have attended to his fingernails in the famed encounter with Gerald Ford, the fact is that Eric Williams did visit the United States and the U.S. President.

QUIET OBLIVION

This has gone out of the window. When Reagan comes within earshot, our Prime Minister scurries off to a far point of Tobago. When things become trying or adverse on the Caribbean scene, he simply backs away and goes visiting San Fernando. His one recent excursion was a fruitless joyride, replete with supersonic aircraft, when he created as much of an impact as a shadow passing over the Taj Mahal.

Particularly in a world of high technology and instant transportation, people who need people and act accordingly, reap the rewards. If mainland China with its more than one billion people is now finding it essential to start wooing the rest of the world, how much more tiny Trinidad and Tobago whose one million people are equivalent to a large village of a small town in any part of the world. Our absence would neither be felt nor commented upon if we proceeded to go our own way down to quiet oblivion. The only people who will suffer are the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

If we do not speak to the rest of the world, promote no trade, invite no one, virtually seek no investment, communicate sparsely, are suspicious of all, and are non-aligned to the point of bland neutrality, then all we have succeeded in doing is deliberately becoming an insignificant "black speck" referred to by Prime Minister Chambers... an insignificant black South Africa.

CENTRAL BANK MOVES TO BOLSTER CONFIDENCE, CASH FLOW

News Conference Statement

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

DEPUTY GOVERNOR of the Central Bank, Dr Euric Bobb, yesterday announced measures which the Bank is taking to assure the public of the "fundamental soundness" of the country's financial institutions.

Full statement issued by the Bank at the start of a news conference at the Board Room of the Bank yesterday reads:

"There has been growing speculation in recent weeks about the viability of certain non-bank financial institutions. This has created an unsettled situation which, if allowed to persist, may lead to a general undermining of confidence in the economy as a whole with its attendant adverse consequences.

"As a result of the downturn in the economy, deposits with financial institutions which had grown strongly since 1974 have increased very slowly since last year. For example, whereas the value of deposits with all financial institutions grew at an average annual rate of 26.7 per cent or \$1,417 million between 1980 and 1982, the growth of deposits fell sharply in 1983 to 9.7 per cent or \$815 million.

"This trend has continued into 1984, with deposits having increased by only \$202 million or an annualised rate of 8.4 per cent by March 31. Such a sharp fall in the inflow of new deposits would ordinarily require tighter cash flow management.

"The need for tighter management has become even more urgent owing to the adverse effects of speculation about the viability of a

few institutions. In certain circumstances it is neither possible nor prudent to realise the value of assets immediately so as to meet cash commitments. In such cases, a financial institution needs temporary access to cash while adjusting to current economic realities by restructuring its assets in an orderly fashion.

"Central Banks have traditionally shouldered a fundamental responsibility for ensuring that the public has confidence in deposit-taking financial institutions and in the soundness of the financial system, a system which plays a vital role in the overall performance of an economy.

"In view of recent developments, the Central Bank wishes to inform the public of the measures which have been taken to ensure that financial institutions are sufficiently liquid. For example, the Central Bank has permitted financial institutions to draw on their reserve accounts at the Bank and it has provided advances against securities in their existing portfolios which are eligible within the terms of the Central Bank Act.

"In addition, the Bank has now arranged a special facility for the

commercial banks to provide further cash resources as and when necessary for periods of up to six (6) months. Users of this facility must satisfy certain stringent minimum conditions. During this period procedures will be adopted to ensure very close scrutiny of the use of these funds and to establish vigorous collection of repayments due on outstanding loans.

"The Central Bank, in its traditional role of lender of last resort to the financial system, will purchase, discount or re-discount securities held by the commercial banks, as and when necessary.

"The Central Bank will vigorously pursue the following lines of action, concurrent with the operation of the financial support facility:

"(i) examine and act on proposals already in hand for the injection of new equity in some companies by interested investors;

"(ii) arrange, where applicable for the restructuring of portfolios along lines consistent with the country's changed economic circumstances; and

"(iii) introduce an appropriate deposit insurance scheme.

"The Central Bank is confident that the measures which it has already taken and those which it will pursue in the near future will serve to assure the public of the fundamental soundness of the country's financial institutions."

Provision of Funds

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] Hurry...hurry...hurry...come for money. This call was sounded loud and clear to local financial institutions experiencing cash flow problems in the prevailing tight liquidity situation.

It was made yesterday by Deputy Central Bank Governor Dr Euric Bobb during a Press conference to deal with "growing speculation in recent weeks about the viability of certain non-bank financial institutions."

The Central Bank has arranged a special safety-net facility with commercial banks to provide needed funds for periods of up to six months.

This follows the recent \$800,000 loan by the Central Bank to the South Western Atlantic Trust Company (SWAIT). This bail-out will enable SWAIT to meet current demands by investors on matured deposits.

Dr Bobb pleaded banker-client confidentiality in not commenting on the SWAIT deal and negotiations for similar assistance by other short-of-cash finance companies.

Dr Bobb explained that one of the effects of the downturn in the economy had been the substantial fall in the rate of deposits in all financial institutions.

He said that as a result some financial institutions have already "and may well in the future encounter some manner of cash flow problem."

The Deputy Governor said: "In the event this happens the Central Bank holds itself ready to allow such institutions to use their reserve accounts (held with the bank) or to make advances."

He added that the Central Bank had further taken the unusual step in reaching an agreement in principle to "provide a potential line of credit as a contingency in the event that the resources which can be raised directly from the Central Bank were insufficient to meet the needs of individual institutions."

He said that the safety net arrangement is "for the commercial banks to provide a pool of resources which could be used to ensure that all financial institutions can meet their day-to-day requirements."

Potential borrowers will have to meet certain minimum conditions in order to have access to the facility.

He said he already held discussions with "several such institutions" and they had agreed in principle to some of the requirements to draw on the short term facility.

SWAIT was the first non-bank institution to ever receive a loan from the Central Bank. Security put up by SWAIT was its loan portfolio due to mature within six months. This was in keeping with the provisions of the Central Bank Act.

Dr Bobb said yesterday: "Any of the financial institutions in this country which on doing its own cash flow projections finds that it may require liquidity support is quite free to come to the Central Bank and request us to provide an advance. We will require the institution to deliver to us the securities against which it would like to get the advance. We will examine those securities to ensure that they conform with the law."

He said: "If they do and, provided the liquidity of the overall financial system is such that we do not feel it would be easy to raise the funds by borrowing from another financial institution...we will advance to that institution a proportion of the value of securities lodged with us.

He added: "The extent to which an institution can get accommodation will depend on the nature of the securities it has in its portfolio:

--Whether those securities conform with the requirements of the Central Bank Act.

--The proportion of the value of the securities which the Bank is prepared to advance the institution.

Cash flow problems among finance companies started with the collapse of International Trust Limited (ITL) with \$160 million in deposits due to investors.

Southern Finance Company was next on the list and its operations have been suspended for 30 days by the Central Bank.

CSO: 3298/763

OPPOSITION FIGURE HAILS CARICOM, URGES TRADE REFORMS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 15 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago should vigorously pursue the development of a Caribbean policy which is compatible with the goals and objectives of Caricom (the Caribbean Community and Common Market), a conference on constitutional and political reform was told yesterday.

Opposition Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo told a conference on constitutional and political reform, now in its final day at the Valsayn Teachers College, that as part of a new foreign policy thrust, "we must direct our trade and commerce to more favourable and competitive environments."

In that context, he said, "this calls for a re-affirmation, here at our doorsteps, of the ideals of Caricom. We must pursue vigorously the development of a Caribbean policy compatible with the goals and objectives of Caricom and demonstrate a level of leadership hitherto absent," he said.

The conference, which is entitled "Forging a New Democracy," was organised and sponsored jointly by the National Alliance and the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of the West Indies. Sahadeo's paper, entitled "Institutional Reform in Policy Making: A New Thrust for Trinidad and Tobago," was presented yesterday.

He said the concept of Caricom was still sound, "whatever the present climate, whatever may be our reservations in these difficult times."

In setting out the basis for the imperatives of a new policy direction in the country's foreign relations, Basdeo, a lecturer in history at the University of the West Indies, said there was also need for a hard look at the terms of trade between Trinidad and Tobago and developed countries, especially Canada, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

He said this country's trade imbalance with Japan was "phenomenal" at present, "with a \$20 million export figure at present, as against \$427 million in imports. If we have nothing to export to Japan," he suggested, "we must seek out new arrangements whereby the Japanese would be required to contribute in other ways to our social and economic development."

Suggesting that a revised system of external trade should form part of the basis of a new foreign policy initiative, Basdeo implicitly concurred with several of the major points addressed by Prime Minister George Chambers in the 1984 Budget Speech and several of the Government's other recent policy initiatives.

He said given the country's dwindling revenues, the "parlous" state of the economy, the high level of expenditure, the unfavourable balance of trade and the excessive dependence on the developed world, "our foreign policy must serve to inspire and generate growth.

"It must also complement our domestic drive at recovery and not act as a suppressant to economic activity. It must assist in the conservation of our foreign exchange reserves, the promoting of an export thrust, encourage agricultural production and generate employment," he added.

CSO: 3298/763

BRIEFS

ARMS, DRUG SMUGGLING--There is an upsurge in smuggling, more importantly of arms, ammunition and drugs, National Security Minister John Donaldson said at Thursday's Coast Guard passing out parade. "At this point in time, unfortunately, there is an upsurge in smuggling of all different types, but more importantly arms, ammunition and drugs," the minister said. He made this statement while addressing the 18 recruits of the Coast Guard's 28th intake during their graduation at Staubles Bay, Chaguarmas, which brought the strength of the service to 586 men, 10 short of the complement. Noting the extension of the economic zone from 12 to 200 miles, the minister told the Coastguardsmen that they had a responsibility to protect the waters from pollution and from all illegal activity. He said the country would have to look more to the sea as a source of national wealth. Donaldson referred to Jamaica, which he said had become involved in nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, noting that it might not be long before this source of energy would have to be developed locally as an alternative to natural gas. He added that the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard had to keep apace of the rapid strides being made in military technology. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 84 p 7]

FERTILIZER OUTPUT--The fertiliser industry ended 1983 with increased production and the commissioning of a new plant. According to the Quarterly Economic Bulletin published by the Central Bank, that sector recorded a seven percent increase in the fourth quarter over that of the previous quarter. The bulletin stated that "the increase in the fourth quarter resulted from the positive response of a major producer to improved international prices. "As a result of tight supplies and good forecast for demand in the spring, ammonia prices rose significantly in the fourth quarter to around \$170 (US)--\$185 (US) per metric tonne compared with an average of \$125--\$135 (US) per metric tonne for most of the year," added the bulletin. Fertiliser production in 1983 totalled 1,274.3 thousand tonnes compared with 939.7 thousand tonnes in 1982, an increase of 36 percent. Exports grew by some 46 percent from 850.8 thousand tonnes in 1982 to 1,293.7 thousand tonnes in 1983. In the fourth quarter alone production amounted to 312.9 thousand tonnes registering a seven percent increase over the third quarter which was affected by seasonal factors and the permanent closure of two plants. The new urea plant at Point Lisas Industrial Estate with a capacity of 1,620 tonnes per day will utilise about 50 percent of Fertrin's ammonia output as feedstock in the production of urea. The plant was expected to be fully operational by the end of January this year. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Apr 84 p 4]