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JPRS-LAM-84-043

5 April 1984

Latin America Report

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NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PLANNED BETWEEN ARGENTINA, CHILE

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 5

/Text/ A letter of intent for the construction of a gas pipeline between Mendoza and Santiago was signed yesterday by Roberto Gazzani, president of State Gas of Argentina, and Pablo Perez Zanartu, president of the Gas Consumers Company (GASCO) of Santiago, at the offices of the latter firm.

The ceremony took place at 1800 hours and was attended by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Interior Undersecretary Luis Simon Figueroa, Mining Undersecretary Cmdr Alvaro Larenas, and Economy Undersecretary Lt Col Jorge Valenzuela.

Purchase of Fuel

Through the letter of intent, GASCO agrees to implement a project to purchase Argentine natural gas, and to cooperate in the construction of a fuel transmission pipeline jointly with the trans-Andean country. The total cost of the project is estimated at $100 million, of which Chile would contribute some $35 million for the section traversing the national territory.

For years, GASCO has studied the possibility of using natural gas, rather than petroleum byproducts--naphtha and liquefied petroleum gas--as at present, to feed its plants and supply some industrial sectors as well.

From the economic point of view, GASCO executives point out that the most feasible solution is to purchase the gas from Argentina, a country with large reserves and production in the area of Neuquen that is distributed through a gas pipeline known as the West Central, whose course leading to the area of Mendoza runs some 300 kilometers from the Chile-Argentina border.

The gas pipeline between the two countries would have an approximate diameter of 18 inches and would be connected to the West Central pipeline, which is 30 inches in diameter. The pipeline will run from the Argentine city of San Rafael, cross the mountain range across the Maipo River gully, and reach Santiago from the southeast. It will stretch for 300 kilometers in the Argentine section, and for some 140 kilometers in the Chilean.

Price Agreements

GASCO held several meetings with the authorities and with representatives of State Gas of Argentina in 1983, finding considerable receptivity for the undertaking of the project and the sale of the natural gas. The negotiation of the fuel volumes and prices is scheduled for the first half of 1984. Only a favorable agreement on the price of the gas can further this project.

Natural gas can be marketed by delivering it to the consumer through pipelines, or by liquefying it at -163 degrees Celsius in a process that requires heavy investments.

If an agreement is reached with State Gas, the natural fuel purchased in Argentina could reach Santiago in late 1985 or early 1986, barring any difficulties. In any case, GASCO will maintain its facilities to handle naphtha, and will keep a prudent stock of this fuel for emergency cases.

Jarpa's Opinion

Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa characterized the document signed by the top executives of the gas companies of Chile and Argentina as the first of a series of projects that "I hope will be very important and really far-reaching in the common development of both countries."

He pointed out that there exist in both countries and governments the political will to make a reality of these projects, and the deepest conviction of the need and the usefulness to proceed together to the attainment of the future.

He noted that there are studies concerning plans for roads, electric power link-ups, other gas pipeline possibilities, bilateral trade, traffic, port utilization and a great many other things in which "cooperation is possible and convenient."

8414
CSO: 3348/295

ST LUCIA PLP ORGAN CITES AREA OPPOSITION TO U.S. FORCES

UPM Stand in St Vincent

Castries CRUSADER in English 25 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] The United Peoples Movement (UPM), one of the two largest opposition parties on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has called on the Cato government to withdraw from participation in Washington's military plans for the Caribbean.

In a statement, the UPM said that participation of the Vincentian government and security forces in a Washington's-backed move to set up a joint subregional alliance in the Eastern Caribbean "exposes our small state and people to the threat of war and nuclear extermination". Accusing Washington of prompting the administration of Prime Minister, Milton Cato, "to set up an army without parliamentary or constitutional approval", the UPM statement said that the recent delivery of arms from Washington to the local security forces and the intensive training courses being carried out on the island by US military specialists since the Grenada invasion was "the most significant development in the militarization of St. Vincent and the Grenadines".

The UPM, which is among the island's five opposition parties gearing up for general elections expected this year, accused Washington of working "to exert significant influence over the military and security apparatuses" of the East Caribbean states which participated in the US-led invasion of Grenada last October. This, the statement added, would be achieved through Washington's arming and training of the region's security forces, "and through their regular contact with and between the officers in charge."

The UPM statement described the $15 million (US) arms package delivered by Washington to Barbados and seven other regional states (including Grenada) last December as "the beginning of Washington's second military initiative in the region", and "an indication that the Reagan administration favours a military--rather than an economic--solution to the region's problems".

It said that Washington's current militarization of the Caribbean "is the gravest threat to the security of the region, and may rationally be perceived by Cuba, Nicaragua, Suriname and Guyana as threats to their own

security". The UPM, which has consistently opposed the US invasion and presence of foreign occupation troops on Grenada, called on the Cato Administration to refrain from participating in the proposed $100 million (US) joint sub-regional army, and for an end to the specialised military and counter-insurgency courses being conducted amongst the island's security forces by US military advisors.

DLM Protest in Dominica

Castries CRUSADER in English 25 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] The Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM) has called for islandwide protest against the setting up of a military training camp on this small Caribbean island. According to the DLM, the camp, which has been set up at the base of Morne Trois Pitons in the mountainous Pon Casse area, is inappropriately located, and constitutes a threat to the forest conservation in that part of the island. In its recent statement, the DLM indicated that the military camp--at which American military specialists are training local soldiers and policemen for participation in a proposed sub-regional defense alliance--is located in the island's national park, around a water source that leads to the Emeral Pool, a main tourist attraction. Large sections of the forest have already been cleared to accommodate the military camp, said the DLM statement.

"Our party believes that the location of this military installation is most inappropriate, and we call on all political and civic organisations on the island to protest against it", said the DLM statement. It also called on the island's Forestry and Natural Parks division to take steps to save the destruction of the forest reserves in the area. Commenting on the setting up of the military installation and the new laws on state security to be passed by the administration of Prime Minister, Eugenia Charles, the DLM statement concluded: "The security of our country cannot be protected and guaranteed by well-equippped armies and dread laws, but by a sound socio-economic program which brings jobs, food, clothing and shelter to the people, and possibilities for their health, educational and cultural pursuits".

CSO: 3298/587

ENVOY ANNOUNCES DOUBLING OF CANADIAN AID TO CARIBBEAN

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 2 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Commonwealth Caribbean has been given a 100 per cent increase in financial assistance by Canada for the period 1984-85 over 1981-82, Canada's High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Noble E. C. Power has stated.

The High Commissioner yesterday announced several new initiatives of particular importance for the Eastern Caribbean in terms of Canada's development assistance programme in the region.

These intiatives were discussed at a recent meeting of the Caribbean group for Co-operation in Economic Development.

"The initiatives include a pledge for increased disbursement targets in the Commonwealth Caribbean in 1984-85 of C$88 million, which would mean a 100 per cent increase over 1981-82. Of this, C$20-30 million would be spent in the Eastern Caribbean.

"In addition, Canada announced its commitment to the regional airports programmes involving expenditures of up to C$75 million over the next five years, and support to the Regional Energy Action Programme of up to C$3 million," Mr. Power said.

In the Eastern Caribbean, Canada will be providing support to the sub-regional integration process through increased co-operation with the OECS Secretariat, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) intends to establish a new field office in the Eastern Caribbean for planning and implementation of Canadian aid projects of up to C$500 000.

The Canadian High Commissioner said that with regard to Canadian assistance to Grenada, Canada announced significant new measures totalling over C$20 million above its current C$13 million aid programme.

These include up to C$7 million in work to help complete the Point Salines Airport, C$2.5 million in counterpart funds in response to an urgently expressed need of Grenada, and C$10 million in other capital and technical assistance.

CSO: 3298/587

FLOW OF GUATEMALANS INTO MEXICO SAID TO BE RISING

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Jan 84 p 5

[Article by correspondent Manuel Meneses]

[Text] Tapachula, Chis., 23 Jan--The new military regime of Guatemala has increased the repression against its people and has gone back to using now-outdated repressive methods, in light of which situation the number of Guatemalans reaching the state of Chiapas in search of refuge has increased. Meanwhile, the Mexican immigration authorities are continuing their deportations of Guatemalans, according to today's denunciation by the Diocesan Committee for Assistance to Tapachula Border Immigrants.

This organization, together with the diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas, has received reports to the effect that in these two regions of Chiapas the number of Guatemalan refugees has increased to about 100,000,but government and international assistance reaches only those located in the camps covered by such aid, namely, some 45,000 refugees.

"The situation has worsened in Guatemala with the advent of Gen Oscar Mejia Victores. In his repression he returned to the methods used by Garcia Lucas. For example, the repression has increased in San Marcos and consequently so has the flow of refugees" to the Tapachula region, in addition to which many of the refugees now seize the opportunity to work as laborers since today they curiously manage to cross the border with all their possessions and their families, "a fact that could give rise to a witch hunt here because they are already listed," the said committee explained.

It also mentioned the existence of differences that it has had with the immigration authorities. It noted that "the practice of Christian charity is our sole motivation. Yet it seems that there is a pathological fear of Guatemalans and that even Mexicans are involved in abusive measures."

In this respect, the committee noted that the district's immigration agent, Francisco Javier Salazar Salazar, has threatened to impose severe fines on those Mexicans who offer work or shelter to Guatemalans, and he even unleashed a "witch hunt--house to house, business by business." Subsequently, he explained that the goal was to clear the area of foreigners.

The Tapachula committee gives assistance to a total that fluctuates between 17,000 and 20,000 refugees. On its part, the San Cristobal de las Casas committed (representing the diocese where the refugee camps are located) has 45,500 of these refugees of record scattered among some 80 communities.

The former explained that this increased flux underlay the initiation in all the parishes of an interim program which consists in assisting Guatemalans with clothing, food, and health care, since housing does not present such a major problem because the peasants in the state of Chiapas make their homes available to the refugees. After that stage, the refugees are directed to a work project to try to make them self-sufficient following their training in such activities as handicrafts, carpentry, poultry farming, and others. "Here no one assists us: Neither the Mexican Committee of Aid to Refugees nor the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] nor other organizations. This is so because we do not have refugee camps." However, this diocese has received material assistance from those of Cuernavaca, Tehuantepec, and Oaxaca, among others, as well as from the Canadian episcopate and from the Holy Child [Santa Infancia] organization in the United States.

Thus, every church of the diocese and its parish priest are responsible for offering help to the refugees who reach their respective districts. The refugees are received fairly well in the rural environment by Mexican peasants while in the semiurban and urban area the people "are constantly more sensitized to this problem."

2662
CSO: 3248/458

BOLIVIA-BRAZIL GAS SALE ACCORD DRAWS STRONG OPPOSITION

Bolivian Officials Confirm Intention

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 8 Feb (AFP)--Today, the Bolivian foreign minister, Jose Ortiz Mercado, stated that Bolivia is maintaining "its political intention of selling 400 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to Brazil for a period of 20 years, through a gas pipeline 1,800 kilometers long that will connect Santa Cruz and Sao Paulo."

The statement was made during the second of 3 days of talks in this city between the Brazilian president, Joao Baptista Figueiredo, and his Bolivian counterpart, Hernan Siles Zuazo, which will conclude with the signing of a joint declaration.

Ortiz Mercado explained that the accords signed between the former heads of state, Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia, and Ernesto Geisel of Brazil, are still in full force, but nevertheless they must be geared to the present economic situation.

In May 1974, Banzer and Geisel agreed on the sale of 240 million cubic feet of natural gas to Brazil in exchange for financing to create a Bolivian enclave development on the border, which would include a mini-steelworks, a petrochemical plant and a cement factory.

Last night, Siles Zuazo disclosed that Brazil would cooperate in the construction of hydroelectric plants in order to compensate for the flow of natural gas to the industrial centers of Sao Paulo.

The leading Bolivian diplomat remarked that the decision of former President Juan Pereda Asbun, in March 1978, to increase the natural gas sales to Brazil from 240 to 400 million cubic feet per day, will also be upheld by the present democratic regime.

However, he stressed that the issue of the gas is being discussed in the overall context of the topics to be dealt with, which include agriculture, iron and steel, energy, trade and transportation.

The minister of mining and metallurgy, Carlos Carvajal Nava, for his part, revealed to AFP that Brazil would grant Bolivia a loan of $160 million to set up an iron and steel plant.

Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 8 Feb (AFP)--Despite the fact that the topic of the sale of Bolivian natural gas to Brazil is not included on the agenda for the deliberations, it has become the crux of the negotiations being held for the second consecutive day by Presidents Hernan Siles Zuazo and Joao Figueiredo, today.

In a speech delivered last night, Siles Zuazo expressed the view that Bolivian natural gas could become"an extraordinary tool for integration and progress between our nations," which would make it possible to "establish a close, stable, dynamic economic bond."

To assuage those opposed to this sale, Siles noted that he would explore with President Figueiredo the possibility of building several hydroelectric powerplants, which would guarantee the appropriate supply of renewable energy and offset the flow of gas to Brazil.

In order to have larger volumes available for export, which would commit 3 of the 4.5 billion cubic feet of Bolivian gas reserves, Brazil will cooperate with Bolivia on the construction of a mini-steelworks using charcoal, capable of producing 100,000 tons of steel plate, at an approximate cost of $65 million.

The Mutun iron deposits located on the border with Brazil and Paraguay have 40 billion tons of reserves which are as yet undeveloped.

Sources associated with the Bolivian delegation remarked to AFP that this is a good time to build the Santa Cruz-San Pablo gas pipeline, 1,800 kilometers long, the cost of which would amount to $2 billion, owing to the low current prices of steel on the world market.

Moreover, Bolivia is seeking a total loan of $100 million with which it intends to purchase buses for the National Transportation Enterprise (ENTA), and cars for its National Railroads Enterprise, as well as to build new railroad branches on the Brazilian border.

The possibilities of jointly developing deposits of gold, tin and precious and semi-precious stones are being actively discussed by the Mining Commission.

Siles Zuazo's announcement of the sale of 400 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to Brazil over the next 20 years comes at a time when, at the government's decision, regional and national forums are taking place for the purpose of discussing the feasibility or unfeasibility of that transaction.

In principle, the World Bank, which is willing to finance the binational gas pipeline, is interested in the transaction which, according to its technicians, is the only means of achieving the payment of the foreign debt contracted with Bolivia. This view is shared by the Confederation of Private Businessmen, bankers and importers.

Strangely enough, the three forces which comprise the government, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI) of Siles Zuazo, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), came out against the sale of gas to Brazil at a recent forum held in Sucre, Bolivia's historical capital.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, which backed this sale in Sucre, changed its position at the Santa Cruz forum held last week, at which it was represented by its deputy, Guillermo Capobianco.

The sale was also rejected by the influential Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), the Single Confederation of Workers and Peasants of Bolivia (CSUTCB) and the National Security Council (CONASE) of the Armed Forces.

Consequently, there is every indication that the issue of the gas sale will again antagonize the labor and business sectors of the country, one of whose groups will be joined by the political parties and the congressional factions.

Political Parties Protest

La Paz HOY in Spanish 16 Feb 84 p 16

[Text] "Brazil wants to deplete Bolivia's gas resources first, and then exhaust its own," claimed the PS-1 [Socialist Party-One] deputy, Jaime Taborga Torrico, at the questioning session which began yesterday involving the ministers of planning and coordination, and energy and hydrocarbons.

The three representatives of the Executive Branch will have to respond to the questions asked first by the Socialist Party-One, and second by Nationalist Democratic Action; in addition to the queries from the Congressional Factions of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]-Historical, the Communist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, MNR-Left and the Revolutionary Front of the Left, which associated themselves with this questioning function.

The first speaker was, precisely, Deputy Jaime Taborga, who stated that, from the publications consulted in Brazil, noting that large gas deposits had been discovered, it was inferred that the policy of that country is to deplete Bolivian's resources so as later to exhaust its own.

Then he remarked that our country's reserves preclude its fulfilling the commitment signed for 20 years between Presidents Hernan Siles Zuazo and Joao Baptista Figueiredo, which stipulates the sale of 400 million cubic feet of gas per day.

While describing the Siles Zuazo government as "selling out," he noted that the sale of that non-renewable resource affects not only the regional area, but also all of Bolivia's economic sectors.

That deputy commented: "This is the only energy resource left to us for development," while citing the need to set a liberating national energy policy.

In conclusion, Taborga Torrico expressed his repudiation of the signing of that accord between the presidents of Bolivia and Brazil, commenting: "There are some who, taking advantage of the democratic process which does not belong to them, are attempting to sell the resources, binding the people to a future of poverty."

Deputy Jose Maria Palacios, also from Socialist Party-One, for his part, stated that the Santa Cruz "accord" involves an anti-national policy insofar as energy resources are concerned.

In part of his address, he said: "The Siles-Figueiredo embrace has the same sound as the Banzer-Geisel embrace"; and then added: "With the Bolivian gas, they want to pay for the broken plates of the dictatorships."

He subsequently observed that Siles Zuazo's "misfortune" is that he became dissociated from UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] and his own party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left.

Jose Maria Palacios hinted the possibility that this questioning session might end with a censure of the ministers of foreign affairs, planning and coordination and energy and hydrocarbons.

Natural Gas Forum Conclusions

La Paz HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] Tarija, 19 Feb (HOY)--About 2300 hours yesterday, the debate forum on "policies and prospects for natural gas" sponsored by the Regional Development Corporation and the Tarija congressional brigade, which took place since last Friday, an event in which the leading institutions of the department, political parties, trade union organizations and special guests participated, came to a close.

During the 3 days that the forum lasted, remarks were delivered by the various participants which were subsequently analyzed extensively by all the attendees, evoking lengthy debate, the conclusions of which were summarized in 15 points for the analysis of the regional problems and in six points regarding the national interest.

Nevertheless, after a debate which lasted about 4 hours, it was established that it would be irresponsible to conclude an accord for the immediate sale of Bolivian gas to Brazil, considering several points worthy of being taken into account, among which were cited the need to make serious studies on the country's potential for gas reserves. It was also established that there is no plan in existence for the use and development of that product; which would make it rash to attempt to carry forward negotiations for the sale with Brazil.

Although most of the participants were inclined not to continue negotiations with that country, there was also a movement of opinion to continue negotiating, so that, with some amount of approval from Congress, steps would be taken to sell gas. However, this position was upheld by but few participants.

Finally, on the national level, it was decided to request the immediate revision of the operating contracts of the foreign companies that are maintaining activities on Bolivian territory, while at the same time calling for the revision of the Hydrocarbons Law.

All the points approved in the conclusions phase were turned over to a commission formed at the function which, within a reasonable period of time, will have to draft and lend definitive shape to a document that will be published on the national scale, and that will necessarily be taken into consideration for the future holding of the forum on the national level.

PCB, PS Spokesmen Comment

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] The Bolivian Communist Party [PCB-Muscovite] claims that it was not consulted about the gas sale to Brazil, and that the Santa Cruz accords were "negotiated in the dark."

During the questioning of the ministers of foreign affairs, energy and planning, which continued yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Ramiro Barrenechea maintained that PCB "does not even accept the possibility of discussing the sale of gas," inasmuch as the country's reserves are not sufficient to undertake the country's development yet and to ensure its future.

He claimed that the UDP policy statement calls for the defense of natural resources and "points out the perpetrators of the depredation that has been carried out to date."

Barrenechea spoke for 40 minutes. He was interrupted when the time specified in the regulations for debate had elapsed. He said that the act signed by the presidents of both countries "is not a mere declaration of intentions," but rather proves the desire to sell the gas and provides for the preliminary work by agencies of both countries to build the gas pipeline. "There would be no mention of preliminary activities if there were no intention of selling the gas."

Reiterating the "impossibility of selling the gas," he also cited the data on reserves published by the World Bank, which had already been explained by PS-1 deputies. He said that the reserves of 4.7 bcf (billions of cubic feet) will not even be enough for the country's industrial development and, on the contrary, it would be faced with a deficit of 1.9 bcf; inasmuch as a total of 5.5 bcf of gas would be committed if the sale to Brazil took place. "In other words, it should start with only 4 bcf, and the following amounts should be subtracted from that amount: 0.7 bcf, sale to Argentina; 1.9 bcf, domestic consumption; and 2.9 bcf, sale to Brazil, from which the aforementioned deficit would result."

He also claimed that the ministers who participated in the Santa Cruz negotiations made use of "specious arguments": "The country does not have an energy

policy that would serve as grounds to prove convincingly the domestic requirements and the capacity for sales."

He remarked, in addition, that the questioning was "fully justified," precisely because of the contents of the declaration that was signed.

Finally, he cited the danger that the country will soon be faced with a shortage of liquid fuels and the need to execute projects such as the one for the conversion of gas into gasoline and other by-products.

Operating Contracts

Barrenechea harshly criticized the current policy regarding the effectiveness of the operating contracts arranged during the Banzer government through the Hydrocarbons Law. He said: "In addition to rejecting the policy for the sale of the gas, there should be established a policy of national liberation, and of reversion of the concessions to the contractors." He claimed that the fact that the "multinationals" are being kept in the country indicates the presence of "a plan different from that of UDP" in the government.

Socialist Party

Yesterday's questioning session was opened by Deputy Walter Vasquez, of PS-1, at 1750 hours. He said that the country's history has been typified by the presence of two opposing positions: that of depredation of the resources and that of their defense. He cited several indexes (on malnutrition, unemployment, growth, training of labor, death rate, diseases, etc.) which rank Bolivia at the most critical levels in comparison with the other countries.

Next to speak was Ramiro Velasco, also from that party. He stressed that Bolivia is not a gas-producing country, much less being able to set itself up as an exporter of that resource.

He noted that the gas sales are carried out only on the regional markets.

Velasco protested over the absence of reporters from the state television channel. He requested that, in the future, the Chamber avoid having television carry the speeches of the ministers.

A few minutes later, a team from that channel showed up.

He said that Brazil's influence in Bolivia is also based on "imperialist interests," remarking that Brazil is forced to purchase Bolivian or Argentine gas, and that it has opted for ours because its future is uncertain with regard to that resource. He also cited data from the World Bank to explain Brazil's gas requirements and the potential of the Latin American countries.

He claimed that during the 20 years of exporting gas to Brazil, only 18 percent of the current foreign debt could be paid, from which one infers, he said, that "the cure will be worse than the disease."

COB Opposes Sale

La Paz DIARIO in Spanish 9 Feb 84 p 5

[Excerpts] According to Juan Lechin, the Bolivian Labor Federation does not approve of the sale of Bolivian natural gas, a resource that should be preserved and used for the country's industrial development.

This view was expressed in a direct reference to rumors originating in Santa Cruz to the effect that the presidents of Bolivia and Brazil, Hernan Siles Zuazo and Joao Baptista Figueiredo, discussed this issue during the meeting that they held.

Since 1974, Brazil has expressed its interest in obtaining Bolivian natural gas to meet its energy needs. For this purpose, the presidents of both countries at the time signed an act of understanding and mutual cooperation.

Brazil, for its part, was to cooperate in the establishment of an enclave development in southeastern Bolivia, equipped with an iron and steel plant and a cement factory, among other industries.

Both countries were also required to finance the construction of a gas pipeline between Santa Cruz and Sao Paulo, to carry that energy resource in a daily volume of 100 million cubic feet.

During all this recent period, the Bolivian government authorities and those of the state oil company, YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits], repeated declared that the accomplishment of that transaction for the sale of gas would depend basically on the volume of the reserves that the country had available. For this purpose, two specialized international companies are working on the quantification and certification of those reserves.

As a preliminary item of information based on studies made by its technicians, YPFB noted that Bolivia's gas reserves amount to about 4.7 billion cubic feet.

Communique Denies Accord

La Paz HOY in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] Yesterday, the minister of energy and hydrocarbons, Carlos Miranda Pacheco, claimed that Bolivia has not signed any agreement on the sale of natural gas.

He remarked that the joint declaration between the two countries,based on what was stipulated at Santa Cruz, relates to the discussions that will continue for the purpose of seeking concrete understandings in this regard.

The official communique issued by the ministry of the branch of industry states:

1. In connection with the meeting held recently in the city of Santa Cruz between the presidents of the Republics of Bolivia and Brazil, the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons is fulfilling its obligation by explaining that, on that occasion, no agreement or contract of any kind related to the purchase and sale of Bolivian natural gas was signed.

2. During the aforementioned meeting, only the political intention of both countries to continue negotiations concerning a possible contract for purchase and sale was confirmed, on the following bases:

Small amounts of natural gas.

Brazilian market for fertilizers, iron and steel, cement and other petrochemicals coming from Bolivia.

Hydroelectric Development Program, at prices and on terms that are competitive internationally, as an energy substitute of a non-renewable resource by another of a renewable type.

Certification of natural gas reserves.

Agreement on prices, a point which has not yet been discussed.

3. Finally, it should be stressed that any contract or arrangement that might be reached on the government level must necessarily be submitted to the Honorable Congress for its consideration.

Adviser Claims No Commitment

La Paz HOY in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] "The joint declaration signed last week with the president of Brazil, Joao Baptista Figueiredo, does not make a commitment for the sale of gas. Its intent is primarily to evaluate the country's gas-producing potential." This statement was made by the general adviser to the presidency, Felix Rospigliossi, at the conclusion of his meeting with the republic's chief executive.

He added: "UDP's position regarding the sale of gas to Brazil has not changed. Our position in this respect is that any sale of gas to Brazil is subject to the proving of the reserves."

He later declared: "We must guarantee meeting the requirements of our domestic consumption, both for household use and for the needs of industrial development, before deciding on the exporting."

Rospigliossi claimed that it is not yet possible to become committed to the sale of that non-renewable reserve; because the quantification of the national reserves thereof has brought varying results, and there is a lack of reliable data on the matter. In conclusion, the presidential adviser remarked: "Quite often, without accurate knowledge of the spirit and letter of the recent joint

declaration of the honorable presidents of Bolivia and Brazil, signed in the city of Santa Cruz last week, speculation has been made, the political content of which leads only to conjecture and mere guessing."

Moreover, President Siles also met with the minister of labor and labor development, Horst Grebe, from whom he received a detailed report on the country's social situation since the implementation of the recent economic measures.

2909
CSO: 3348/284

BRIEFS

GUATEMALANS ENTERING MEXICO EXTORTED--Villa Comaltitlan, Chis., 12 Feb--Train conductors and ticket takers, bus drivers and government agents demand 15,000 to 25,000 pesos from Central Americans who flee from their country and enter Mexico from the south. Martin Mancilla Paz, Guatemalan Passport No. 0887050, who leads 10 Central Americans said that government agents forced them to pay 25,000 pesos in Tapachula to transport them to 22 de Mayo in Huhuetan, Huxtla, and drop them off there. He added that later bus and train drivers, conductors and ticket takers asked them for another 15,000 pesos to transport them to the interior of the country. If they do not pay, they are threatened with returning them to their places of origin or handing them over to government authorities. Compelled to comply with the demands of agents, transporters and operators, Javier Salazar Salazar, representative of Migration Services of the SG [Secretariat of Government] in Tapachula, said that his people possibly go beyond their duties but he recognized that this measure tends to clear the Mexican southern border of illegal aliens in collaboration with the State Judicial Police. Salazar Salazar admitted that there are many people who commit abuses since they even sell birth certificates for money. This is very common in that area. [By Porfirio Diaz Lopez] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 5-A] 7717

CSO: 3248/481

ACLM'S HECTOR SCORES BIRD POLICIES, 'RUINED' ECONOMY

St John OUTLET in English 10, 17 Feb 84

[Articles by Tim Hector: "The Ruin Economy"]

[10 Feb 84 pp 6-7]

[Text] Bird is in a complete quandary. He is like the senile old man, who lives in a shoe who had so many problems and did not know what to do. The right thing for him to do is to get out.

Twenty five (25) years at the head of a Colonial Administration, as a Colonial Premier and for the last two and a half years as Prime Minister would be enough for any man. But not Bird. His lust for power is insatiable. The time has come for him to go. And, if he doesn't go, Antigua will go with him.

The economy has all but collapsed around Bird. And like the old lady in the nursery rhyme who lived in the shoe Bird knows not what to do. Let us examine the economy.

Over the years 1978 to 82 under Bird, current expenditure by the Bird regime grew at an alarming rate from 13% in 1978 to 34% in 1981. All of this current expenditure growth was financed mainly by deficit spending, that is, borrowing from local branches of foreign-owned banks at fantastic interest rates, due to high interest rates in the USA.

Now follow the argument closely. Bird has pursued a policy of political patronage. That is, he uses government revenue as current expenditure to buy support, by giving supporters or potential supporters uneconomic and unproductive jobs. What is the economic result of this assinine policy?

The economic result is that wages and salaries for government employees account for over 61% of current expenditures! This is the highest ratio in the entire Eastern Caribbean, higher than even Trinidad & Tobago. Bird is out of his cotton pickin' mind.

Unlike Trinidad & Tobago Antigua had no oil revenues, so it had to meet this massive expenditure for Bird's policy of political patronage by local and foreign borrowing.

To help out the continuous and growing revenue shortfall consumption taxes on a wide range of articles, were increased at the end of 1980. Of course, only some paid their consumption taxes! Others had consumption taxes unlawfully waived. However revenue from consumption taxes grew by 30% in 1981 after stagnating in both 1979 and 1980. The working pore bore the brunt of this consumption tax on essential goods. While with the abolition of personal income tax, the rich and higher income brackets spent their increased income, on foreign, high-priced, luxury goods, which depleted our foreign reserves. In plain terms Bird's economic policy or rather his economic non-policy, made neither economic sense, common-sense, nor any kind of sense.

Now, while all this economic topsy-turvey was going on, Bird added fuel to the ruinous fire. Public sector transfers, escalated seven fold in 1981 and remained at that level since! What were these public sector transfers? For we must translate the jargon of economists into the everyday understanding so that people will no longer be mystified by their own affairs.

These public sector transfers arose out of the need for the Bird regime to subsidize the sugar factory and to provide funds to both the two major publicly owned hotels to meet, not construction or repairs or new equipment at these hotels, but to meet wages and salary obligations at these two hotels. And don't doubt it. That is the finding of the World Bank if you please.

Now this provides us with a factual base, a factual economic base, with which to examine in brief the effect of corruption on the economy of Antigua.

Please recall that OUTLET revealed how $1.315 million dollars was overspent at the Sugar Factory, supposedly buying goods which the factory never received! In plain terms, big shots in and around the government, ripped-off the money at the Sugar Factory, and then, the same government had to turn around and make what economists call "public sector transfers", that is, the money from already short revenue to meet the continuous financial crisis at the Sugar Factory loan funds. Corruption aggravated the economic crisis. And, as always, the poor, the unemployed and the young suffered.

But then, that is not all. Far from all. We have hardly seen the tip of the iceberg of our economic crisis. Recall too the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Auditor's Report on the Antigua Sugar Factory where these Regional auditors said that "The total of the three tenders (to install the rugudung sugar factory from Barbados) exceeded the loan funds available by approximately E.C.$2.6 million. Another rip-off!

When we add the two figures together, we get a grand total of nearly $4 million E.C. just in the Sugar Factory rip-off, and which had to be replaced by transfers from local revenue to the sugar factory. At the same time that this transfer or subsidy was given to the factory, from the same revenue we had to pay the principal and interest of the original CDB loan. So, in fact, we are paying for the Sugar Factory twice from local revenue. Thus worsening our already bad revenue position, and therefore increasing our deficit spending, that is falling with greater and greater debt to local

branches of foreign banks with their high interest rates. Bird's economic madness is an unmitigated disaster.

We need not take up the public sector transfers at the two government owned Halcyon Hotels. That is an equally sorry tale.

Let us look at another piece of economic chaos introduced by Bird and which he and he alone, and no international recession, is entirely responsible for.

So that there will be no doubt about the 'objectivity' of this economic analysis, let me call up the World Bank economists to supply the evidence:

They reported that "The financial position of the Central Marketing Corporation and the Industrial Development Board has deteriorated and the Central Government has been obliged to make relatively heavy transfers, some of them unrecorded in the accounts of the Central Government, and regarded 'as below the line', to both enterprises in 1980 and 1981." That is Bird's accounting and economics "unrecorded transfers" and "below the line" transactions. The Antigua economy is being treated like Mendes Bakery!

So again these massive transfers from revenue to these public enterprises, the Central Marketing Corporation and the Industrial Development Board, which in themselves are not unprofitable, but which the Bird government makes unprofitable by a total lack of policy. Therefore economic chaos becomes twice confounded.

But let us proceed a little further on to analyse Bird's economic chaos, this humpty-dumpty which had a great fall, and which not all the U.S. Kingsmen in the form of U.S. Aid, nor all the Bird's dunder-head horses in the Cabinet, can put together again.

Now the only major investment undertaken by Bird in the consolidated rest of the public sector over the last three years occurred in 1981 with the purchase and installation of the two new electricity generators by the Public Utilities Authority at a cost of EC$21.3 million. This operation was again financed externally, this time by a U.K. firm, on strict, even harsh commercial terms.

It is a shame to talk about electricity in Antigua & Barbuda. That is why whenever the public debt is raised Bird himself goes completely senile and babbles sheer nonsense, about public debt due to Deep Water Harbour of 1967. He has nothing on his slate to show for the current and massive public debt--the direct result of his gross mismanagement and corruption so he harks back to 1968. He dare not speak of even 1981! (By the way the public debt of Barbados with three times Antigua's population is $323 million, while Antigua's public debt is twice that of Barbados at $647 million! The economic disorder is self-evident from that fact alone).

The $21.3 million loan for electricity, shows up Bird's economic ignorance and mal-administration completely. Having ruined the revenue with massive public sector transfers to repay tiefing at the Sugar Factory, the chronic

losses at Central Marketing Corporation, the Robbery with V. at the two government owned hotels, and many other instances too numerous to detail here, Bird had so serious a revenue shortfall position that the regime was unable to meet the maintenance costs, even the minimum maintenance costs of the new generators. In no time, the badly installed generators were without spare parts, in spite of the genius of the APUA workers to keep them going on the minimum. The end result was that the generator breakdowns were continuous. Black-outs for long periods in Antigua are ceaseless. The same applies to water. It is not the shortage of rainfall which is the problem. And that problem is caused by a shortage of revenue. And the revenue problem is caused by lack of policy, the endless patronage, the mismanagement allied to corruption. The end result is economic chaos. That is our present lot. And don't doubt it! Just look around you. To get out of this mees and chaos we need, not just a change of face, we need a team, a party which understands the problems through in depth analysis and who can therefore provide the solutions. All else is but sham. Either real change, or the mess and chaos will get more messy and more chaotic.

[17 Feb 84 pp 6-7]

[Text] Last time in the analysis of the economy under the Bird regime we dealt with the collapse of the revenue side, through mal-administration, mal-expenditure, mainly on political patronage, and sheer, vulgar corruption by the regime.

We showed how the government revenue was not only fleeced with public sector transfers to hotels, sugar factory, CMC, Public Utilities, but how 50% of current expenditure goes to political patronage, to pay wages and salaries of government employees resulting in recurrent and even monthly shortfalls, which, in turn, results in recurrent borrowing from local-based foreign banks at exorbitant rates of interest. Bird therefore has landed the economy in a deadly lockjam, known in economics as the debt trap.

But that is not all. If that were all it would be bad enough. Total merchandise imports averaged over three quarters of GDP from 1976-1981. Non-petroleum imports, led by imports of foodstuff were more than half GDP. Added to that, closure of the oil refinery reduced exports by 70%. Lord have mercy! Other exports (excluding rum which has performed fairly well) but including garments, lobsters, cotton have declined drastically. The Trinidad licensing fiasco, due to Antigua based, foreign manufacturers rip-off scheme by sending to Trinidad & Tobago garments especially, made in Taiwan and South Korea, and claiming they were made in Antigua. This foul practise virtually ruined the manufacturing sector and CARICOM.

This decline in the manufacturing sector, in addition to the closure of West Indies Oil Refinery, led to a significant decline in jobs, which, in turn, led to a restriction of demand, or a decline in consumption. Increased prices of imports also restricted consumption. With the average annual rate of inflation accelerating to about 19% in 1980 and remaining constant or increasing since then.

A breakdown of aggregate consumption shows a slight fall in ratio of private consumption to GDP in 1978 (to 81.2%) followed by a sharp rise in 1979 (to 102.4%) rising in 1980 to (105.5%) and from 1981 on falling sharply.

This fall can be put in statistical terms, but the statistics would mask the increasing misery of under-consumption by the unemployed, hovering around 35 to 40% and the under-employed. Indeed statistics for Antigua show that the top income bracket amounting to 13% of the population control 86% of total income! This frightening inequality where 87% of wage earners get only 14% of total income in this country, shows the misery, the pauperisation to which Birdism has confined the overwhelming majority of the population. It is an inequality which cries out to heaven for change, and the very angels must weep increasingly when they focus on the plight of the majority of unemployed and under-employed in this country, whose consumption has been reduced to marginal, if not sub-marginal levels. A whole sector, the largest sector, lives daily, trembling on the pauper line. That, of course, was the inevitable consequence of Birdism.

But this decline in consumption by unemployed and working poor has even more serious effects. Whereas the abolition of income tax put more income in the hands of the hands of the top-income bracket, and whereas companies reduced their company taxes, by exorbitant management fees, allowances and salaries to Directors and company big-wigs, this logically resulted in a loss of revenue to the Bird regime from stagnant or decreasing company taxes.

But we have to go one further in this analysis. Since the abolition of personal income tax in December 1976 Antigua and Barbuda has depended to a high degree on indirect taxation as its main source of revenue. In 1981 and 1982 such taxes represented 62% and 63% respectively of total current revenue as against a contribution of only 15% by company taxes and property taxes and 23% by non tax revenue. It was the working poor that bore the brunt of this indirect taxation. They can bear no more. The foreign rich in the meantime grew richer and luxuriated in their riches. Meanwhile the poor became poorer.

But Bird refuses to tax the Haves after having piled on the burden on the Have Nots. The end result of sparing the rich and hammering the poor is that as a percentage of GDP total tax revenue in 1981 was 17.8%! This is lower than any of the newly independent East Caribbean States! The rich got away clear, the poor suffered. The inescapable consequence is economic disarray.

The logical outcome of restricted consumption naturally produced reduced revenue from consumption taxes to the government. Thus Bird was hoisted on his own petard. Leaving more money with the rich and taking most from the poor, left him with increased problems, and worst, no money for capital expenditures. And worst, little or no money invested by the local or foreign rich who proceeded to bank their money abroad to take advantage of high interest rates abroad. Bingo--everything collapse! Unemployment is rife. Demoralisation is rampant.

Meanwhile, the productive base of the economy, to add grievous injury to gross mismanagement, collapsed. Milk production in Antigua decreased from 9,000 litres in 1977 to 6,000 litres in 1979, to 4,500 litres in 1980 and levelling off to about 3,500 litres in 1982.

Fish catches fell by 25% in 1979 and has continued to fall resulting in Antigua producing half the amount produced in 1978 being produced in 1982! [as published] Woe beyond to us under Bird's woeful mismanagement and direction in every sector of the economy! And this decline mark you, took place in spite of Antigua's well acknowledged fisheries potential, based on international studies of Antigua and Barbuda's banks, which according to one international study, "if developed, could provide an increased level of fish, nutrition to the local population and supply tourist demand." The small fishing industry, says this international team of experts, "that exists in Antigua is constrained by inadequate onshore facilities." Bird constrains everything. Everything for local production is inadequate, while foreigners enjoy unlimited concessions, and unlimited opportunities to bank Antigua's development capital abroad; thus creating unemployment and its twin underemployment--in a word--misery or sufferation for our people.

Take again cotton, to show how the productive base of the economy has collapsed under Bird and Birdism. The potential for cotton production was good these past seven years with Japanese buyers offering exceptionally good prices. After declining from a peak of over one million pounds of lint cotton produced in the late 1950's to less than 10,000 pounds in 1971, production in 1978 moved back up to about 20,000 pounds. Cotton production has further declined even more dramatically in the last 5 years falling to an all time low of a few hundred pounds! Bird and his inept, incompetent, ignoramus gang should be beaten with many stripes.

Needless to say, agriculture's share in Antigua's development has declined so rapidly and so insistently, that in 1982 is only contributed 3.7% of GDP from a high of 62% in 1956 before Bird took over the colonial administration of Antigua and Barbuda! Bird is the very opposite of the mythical Midas. Everything Midas touched turned to gold, everything Bird touched turns to sh... shall we say shaving cream for politeness sake.

Now to tourism, the so-called main industry, which is almost entirely in foreign hands and foreign banks! Currently there are in Antigua's tourist industry, 1,224 rooms, 3,642 beds, 32 cottages and apartments and 20 guest houses.

There has been a downturn in tourism in Antigua caused by recessionary conditions in the major industrial countries, by the aggressive new tourism in the Dutch and French islands in particular which has cut severely into Antigua's market, without either the Ministry of Tourism, or the Bird regime as a whole, being able to come up with a policy. Always there is a lack of policy from these ceaseless globe-trotters and these endless pocket-stuffers.

The number of visitors to Antigua peaked in 1979 under Bird at 99,536 (though the highest recorded figure is in 1972-73) and decreased thereafter

to 94,274 in 1981. Meanwhile the bottom, according to Minister of Tourism Lester Bird, has completely dropped out of the cruise ship market for Antigua, while the neighbouring Dutch and French islands are showing steadily increasing cruise-ship arrivals. Not to speak of Bermuda.

Added to all this is Bird's monumental failure outlined in an official report by the CTRC which said that "the agricultural and industrial base of Antigua is insufficiently developed [under Bird] to meet the needs of the tourist industry, and most materials, including food, are importanted. [as published] Most Hotel profits are exported. Tax holidays protect many from taxation. Consequently there is high leakage from the tourist dollar." Say Bird and at one and the same time you say leakage of leaky ship.

Bird and his entire regime has done nothing, absolutely nothing, to stop this high leakage back to the U.S. of Antigua's tourist dollar. It is fair to say, that Antigua's tourism generates more dollars and more employment for Americans than it does for Antigua and Antiguans. This is pathetic. And the Bird regime's mis-handling and mismanagement of our tourism is even more than pathetic, it is bathetic. Guest taxes are not paid by several large hotels due to deals with Bird. The first round leakage at the Hotel room level is conservatively estimated to be EC$2 million annually. This represents in 1978 50.5% of room expenses. Another first round leakage is the repatriated earnings for foreign employees at the managerial level. "This leakage" according to CTRC in 1978, "represents 12.8% of total administration and general expenses", totalling more than $550,000 in that year. It is virtually twice that amount now. Yet Bird would do nothing to train and insist on local management in our hotel industry. Therefore, a million dollars goes down the drain annually, while some big shot makes a few dollars for himself by a work-permit spree. Only ACLM will stop this plunder and this gross economic mismanagement.

The time has come, when Antigua has to pass from Bird's gross and wanton mismanagement of every sector of the economy, from the Bird regime's use and abuse of the finances of this country, from Bird's fiscal chaos, to a new order based on planned Development, and people's direct participation in making and achieving the plan for a National economy in Antigua and Barbuda for the first time.

Only ACLM has shown mastery of the facts, clarity of policy, and the political will to face and analyse, and therefore overcome, Antigua & Barbuda's massive problems which colonialism and Bird has left us in their joint will. [as published] Bird has already written his last political will and testament, namely, the political and economic bankruptcy of Antigua & Barbuda.

Time now for a real change.

CSO: 3298/588

ACLM ORGAN HITS BIRD REGIME, QUESTIONABLE MANEUVERS

Antiworker Activities

St Johns OUTLET in English 10 Feb 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] No one, in his right mind, can continue to support this abuse of law, or principle, of every decent standard, which goes on in Antigua daily. Besides, this abuse and gross misconduct is perpetrated or encouraged, by the very government of Antigua and Barbuda owned and operated by the Birds and their brood of corrupt ducklings.

The Antigua Workers Union after long and protracted negotiations with the foreign-dominated Hotel Association called its workers out on strike. The Court ruled that the strike was illegal. OUTLET has its dissenting views about that, but we are duty bound to accept that Court ruling, unless and until a higher Court overturns that judgement. The Antigua Workers Union obviously accepted that ruling in the same spirit as we did.

However, in the wake of the High Court's ruling, all the government media, Radio and TV, and the Bird-owned ZDK, in several and repeated broadcasts carried only that part of the judgement which said that the strike was illegal. That the Court had ruled that the workers had not abandoned their jobs by being involved in this 'illegal' strike--not a word. Not a single word.

That the Court had ruled in favour of the workers and issued an order "restraining" the Hotel owners, their managers and agents from terminating the workers--not a word. Not a single word. What an abuse of Court by the media!

That both government and Bird's media were deliberately twisting the ruling of the Court to bring both the law and the Court into ridicule and contempt is clear. That the government controlled media were in contempt of Court, or at the very least, had a case to answer was never raised.

That Lester Bird, a lawyer, by training made a national telecast and perpetrated the same contempt by deliberately misrepresenting the Court was of course not seen as contempt. They are above the law it would seem!

The trouble with people like Lester is that they adhere to no principle, are devoid of any respect for the public, and are really the lap-dogs of the foreign owners. Thus they can and are being trotted out at any time of night or day to defend white foreign owners against their own people. In the process they will disrespect and disregard the declaration and orders of the very Courts of which they themselves are supposed to be officers. Shame on you Lester!

Take another example just to show how common this reprehensible behaviour is. After the hotel dispute was referred to the Industrial Court, after the workers returned to work, one Hotel, the Blue Waters Hotel, locked-out its workers, thus taking industrial action, in flagrant violation of the law. Lester Bird, a lawyer, and Minister of Tourism said not a damn thing about that!

The Attorney General took no action. The Minister of Labour, Adolphus Freeland, did not even notice this reckless violation of the law, and this outlandish assault on our main industry--tourism. All of them went to lunch as usual as if nothing happened. Big shots do as they like, heedless of law.

Guests at the hotel were dispersed willy-nilly. No thought here about damaging the image of tourism, and threatening the economy. Foreign Hoteliers, and such as they, can do as they damn well please,--the law notwithstanding. This is a terrible state of affairs.

This behaviour and moreso the Bird government's acquiescence in it, is outrageous. It must be corrected. It must be stopped.

We had better be clear about a few things. No one, high or low, in office or out of office, is above the law.

Secondly, if Foreign hoteliers want to come here and stay here they must first do two things. Number one respect the workers and people of this country. And, number two, abide by the laws of the land.

If they are not prepared to do both of these things they have to go. And there can be no but, if, or maybe about this.

It is a straight case. They came here to make money. O.K. But while they are here pursuing their legitimate interest, it can only be pursued on the basis of mutual respect for our people and our laws. Otherwise they must be made to leave.

ACLM wishes to make it abundantly clear, and the foreign hoteliers had better take note. Once foreign investors are here we insist that their legitimate rights must be respected. By the same token, we demand and insist that a condition of being here on this twin island, nation-state, is respect for the workers and people of this country and the law of the land.

It is infradig to accept that foreign owners can be here and ride roughshod over workers, people, courts and law, with the blessing and connivance of a so-called local government. No way can this be accepted.

Cabinet Divisions

St Johns OUTLET in English 17 Feb 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The Bird government is definitely standing on its head. Little boys hardly worry to head-stand nowadays. But the Bird government makes it a habit to stand on its head.

Imagine Lester Bird giving out a release saying that documents published by OUTLET were deliberately leaked. How ACLM is funding several civil servants to get information. How the documents were specially prepared and left to catch the culprit. And yet OUTLET got the documents and the culprit was not caught! The news release ties up itself. That fellow Lester Bird gets so muddled with his own big words that he has ceased to make sense. He is openly displaying his ignorance.

Worse than that, the government says it is trying to catch those 'leaking' news and documents to OUTLET and how it is trying to use "security experts" 'to catch' the leakers, by advertising on radio and TV that it has laid a trap! What a piece of stupidity. Obviously, Lester wanted to convince the US that he did not say these things about the U.S., that the U.S. was behind the Hotel Association, and trying to destabilise Antigua through the military and a Private Sector Organisation. So he had to tell this elaborate lie, that the document was prepared as a trap. Who does he think he is fooling. Certainly not the public!

Now in publishing those documents which Lester wrote to Cabinet we were very patriotic. We refused to publish those sections in which Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados was ridiculed. We refused to do so because it would have impaired relations between Antigua and Barbados and with the trade licensing problems with Trinidad already existing, strained relations with Barbados would have been disastrous for Antigua.

Were we to publish those sections on Barbados dealing with Tom Adams, Adams himself would have no doubt that this was a report by Lester Bird to the Antigua Cabinet detailing Adams' conduct (or what Lester Bird considered his misconduct) at the Commonwealth Conference, especially Adams' slap in the face to Commonwealth Secretary General Sir Sonny Ramphal. We will say no more.

We have continued to restrain ourselves from publishing that part of the document in the face of Lester's and the Bird regime's arrant nonsense.

We wonder, and seriously wonder, why the Bird regime feels that it is difficult to get information about it. The suggestion that we would have to pay for such information is completely outrageous.

The fact of the matter is, the Bird has itself destroyed all respect for itself that any information is available from any source. People high and low at home and abroad, will tell us all they know about the Bird regime, because they have no respect whatsoever for it.

Would V. C. Bird and Lester Bird want to say that the CDB Auditor's Report on the high-way robbery committed by the Regime is a fake! They would certainly like to know how we got it, but they will have to look in the Barbados government.

The Bird regime is awe struck, they continue to stand in their boots and wonder how on earth ACLM and OUTLET get all this high level information. How the information is so factual. How their every secret and crooked deal is known to us. They are alarmed at the constant revelations the factual basis of such revelations, and OUTLET's exposure of them has left them naked. The Bird regime now stands naked in its corruption, in its mismanagement, in its total mis-rule.

We wish to make another thing quite clear. OUTLET publishes nothing about which it is not absolutely sure is correct. We print nothing unless we have the official documentary evidence to support it.

Over the years we have published so much from official documents and no source has ever been found, no one has ever been traced as giving us any information. We protect our sources.

Indeed the division in Bird's Cabinet is so deep, that in every serious dispute either faction makes information available to us to discredit the other side. This is true of the Old Guard as it is true of the Young Turks.

One final thing. U.S. official sources have admitted that in all the captured documents found in Grenada, they could find nothing, absolutely nothing to discredit ACLM.

We are duly proud. Proud that it is public knowledge that we have nothing to hide. Proud that our very enemies can find no genuine evidence to lay any valid charge against us. Proud that friend and foe alike are aware that what we say is what we mean, and what we mean is what we say.

More than that, both ACLM and OUTLET have completely rejected the policy and the politics of abuse and slander. We will tell no lies and win no easy vicotires. ACLM has no business in the vulgarity that passes for politics in this country. All agree that we have raised the level of public knowledge and thought both in OUTLET and at our public meetings.

Finally we have shown that our politics, is based on analysis, analysis of hard facts, and it is upon that knowledge that we publish our views to the world, and develop our policy for a truly independent Antigua. Independent in economics and politics.

On the contrary the Bird regime is still trapped in the politics of ignorance. That brand of politics, better known as Birdism, seeks to fool all

of the people, all of the time. It thrives on ignorance and gimmicks. It is the politics of fakery and quackery.

Antigua is on the verge of doing away with that brand of politics--birdism--and looking instead to the politics of Development. Therefore ACLM has come centre-stage.

CSO: 3298/588

ANONYMOUS ALP OFFICIAL NOTES DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT ABUSE

St Johns OUTLET in English 17 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] "Diplomatic passports in Antigua are given to Tom, Dick and Harry." So says a member of the ALP Executive who for obvious reasons will remain anonymous.

Within the ranks of the ALP, there have been open charges that all the friends and girlfriends of Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird and his political sidekick Hugh Marshall are given diplomatic passports on which to travel privately. This practice is contrary to all the standards of International Relations. In no other Caribbean country are persons except members of the Diplomatic Corps and Cabinet Ministers, given diplomatic passports. Even when such passports are in fact issued they are surrendered upon return to the State to the Ministry of External Affairs, to prevent abuse. Not so in Antigua. Abuse is the order of the day.

Diplomatic passports allow the holders to travel unrestricted and are accorded VIP treatment by foreign Immigration officers. Responsible governments do not even allow diplomatic passports to be used for private overseas travelling. No so in Antigua.

One clear example of this is the case of Middle East Ambassador, Ramez Hadeed, who has travelled only three (3) times on government business but who has already had to renew his diplomatic passport because it was full of foreign immigration stamps. Ambassador Hadeed had used his passport to travel even to nearby Guadeloupe on personal jaunts and to Europe and North America on private trips. Other countries besides, issue 3 types of passports: Diplomatic, Official, and Regular. The official passports are used by senior civil servants and other officials who are travelling on Government business. Regular passports are used by ordinary citizens and by officials when travelling on private business. Not so in Antigua. It would seem as though we have a country with more "diplomats" than Jamaica or any other Caribbean country. In Antigua, there are apparently no officials. One is either a diplomat or a regular.

Many party officials were upset when on his last visit to the U.S. Lester Bird was accompanied by a train of "diplomats" including his personal chauffeur who went as Security Adviser and the chauffeur's friend who was

taken as communications adviser. Both men are without training in either security matters or communications. One disgruntled paramour also voiced her objection to another of lesser rank being taken to the United Nations with full "diplomatic" rank. (Or shall we say, diplomatic.) The Deputy Prime Minister is yet to explain.

The Prime Minister too, when he went on his world tour late last year which took him to the major capitals of the world and to China, travelled with a seven man "diplomatic" contingent, at the expense of the treasury.

Junior Minister Hugh Marshall has not been left out. He too has a "diplomat" without the required training or experience doing undisclosed "diplomatic" work in the Washington Office.

It is estimated by one reliable source within the Labour Party that hundreds of diplomatic passports have been issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Meanwhile in an effort to cover up the gross abuses taking place within his Ministry, Lester Bird has launched a massive comical witchhunt for so called "spies" within his Ministry. After OUTLET revealed the contents of a Confidential Memo which was prepared for Lester Bird by Guyanese Supremo Ron Sanders a release was issued by Lester Bird saying that a secret service agent had deliberately planted the document as a trap. Unhappily for Lester and his cohorts, they were caught in their own trap of lies and made themselves a laughing stock with this ridiculous announcement.

Super Spy himself, Dodds Joseph, has been brought on the case to make a super sham, interrogating junior members of staff. As always the Bird regime picks on the defenceless to use as scapegoats. If super spy Dodds wants work to do he should investigate the racketeering and bobol taking place at the highest level within the Ministry.

CSO: 3298/588

ACLM ORGAN CHARGES GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION IN VEHICLE CASE

St Johns OUTLET in English 17 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] The corrupt Bird regime moves in mysterious ways, its iniquity to perform. Less than one month ago, a government owned vehicle a NIVA 4 wheel drive jeep, G 723 was traded in at Harney Motors. The vehicle assigned to the Ministry of Public Works was used to transport men and materials for working on private construction projects belonging to the Prime Minister V. C. Bird in the Ottos New Town Area. G723 was under the control of ALP strongman Oscar Mason, and driven by a paid driver from Public Works.

Embarassed by public attention and concern over the fact that a government owned vehicle was being used to build the private Empire of the senior Bird, it was decided that the vehicle should be traded in. Senior officials within the Ministry of Public Works had complained bitterly among themselves about this gross abuse of the vehicle and also about the fact that materials belonging to Public Works was being used freely "as though it belonged to them personally", as one Civil Servant commented. [as published]

When G723 was traded in to the dealers, it was expected that another vehicle with a registration number of G would be taken out. This was not the case. Instead P4493, a beige Toyoto Hilux pickup was taken out. Suddenly, the vehicle was supposedly transferred to the Ministry of Education. There is no record of this transfer anywhere. Only the Bird regime can corruptly change a G to a P. Government property becomes private property by a brazen act of fraud.

Minister of Education Reuben Harris who mysteriously became involved in this game of mysterious numbers and letters, summoned a meeting with Mr Mason and the driver of the vehicle, after the new privately owned government vehicle was with government money. Sources close to the Ministry of Education believe that this meeting in mid-January, Harris laid down the rules of how the vehicle was to be used. Thereafter the vehicle has been used exclusively by Mr Mason, for carrying out the private business of the Prime Minister's construction projects. Harris has become Bird's mere Choo-Loo using the Ministry of Education as a fig leaf to cover the activities of the Prime Minister and his men.

Unbelievable as this may sound, there is even more to come. An attempt was made to collect free gasoline on a government local purchase order, but the

attendant refused to give free gas to a private vehicle. However because some government vehicles still carry AG on their registration plates, another trick was concocted. P4493 was changed to AG4493 and the gas was successfully obtained on Local Purchase Order Number 94939 on 18th January 1984. The Bird party obviously believes that where freeness is bliss it is folly to resist. Since then it has been free gas for the boys as usual.

But there was another problem AG 4493 was already on the road, a Blue Toyota belonging to Basil Barnes of Potters. So there were two vehicles with the same number on the road. Oh what a tangled web we weave...

The Police Commissioner, Wright George did nothing about it. The Ministry of Education encouraged it and the Motor Car dealers said nothing about it. But the public noticed it and so, less than two weeks ago, the number on this privately owned government vehicle was again changed to AG 3309.

It is now anybody's guess what the next number will be, as crooks in high and low places rip off anything from galvanise to motor vehicles with gross impunity.

Certainly, no sane or reasonable government can conduct its affairs properly with its vehicles disappearing in this way.

Those who have conspired to turn a government vehicle into a private vehicle should be criminally charged and brought before the Judge to account for their deeds. The least we the people deserve is an independent inquiry into this weird affair of missing cars and strange numbers.

CSO: 3298/588

PLM MP CHIDED FOR FEARS OVER NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 29 Feb 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Rumours 'like peas' making the rounds in Antigua & Barbuda that elections are to be held before the end of June 1984. This would be at least nine months before they are constitutionally due. All the Opposition parties have been organizing meetings all over the country for the last 18 months and have set about a dozen different dates on which they told the country that General Elections were to be held.

The rumour have become more prevalent since the Boundaries Commission's report has been tabled before Parliament recently. [as published]

In the Parliamentary debate on the Boundaries Commission's report, which recommended changes in at least three constituencies, namely St. John's City South, St. Lukes and All Saints, the Hon. Charlesworth Samuel seems to have panicked. Samuel is the present incumbent for St. Lukes. Because of the changes he is now afraid that he may lose his seat. We fail to see how cousin Charlesworth has become so fearful. After all he won the old St. Luke seat quite easily at the 1980 General Elections. Now let us examine what has happened since then. The constituency of All Saints, which was one of the largest in the island has now been divided into All Saints East and All Saints West, with the Eastern Section being added to the old tiny St. Luke Constituency, to be now known as the constituency of All Saints East.

Now where does Cousin Charlesworth's fears come in? [as published] All that has happened to his old constituency is that he has added to it an additional 500 to 600 registered voters from a constituency in which every box counted was won by the P.L.M. candidate in the 1980 General Elections. Cousin Charlesworth is the Deputy Leader of the P.L.M. The P.L.M. lack lustre candidate Auntie Hyacinth, at the last General Elections was able to beat the Labour Party candidate in every box in All Saints.

So you see Charlesworth, it would appear to us that the Boundaries Commission has done you a favour by allocating to your constituency an additional 600 P.L.M. votes. So why panic? Cousin Charlesworth dem say that still stubborn to budge from City West. In that case Charlesworth feels that Big George may unseat him. How little faith such politicians have in themselves. So as a result of all this, cousin Charlesworth in the absence of

his veteran leader who is away in Canada, has approached the man whom he has lambasted all over the country, in order to arrange an accommodation whereby he would have no opposition in his particular seat. How selfish cousin! You are attempting to disgrace your party, and as an opportunist, to take advantage of this icy chill in relations between Tim and George since the Granada fiasco. Since that time George has made it an open secret that he prefers Tim and his communists to keep their distance. Charlesworth is now attempting to save his personal skin in the absence of his leader, by arranging an accommodation with the arch-enemy of his party.

We hope that Charlesworth has told George that is was himself, Wilkin and Victor who asked the Govt. to add two new seats to the seventeen in order to keep George out of Parliament. [as published] Copies of the letter and the maps concerning the two additional seats are in our possession. Don't worry we won't publish. Not yet. You see Charlesworth only a foolish Govt. would create two new seats for the opposition to win. No way. We see absolutely no need for your pitiful outburst in Parliament. It was obvious that you had your own selfish self at heart. As Deputy Leader, you must care more about your party and not be so self-centred. You use your party newspaper to boost yourself all the time. Come on man, give the others a break. Imagine members of the other parties had to tell Henson Stevens the Secretary of your Party that you were having discussions with the Deputy concerning the two additional seats.

The Prime Minister seems to be playing his cards very close to his chest at present, but at least he has to give all of us 21 days notice. At that time all rumours and speculation would come to an end, and the elections would be held in a nice and peaceful atmosphere.

CSO: 3298/588

IGLESIAS ROUCO REVIEWS ALFONSIN'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7, 8 Mar 84

[Two-part commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "The First 100 Days"]

[7 Mar 84 pp 1, 5]

[Text] Both the government and the opposition parties, as well as the Argentine citizenry in general, have a moral and even a historic duty to the nation today, a duty that far transcends any parochial interest, even ideology: to preserve at all costs the seed of democracy that was planted this past 30 October and to make every possible, and even impossible effort to develop and consolidate the system. The choice facing Argentina today is not between democracy and a de facto government; it is between democracy and chaos.

As expected, the country has not shown many signs of maturity during these first 3 months of initiation. The fact is that the transition from fascism to freedom is never easy, much less so when the country making the leap is an almost forced convert without strong convictions. Thus, Argentina's initiation into democracy has so far been almost everything but priestly, as it were, which it must be if we want to survive. This is the historic predicament in which we find ourselves.

The most serious thing, however, is that the Radical administration itself is one of the poorest initiates. It has always been said, and quite rightly, that the only thing that democracy cannot withstand is its internal contradictions, that is to say, the divorce not only between the famous means and the famous ends but also between each individual means, because if they do not constitute a harmonious whole, they always eventually hamper and even destroy the goal of democracy. An education for democracy (there is no such thing as a democratic education, as some proclaim) or democratic foreign relations cannot coexist, for example, with a totalitarian economy or totalitarian media, and vice versa. So true is this that the Leninist dialectic pins its revolutionary hopes and even its methodology precisely on these contradictions, which it derogatorily calls of the "bourgeoisie." Let us remember Lenin's famous noose. Now then, in this regard, our beloved Alfonsin administration is behaving like a true bourgeois champion of Leninism and at times like a champion of Palermo. That is how fat and how slow and, by reason of its smart-alecky behavior, how idiotic it seems.

Controversial Bomb

We would merely like to draw our readers' attention today, albeit for the purpose of preventing this administration from merrily interring democracy, to a by no means exhaustive list of the salient aspects of its bovine approach both on a conceptual or historic level and in the realm of deeds.

1) Mr Caputo has just come out against the deployment of nuclear weapons in the South Atlantic by Great Britain or any other power, which with good reason he described as madness. However, Buenos Aires has been secretly working on and has developed new or old techniques (it comes down to the same thing) for enriching uranium, techniques that could be quickly employed for military purposes; nevertheless, it has not yet offered even its neighbors any guarantees or monitoring arrangement and, as far as we know, has now decided not to sign the Vienna agreement and perhaps the Tlatelolco pact (opinion in the cabinet is divided here). At this juncture, Brazil, Chile and other neighboring countries are talking about the Argentine "bomb," and we are told that Washington considers this a "top priority" matter in its relations with Buenos Aires. We would like to know who the real "madman" is here, especially now that Great Britain is using the Argentine "bomb" issue in Washington and at international forums for the patent purpose of providing grist for its Malvinas mill.

Peron and the Montoneros

2) Several members of the cabinet who used to make antifascism or anticorporatism the core of their policy towards Peronism (which turned out to be historically prudent in addition to logical) have now taken it upon themselves to convince us, in an obvious bid to erase with their right hand what they wrote with their left, that Mr Peron was some sort of executive ideologist of antiterrorism, going so far as to assert that he "kicked out" the Montoneros from Mayo Square. According to our informants, now that the sparring involved in the union "reorganization" is over, Peronism and the Alfonsin administration have worked out every last detail of a wideranging labor understanding, including the setting aside of mutual grievances (hence the very believable accounts of an upcoming meeting between Mr Lorenzo Miguel and Mr Alfonsin). The new "revision" of history, which contradicts the one a few months ago, obviously stems from this understanding. But it is not in keeping with historical fact, inasmuch as it was Peron who brought (we repeat, brought) the Montoneros into Mayo Square, and it was the Montoneros who withdrew, and they said so shouting, much to Peron's astonishment and irritation. The strangest thing, however, is that the new version does not square either with the Alfonsin strategy, because this "historical whitewashing" transforms his party or faction, at least in the realm of law and order, into something subordinate to the figure of Peron, thus detracting from the strength of his blueprint for a "democratic movement,"

which was conceived precisely to counter the "corporatist movement" of the late general. Moreover, we must not forget that the planned "democratic movement" itself evinces a deep-seated conceptual contradiction since it attempts to combine two antagonistic elements, the "integrista movement" and the movement for democracy, which is anti-integrista par excellence (unless integrismo is being confused with integration, which could also be the case).

The Widow

3) Nor does it make sense for Alfonsin to have brought in Mrs Peron (as Peron brought in the Montoneros) as a symbol at no less than the inauguration of democracy and then to have taken and to continue taking the necessary steps to implicate that symbol (the symbol of Peron, moreover, which he is nevertheless rehabilitating) in the terror and corruption that due to Mr Lopez Rega and the AAA [Argentine Anticommunist Alliance] marked the start of Argentina's tragedy over the past 8 years. As far as we know, Mrs Peron, who is apparently receiving psychiatric treatment at the moment, has decided not to return to Argentina now simply because of the administration's moves (contrary to what has been said, Mr Mile Ravlic, alias De Bogetich, did not even come from his job with Trujillo). Logically, Mrs Peron is worried about the possibility of Lopez Rega's extradition and about the potential revelations of Admiral Massera or Radizzi, whom she knew quite well, albeit only under the innocent name of Gabriel. In a word, the administration's first initiative has shocked us more than its second one, which is praiseworthy from an ethical and political standpoint. But be that as it may, the fact is that the one does not at all square with the other.

Subversion

4) This duplicity and the deliberate, systematic discrediting of the military and the police as institutions (rather than their commanders or former commanders, who have not even been put on trial yet) prepare the country and its democrats poorly to check the renewed attacks by right- and leftwing extremism, which along with a just and indispensable condemnation of the immediate past is one of the administration's priority goals. The same could be said of another noteworthy development. To wit, even though Mr Firmenich has been residing in Brazil for quite some time, the administration began talking about requesting his extradition only when it learned of the birth of his son there, a detail that will complicate the procedure, though not make it impossible. And all of this took place after the government, according to very reliable information, received reports that a group of leading extremists had been meeting in Cordoba and reached the conclusion that the government's performance (or lack thereof) would give them further access to power by mid-year, from which position they could then descend, even with their "military" machine, on the military officers of the "process" and their civilian underlings and thus foster a new era of tensions and, perhaps, terror.

The Bluff

5) It would almost be better not to talk about the government's manipulation of the foreign debt problem. After threatening creditors with a steel curtain (in the case of Argentina and Mr Grinspun, a milk pudding curtain would be more like it), the country is now going to properly discharge its foreign "commitments" and not attempt to pass on to its foreign creditors the consequences of our domestic blunders (that, at least, is what the concept of "commitment" means in business and foreign policy). Meanwhile, however, the "show" that has been staged here has served to shore up the lucrative business that overseas banks and perhaps foreign governments have been engaged in for quite some time now in anticipation of our "nonpayment" and "economic shutdown." A default by Argentina would (will?) enable them to complete their own monetary "shutdowns" at several international levels, to punish debtors and, in passing, to hold on to some pocket money. Their agreements with Mexico and Brazil paved the way for this show, by the way. Our naive government (that is what we will call it) forgot that in addition to cunning one needs time and quite a bit of money to play poker (almost as much money as there is on the "table" when it comes to recouping big losses). Mr Grinspun, who knows a great deal about bankruptcies, even bankruptcies in the United States, made his bluff precisely when creditors hoped he would. Will he now have to bluff again to convince them that the first one was just a bluff and to thus dispel the dire threat hanging over the nation?

Well, that is enough for today, even though we have just begun. Tomorrow we will analyze other irrational government actions that are even more noteworthy. As the Alfonsin administration completes its first 100 days in office, we can only hope (for his and our sake) that they do not turn out to be the 100 days of Napoleon Bonaparte. Our Argentina needs governments that last. We will make the point one more time: Either there will be democracy here, a democracy without qualifications, masks or clowning around, or there will be chaos.

[8 Mar 84 pp 1, 5]

[Text] We talked yesterday about the profound contradictions that plague almost all spheres of the government and that, in our opinion, pose one of the most serious threats to Argentina's fledgling democracy at this time. It is quite true that our politics and even our culture have been characterized for decades by inconsistency and opportunism, without substantial differences, regrettably, between groups and categories, with a few exceptions. It is also true, however, that in this matter government bears primary responsibility and, furthermore, calls the shots. We could say that systematic contradiction is the only system of government here. This is perhaps the only way that a perfect corporatist State like the one we are afflicted with today could have been built under a liberal constitution.

We noted yesterday that the list of actions with which the Radical administration is bent on undermining its position and democracy itself was just an appetizer, so to speak. Let us take a look at a few more.

1) Mr Caputo has just declared that the United States should not "feel that it is the guardian" of Central America, whether or not there are democratic governments there. Apparently, Buenos Aires is no longer interested in what sort of governments or political systems the members of the Latin American community choose. This policy no doubt squares with the principle of nonintervention and might help to make it as acceptable as any other policy, its results notwithstanding, of course. But aside from the fact that the current upheavals in Central America do not stem from academic debates between governments or ideologies but rather from the mounting terrorist activity that is taking place there under the justification (solely the justification) of distressing socioeconomic conditions and also owing to the USSR's interventionist "internationalism," the truth is that the minister's statement is not at all in keeping with Alfonsin's own plan to encourage the formation of a sort of "democratic international" on the continent, whose purpose would be none other than to combat dictatorships, of whatever stripe we assume. In short, do we or do we not want democracies in Latin America? Moreover, if the United States should not "feel that it is the guardian" of Central America, why should the so-called Contadora Group, headed by Mexico and Venezuela, with which the Argentine Foreign Ministry maintains a smooth dialogue in connection with the Central American conflict, "feel" that it is?

2) During his election campaign and after taking office as well, Alfonsin repeatedly said that the main concern of his administration would be to make government, including the media and the famous "utilities," adhere to ethical principles, which previous governments had violated for so long and so often. Fortunately, the president still stresses this point today, eliciting applause from all reasonable circles here and abroad. A few days ago, however, Congress received "communique number 1," signed by an underground organization that calls itself the "Argentine Council for the Defense of Democracy." It contains the following comment:

"The secretary for State intelligence, Dr Pena (the former head of intelligence of the railway police during Dr Illia's era), emphatically denied the truthfulness and authenticity of the telexes sent by the Secretariat for State Intelligence to its delegations. In addition, he called on a columnist for a Buenos Aires newspaper (not LA PRENSA) and asked him to accuse another intelligence service of having written them. To this end he availed himself of Mr German Lopez, who introduced him to a journalist friend."

Such documents from underground groups warrant every sort of doubt, of course. In this case, however, attached to the statement are photocopies of the nine telexes in question, in which the Secretariat for State Intelligence apparently asked its agents in the interior and in the capital for background information on governors and legislators, as well as "dispatch number 10,986" with very precise instructions for the heads of the secretariat's delegations. This "strictly secret and confidential dispatch," dated 30 December, reads:

"Introductions to new authorities. The delegation heads in provinces with Radical governors will introduce themselves to them and offer them wideranging cooperation. In the case of non-Radical governors, for the time being and until new orders are issued, they will not introduce themselves, making contact only with lower-level authorities (police chiefs, intendants, etc) to offer or receive cooperation."

Both the "dispatch" and the alleged telexes were sent by Mr Juergens, because his code number in the Secretariat for State Intelligence, an 8 followed by 3501, appears in the messages. Some time ago, various political circles, including some Radical circles, pointed out that Juergens was trying to have the secretariat serve the purposes of the "youngsters" in Franja Morada and that this "service" was closely surveilling (and not to protect them) Radical politicians such as De la Rua, Leon and Pugliese, as well as several journalists and priests regarded as not too fond of the government. In spite of the scandal prompted by these accusations, however, the administration has so far not disclosed the outcome of the investigations that it promised to conduct. Furthermore, politicians, newsmen, labor leaders and bishops have been telling us for some time that their telephones are bugged. We ourselves, who during the "process" suffered all sorts of abuses, continue to notice the same kind of "inconvenience" on our phones, which we have reported to important officials, though no remedial action has as yet been taken. No remedial action, as it were, has been taken either regarding the shadowing of people and the anonymous threatening phone calls, which this time are of a different ideological stripe. Personnel at certain embassies have even allegedly been attacked, and although they have reported this to the government, the latter has not informed the public.

3) The public is not told either about the frequent strains within ministries and the ruling party specifically because of contradictory initiatives by ministers and undersecretaries. A few days ago, for example, and in spite of his proclaimed "firmness" with and coolness towards the military officers of the "process" (as he personally reaffirmed), a well-known minister reportedly spoke at length (2 hours) with one of the "hardline" generals of the previous regime about the mistrustful attitude of young army officers. The meeting had allegedly been arranged by Governor Angeloz, but it caused great displeasure among Defense Ministry officials, in particular Undersecretaries Jaimorena and Tomas, whose desire to see Mr Enrique Vanoli appointed undersecretary of military affairs, a post vacant since the death of Mr Pomar, has not yet been fulfilled.

Within the party and even within some of its factions, the "coordinating commission" for example, there is no agreement whatsoever on the succession to the Radical presidency, not even on whether such a succession should or should not take place. The Storanis, for example, who view the issue with a mixture of ambition and fear, have lately begun discussing it again with Mr Alfonsin. Most party authorities contend that Alfonsin ought to continue as head of the party, with no need to hold a convention. Even the president is reportedly in favor of such a "solution," which would nevertheless violate the Radical Civic Union's bylaws. Other Radicals, some of them very prestigious, advocate a more democratic decision-making process, in contrast. We will soon see what happens. So far, however, "praxis" continues to run counter to principles on this knotty issue.

We will not talk today about an already drafted bill enabling the members of any party to retire as such, nor about the many jobs that have been and continue to be handed out to party members in Congress and other government offices. Nor we will discuss the "extended" weekends (Thursday through Tuesday) with per diems that more than a few legislators have voted themselves. We suspect, however, that this is not the way to build a democracy or to acquire the necessary moral wherewithal to confront those who, devoid of any morals, seek to destroy not just a government or a party but the possibility of democracy itself.

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CSO: 3348/317

GOVERNMENT AT ODDS WITH MD'S, DLP OVER SCHOOL, HEALTH SERVICE

Adams on Offshore School

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams told the House of Assembly yesterday that he took full responsibility for the presence in Barbados of the St. George's Offshore Medical School, as he detailed the benefits Barbados will derive from its establishment.

"I was the Minister of Health at the time, but whether I was at the time or not, I take full responsibility for it", he said.

He stated he was neither a liar nor a coward. He did not tell lies about what went on in Cabinet, and he does not run away from a fight about something he felt strongly about.

Speaking in a debate to amend the Health Services Act, Mr. Adams said Government had no difficulty with the continuing presence in Barbados of the St. George's University School of Medicine.

He said the negotiations might go on as long as they like.

"We will facilitate them, in general, by welcoming them and by regulating their activities in the interest of proper teaching," Mr. Adams said.

Mr. Adams said his Government had never opposed the establishment of offshore medical schools in Barbados. He said a decision was taken to this effect in 1977 by Cabinet, and it was already set out to the public.

He pointed out that the arguments for having the school here were the enormous economic benefits that any educational institution with a large number of students, could bring to Barbados.

"Six hundred students will spend the same in a year as perhaps 25 000 tourists," he declared.

He emphasised that the Government's policy had been to foster the development of offshore services in banks, insurance companies, shipping companies, data processing, and educational institutions.

He thought that Barbados had lost a great deal by not now being able to attract at the Lodge School and elsewhere, students from overseas. He noted that the 2 000 Trinidadians and Venezuelans being taught in boarding schools here, could be of economic benefit to the country.

He said the University of the West Indies was faced with strain, and Government, outside the question of economics of offshore schools, had to give consideration to the long term future of tertiary education including professional qualification in the country.

"What will happen to the country if the UWI breaks up, as has been threatened in 1975, 1976, 1977 and as may be threatened again?" Mr. Adams queried.

"What will happen when we do not have free access to Mona, or free access to the new Medical School in Trinidad?" Mr. Adams wanted to know.

He acknowledged, "I do not believe we have that now" but noted that Government had to give thought to how doctors will be trained in this country, alluding to what he said was about 20 years from now.

He also queried whether in the face of the "possible fissiparious tendencies" within the University, was the Government of Barbados to seriously turn down the possibility of the establishment of some level of medical training within the island, and not at Government's expense, as a possible backstop in a future situation.

It was a situation to which he did not look forward Mr. Adams said, but he noted it was a factor which had to be considered since at the moment the facilities for training Barbadian doctors were much more limited than the number of students who would wish to be trained.

"That is why the Cabinet yesterday agreed to set up a Committee to examine the whole future of medical education in this country," he added.

Controversy in Parliament

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The controversy surrounding the establishment here of the St. George Offshore Medical School continued yesterday when the House of Assembly debated an amendment to the Health Services Act.

The amendment was passed in the Senate earlier this week.

Leading off the debate was Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams who said there was never any legal objection to cadavers being dissected in Barbados.

He said the health regulations did not advert specifically to the question of cadavers intended for anatomy. They adverted implicitly to cadavers intended to be buried as corpses in the country.

The Prime Minister noted that the conditions that one would expect when a corpse is sought to be used for the purpose of dissection, were that it should present no danger to public health, and that the dissection should be carried out under proper supervision, at the end of which the remains be given proper disposal.

He said Government was satisfied that the school had obtained the cadavers from a proper source in the United States; that they had been handled in accordance with the most stringent health regulations, and were free from disease.

The Government was also assured Mr. Adams said, that the supervision of the anatomy classes was adequate, and that there would be proper disposal of the bodies.

He noted that at one stage Government had believed the classes were carried on in a room that was rather too small, but that had since been corrected.

In addition Government was satisfied after inspection was made, that the classes were being carried on in accordance with the best reaching procedures.

Opposition Criticism

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Opposition Member Dr. Richard Haynes yesterday questioned the motives of the operators of offshore medical schools, who he said were prepared "to undermine medical standards in the United States."

Dr. Haynes was replying to a lengthy statement by Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams which outlined what benefits Barbados stood to gain from the establishment of the St. George's University School of Medicine, and the reasons why Government had decided to seriously consider the proposal to grant it permanent residence in the island.

Dr. Haynes declared that none of the offshore medical schools could operate in the United States and they, therefore, had turned "to bankrupt countries, with all sorts of weird promises."

Dr. Haynes called on Government to state what benefits St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada had gained from the presence of offshore medical schools, and said he knew of no capital investment made by any of the schools in any of these islands.

BAMP Objections

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP) is "saddenned and disappointed" by Cabinet's decision to allow the Ministry of

Health to enter into negotiations with the St. George's offshore Medical School.

President of BAMP, Dr. Michael Hoyos, told the BARBADOS ADVOCATE yesterday that the Association had, however, expected such a decision would be forthcoming from Cabinet.

Yet, from a professional point of view, he said, the Association was saddened and disappointed to learn that Cabinet appeared to give priority to the financial aspect of the offshore school, while "relegating our concerns of professionalism and health care to lesser importance."

He added, however, that the Association was pleased to see Cabinet reiterate the stand that the school would not use local public health care facilities, since this was one of BAMP's "strongest arguing points" from the beginning.

Dr. Hoyos said they wanted to give the negotiating Committee a chance, and to see how they will respond to the school's proposals, before taking a further stand on the matter.

BAMP also urged health officials to pay particular attention to the island's high standard of health and educational institutions when it enters negotiations with the St. George's School.

Adams' Response to DLP

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 4 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams has criticised the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) for its stand in opposing the St. George's Offshore medical school being established here.

Mr. Adams told the House of Assembly on Friday that the DLP had been inconsistent on the matter and that was what his Government had to address in the debate.

He produced documents to show the DLP had been negotiating with concerns in the United States on the establishment of an offshore school in Barbados.

One document produced in the House was a letter dated July 2, 1975 and addressed to a Mr. Frederick T. Pishotta, which, among other things, said the then Government had agreed in principle on proposals for the establishment of a privately financed College of Medical Arts in Barbados. Mr. Adams said the opening date of the school was fixed for November 30, 1976.

He said the DLP had "nothing to be ashamed of except for the lies they were now telling."

According to him: "The DLP, like the BLP later, examined the reasons for having a medical school. They came to the conclusion that there were circumstances in which a medical school might be reasonably established in Barbados."

He added they had negotiated, sought advice, read reports, examined the situation with the medical profession in the U.S. and sought the advice of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP), and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

He accused BAMP of being misguided and said that like so many situations in which doctors found themselves, not entirely of this world when coming to deal with matters outside their immediate discipline.

Adams' Stand on Health Service

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 4 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Government has said it is prepared for a struggle with medical practitioners here over the implementation of its National Health Service, and it would be going ahead with the scheme, with or without the doctors.

"Those who join, join, who do not join, let us see what happens to them," Mr. Adams told Parliament on Friday while giving an update on negotiations between Government and medical practitioners for participation in the scheme.

Mr. Adams said he did not think Government will ever come to an agreement with the doctors over the NHS, and he described the doctors as being "unreasonable people."

"I dust my hands of the negotiations. We are prepared for the struggle. There will be a battle. If before the battle lines are drawn, the Barbadian genius for compromise can assert itself, then so be it," the Prime Minister said.

He said Government was not increasing emoluments offered to doctors.

According to him they objected to the fact that Government had revealed that the gross emoluments available to a doctor for looking after 450 old people would be between $47 000 and $48 000 annually.

But said Mr. Adams: "They are now going to reveal that the negotiating position of the doctors for looking after a full panel of people of all ages, and with which the Government has agreed is that they will have gross incomes of between $150 000 and $160 000 a year."

Furthermore the Prime Minister stated that the doctors' argument was that the income was alright but they must not look after 3 300 people as an English doctor would have done for less money. They suggested 2 000 and Government must get more doctors to get that income, Adams noted.

"You are dealing with people...who when you negotiate with them a special payment to go into that $160 000, as part of it for ensuring that there is always somebody available on night call from a given group of doctors."

"You are dealing with people who passed a unanimous resolution that in addition to being paid by the year a substantial sum of money for being available on night call, that they must get $50 for every patient they see after a certain hour", Mr. Adams told the House.

He stated that if the doctors were given $160 000 a year and $50 for every patient they see after 6 p.m. there were doctors who will arrange to see their patients after 6 p.m.

He said an offer was made to the doctors to ensure they got an income averaged out from what they returned to the Inland Revenue, but the medical men said that would be impossible.

"All right we said. Tell us by how much you underestimate your incomes. They gave us a figure. We sent people around to the doctors' offices unknown to them," he stated.

He explained Government had worked out how much it thought was being underestimated and that was added to what the doctors were estimating. This "we said we would give you that," Adams said.

According to him: "The doctors said no, we are not paying tax on what we are underestimating. You will have to give us enough now to pay the tax on what we are underestimating since we are going to have to pay a tax on it."

He stated Government gave them what they admitted they were making and paying tax on.

He spoke on other services discussed with the doctors, among them adequate service and rent and said Government had leaned over backwards, and noted that the Government was dealing with what he called "unreasonable people."

Reversal of Ministry Layoffs

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 21 Feb 84 p 20

[Text] The 200 workers of the Ministry of Health, who received lay-off notices last week, will have those notices withdrawn, according to Prime Minister Tom Adams.

In a statement released via the Government Information Service (GIS) yesterday, the Prime MInister said "...staff may work normally while the process of rationalisation of the public health inspector service is carried on."

Following a meeting yesterday morning with Minister of Health, Senator O'Brien Trotman, the permanent secretaries in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance and the financial comptroller in the Ministry of Health, Mr. Adams said he was satisfied that all casual and temporary workers, who were sent home empty-handed last Friday, should and could have been paid.

The temporary staff, he added, could have received their wages from a vote at the Establishments Division, which provide payment for temporary workers of Government.

The Prime Minister said that, as a result of enquiries carried out, he was also satisfied that the Ministry of Finance officials had drawn to the attention of the Ministry of Health the possibility of obtaining funds from the temporary vote, and that it was a lack of a sense of urgency on the part of officers at the health ministry in clearing this with the chief establishments officer.

He said that all Aedes Egypti inspectors, who were entitled to wages, were paid, since funds to pay these were adequate. The other inspectors are paid on a fortnightly basis and their wages were not due until Friday 24, when they will be paid.

Explaining the misunderstanding between the two ministries he said:

"Although the category of public health service (which is subhead 14 of the Ministry of Health vote) should contain only 27 general workers, it appears from preliminary enquiry, that many more workers than this, who should more properly have been paid from Community Health Services (subhead five the Ministry's vote) were charged to subhead 14.

Available

"Adequate funds are available under the vote for the Community Health Services, there being a balance of over $300 000 remaining for the rest of the financial year ending March 31, but the funds under Public Health Service have been exhausted, leaving a shortfall between eleven and twelve thousand dollars required weekly for the remaining six weeks of the financial year under subhead 14."

Mr. Adams said that Senator Trotman had ordered a departmental enquiry and his permanent secretary would be questioning personnel and financial officers from within his ministry in an effort to have the matter satisfactorily resolved.

[Editor's Note: The Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE of 21 February, page 1, adds the following: "This island's largest public sector trade union, the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) has said that it is satisfied with Government's announcement that those 200 health workers laid off last Friday will be reinstated. Vice president Mr. Errol Gay has stated that talks with the Minister of Health held yesterday afternoon were cordial, adding that the NUPW was happy with the way the matter had been resolved."]

CSO: 3298/589

UNION: COUNTRY BEING 'SOLD OUT' TO FOREIGN INVESTORS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 1 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) charged yesterday that the country was being sold out by Government and some local management personnel to foreign investors.

BWU's Assistant General Secretary Leroy Trotman made the charge as he led a union rally outside the American-owned Caribbean Data Services Limited whose management Mr. Trotman said was preventing employees there from being unionised.

Mr. Trotman said it was clear that the workers at the company had problems and given the fact they were getting a mere $400 per month, they wanted to join the BWU to have their interests looked after.

But he stated that management had threatened the employees with dismissal and warned that should they become members of any union the company would close its doors.

Mr. Trotman described this position as "wicked and vicious", and wanted to know what was it the company was scared about.

He said too the company had been fed incorrect information in dealing with trade union movement here and that six months ago it had signed a document now lodged with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), agreeing to enter dialogue with the BWU.

"Someone is misleading the company", Mr. Trotman stated.

"It is clear to us that Barbados is being sold out to American interests first by Government, and local management people, and something has to be done and seriously, otherwise the country will be in a lot of trouble," Trotman noted.

He warned that the union's Executive Council will be meeting next Wednesday night to work out a strategy pointing out that the company was a subsidiary of American Airlines which used the facilities at the local airport.

According to him: "If you cannot get a man one way there were other ways of doing so."

CSO: 3298/590

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES EXPANSION OF FOREIGN SERVICE

Consular Service Plans

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados' Foreign Minister Louis Tull said yesterday the country needed to expand its honorary consular services not only to look after the interests of nationals but also to assist the country's economic development agencies in their work.

Mr. Tull returned home yesterday after what he said was a successful meeting with the country's Honorary Consuls in North America. Also attending the meeting were Barbados Ambassador to the U.S., its High Commissioner in Canada, two Consul Generals in North America and some member officers of his Ministry.

"I should therefore be looking at other cities and states in the United States to see if we could establish more Honorary Consulates in a wider number of cities" Mr. Tull told a news conference at the Grantley Adams International Airport yesterday.

He did not single out the new areas stating that this would depend on a number of criteria that determine which cities, not only in North America but other areas where the new appointments will be made.

The Minister said he felt the time was ripe for the review of the work of the consular corps in North America. The two days of talks were used to review the problems of the issuing of visas and travel documents, and problems encountered by Barbadian nationals in North America.

Mr. Tull said that a lot of time was spent propagating the views of the Ministry in respect of foreign policy, matters relating to tourism, and the work of the Industrial Development Corporation.

Port-of-Spain Situation

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Louis Tull anticipates it would not be too long a time before there is a "change of heart of the Trinidad Government" with regards to Barbados posting its High Commissioner to that country.

Mr. Tull said yesterday that the posting of a Barbados High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago was in the hands of that country's Prime Minister George Chambers.

Last year at the time of the invasion of Grenada, Mr. Chambers had asked the Barbados Government not to send its High Commissioner to Trinidad at that time. This followed the decision by Barbados to demand the recall to Port-of-Spain of its High Commissioner to Bridgetown.

Mr. Tull said the Caribbean countries went through a difficult period in the last quarter of 1983 and there were a lot of strains and pressures.

"I anticipate it wouldn't be very long before I hear of a change of heart in Port-of-Spain," he said.

Representation in Grenada

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 21 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Louis Tull, is proposing that the Barbados Government have a man on the spot in Grenada.

Giving his reason for this, he told a Press conference at the airport yesterday, that Barbados had a number of people in sensitive areas there, and it might be a good thing to have some one there to deal with problems that might arise.

Additionally, he said, Barbados played a prominent role in assisting Grenadians last October.

"And," he added, "we have a very keen and vested interest in the emergence there of democracy through democratic institutions.

"This is not to say that we need a presence to interfere with what happens in the normal process with the people of Grenada. It is entirely up to them to take the decisions in whatever direction they want to go.

"It would not be an unwise thing for us to be on the spot to get the feel of what is happening," he told reporters.

Mr. Tull said that the Government would have to give urgent consideration to such a presence.

On the question of a Barbados high commissioner going to Trinidad, Mr. Tull said this matter was in the hands of Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Mr. George Chambers.

Mr. Tull reminded that Berbados had already named its high commissioner, but pointed out that the region had been going through a difficult period.

He anticipated it would not be too long before they heard of a "change of heart in Prot-of-Spain".

The minister of foreign affairs said it might also be an appropriate time now that Barbados is strengthening ties with Latin America, to look at upgrading the mission to Venezuela, noting that there had not been a resident ambassador to that country for the past six years.

Mr. Tull said he was looking at the matter, and would make recommendations to Prime Minister Tom Adams by the end of this month.

"And it will be up to the Prime Minister to make the decision," he said.

CSO: 3298/590

MANUFACTURERS REACT WITH PUZZLEMENT TO JAMAICAN CLAIM

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 Mar 84 p 20

[Text] The Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA) neither understands nor accepts why Barbados should have difficulty getting paid for goods sold to Jamaica because Jamaica has no difficulty in getting paid for goods sold to Barbados.

This was stated yesterday by president of the BMA, Mr. Frank DaSilva, who noted that the BMA was contemplating taking a small mission to Jamaica to look into the existing trade problems, particularly as they relate to the non-payment for Barbadian exports.

Mr. DaSilva was responding to a suggestion by two visiting Jamaican officials that Barbadian exporters may have to resort to a barter arrangement, instead of payment for goods sold to Jamaica.

He said: "While we are willing to examine all methods of trading, we do not see barter as the answer. And we are sure that Jamaica is equally as committed to CARICOM as we are."

He stated that if any preference was to be made by Jamaica on whom goods should be imported from, it should go to her CARICOM partners, particularly Barbados, to whose market Jamaica enjoys free access for her manufactured goods.

Meanwhile, president of the Small Business Association (SBA), Mohammed Amin Nasser, said he did not see anything wrong with bartering and would like to see it developed. He felt the foreign exchange problem could be solved by trading with other countries apart from Jamaica.

He said it was clear that the Government would have to pay the money for the goods after they arrived in their respective countries. He explained that the goods would be exchanged and the governments would distribute the goods to wholesalers, and the manufacturers would then receive their money.

"It is not in our interest to see Jamaica and Guyana collapse and we could co-operate with them," he said.

CSO: 3298/590

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS SUCCESSES IN PROMOTION OF EXPORTS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank has reported significant progress with its programmes devised to assist Barbadian exporters.

The programmes are an export finance guarantee scheme, an export credit insurance facility, and an export rediscount facility.

The first export finance guarantee scheme was set up to enable exporters to obtain liberal finance facilities from their bankers at better rates of interest for the production of goods and services. The export credit insurance is an insurance scheme against non-payment by overseas buyers.

The other facility was begun in 1981 and under it exporters can discount their export bills with commercial banks at a stipulated rate of interest, (currently 11 per cent per annum), and commercial banks can in turn, rediscount those bills at the Central Bank.

According to an official update from the Bank, the schemes continue to grow from strength to strength.

An official from the Bank has reported that the annual volume of shipments covered reached $30 million last year, a figure which could have been surpassed had it not been for the trade problems with Trinidad and Tobago.

It was also stated that despite the growth in insurance coverage offered, there was no phenomenal increase in the number and amount of claims, although 1983 produced the highest levels of claims since the scheme began.

During the first four years total claims paid out amounted to $193 000, whereas as for last year the claims were just over $300 000.

Under the export rediscount facility commercial banks in 1982 had rediscounted at the Central Bank $8.7 million worth of export bills. But for 1983 this figure had increased to $13 million.

CSO: 3298/590

IMPROVED TIES WITH SOUTH KOREA EYED AS NEW ENVOY IS AWAITED

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Jewel Brathwaite]

[Text] Barbados will be looking to improve its economic links with South Korea whose first resident Ambassador to this country, Sun Sap Chang, will arrive here this week.

Mr. Chang will be presenting his credentials to acting Governor-General Sir William Douglas. He will also be visiting the seven member nations of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean nations to which he is also accredited.

The South Korean official will be presenting his letters of credence to those member countries. Barbados and South Korea established diplomatic ties in 1977, but an Embassy was opened here last year.

Trade between Barbados and South Korea (like Japan) has been heavily stacked in South Korea's favour but there are plans by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to promote Barbados in that country.

This is being done to cash-in on the thriving South Korean economy, find new markets for the local manufacturing sector in view of the regional trade problems and further liberalize Barbados' trade ties.

According to trade statistics bewteen the two developing countries over the past three years, South Korea has been enjoying a favourable position.

In 1980 Barbados' imports from that country totalled Bds$1.8 million; in 1981 Bds$1.1 million; and following year Bds$2.7 million; and for last year Bds$2.8 million.

In launching the IDC's 1983-87 Development Plan, Chairman Fred Gollop stated that a new thrust will be made to promote Barbados in this region, highlighting Barbados' attractiveness as an industrial base for launching into the North American market.

"In this respect, the Caribbean Basin Initiative will enhance Barbados' competitive position in inducing investment from these areas (Japan, Korea and Hong Kong)," he said.

Top priorities this year include readjustments of economic structures designed to close gaps between industries, technological innovations and an improvement in the people's living standard, and price stability.

CSO: 3298/591

OPPOSITION DISCUSSES VOTER REGISTRATION, POSSIBLE ELECTION

DLP Rally Speech

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] Be prepared for any eventuality, including the possibility of a general election this year.

This warning came yesterday from former deputy prime minister in the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Government, Mr. J. Cameron Tudor, as he addressed members of the St. George South constituency branch of the DLP, at Ellerton Primary School.

Mr. Tudor said that the Tom Adams Government was becoming increasingly frustrated, and that many problems were multiplying faster than the Government could solve, or divert attention from them.

He gave as examples, the "scandal of the off-shore medical school; the existence of two coney island enterprises in the island; the obvious critical state of the economy; the disarray in the public service; the dismissals and lay-offs of employees to control public expenditure and the alienation of several sectors of the community".

In quoting Senator David Seale's recent charges in the Senate, Mr. Tudor said: "Barbados is on a precipice in manufacturing, tourism and sugar."

He added that the increasing incompetence of ministries to check the chaos in the administrative department of Government, all helped to bear his advice to mind.

The veteran politician stated that "the St. Peter affair", should also be looked at carefully.

He added that on February 22, this year, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. Burton Hinds' second six-month leave period would expire and it did not appear that the Government intended to grant another, since it would have been convenient to do so when the House meets on Tuesday.

"But, there is no meeting of the House of Assembly scheduled for Tuesday," he said. This means, Mr. Tudor said, that Government will have to fall back

on the alternative of allowing Mr. Hinds to enjoy the three-month grace period without leave which the rules of the House permits. This would bring his leave to May 22.

At that point, he said, Government will either have to tell him they do not propose to indulge him any further, or ask for another period of leave which might be met with some hostile public criticism.

"I suppose that in the course of their frequent visits to Mr. Hinds to enquire of his health and about the progress of his recovery, they would have discussed with him, all of these matters and would have decided not to extend his leave for another six months," Mr. Tudor declared.

Burton Hinds Issue

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] If the Barbados Government does not extend Speaker Burton Hinds' sick leave, "the Democratic Labour Party could expect something", either a by-election, or a general election in June.

And according to Mr. J. Cameron Tudor, the by-election would be to fill the vacancy in Parliament created by the retirement of Mr. Hinds.

He said that the general elections would come about if the Government could get down the unemployment statistics from 15 percent and if it could manage to present a budget which would relieve all the burdens which have so far been imposed on the population.

Mr. Tudor said he expected that if one was held, for it to be fair, between now and the time it is held, an electoral and boundaries commission should be set up by Parliament, and should be able to manage any future elections independently.

"Or, I would expect that an enumeration for the purposes of compiling an honest electoral register would immediately be set in train and that enumerators should be accompanied on their work by scrutineers selected by both political parties for this purpose.

"No one can be fully satisfied with figures recently published in respect of the register of voters. These show too large a percentage increase of over-18 voters when compared with the percentage at the time of the 1981 general elections. The population census of 1980 showed Barbados to have 244 228 people, roughly 164 000 were registered voters at the time of general elections which would have been about 69 percent," he said.

The recently published figures now stand at 74 percent of the total population which now can hardly be more than about 247 000 people, Mr. Tudor concluded.

Haynes on Voter Enumeration

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] Opposition MP, Dr. Richie Haynes, has called on Government for a complete and new enumeration of electors in Barbados.

The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) shadow minister of finance said that this enumeration should be conducted under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. He said that any election conducted on the basis of the current electoral lists would be fraudulent.

In an address to the St. George North branch of the DLP on Sunday, Dr. Haynes said, that prior to the last elections, Prime Minister Tom Adams who is also the minister responsibie for electoral affairs, had stated that the registration which was being done under the Statistics Act had absolutely nothing to do with elections, but was being done to facilitate the introduction of a National health Service.

It is now a matter of history, said Dr. Haynes, that at the last moment, registration was made lawful for election purposes and, as a result, several hundreds of electors were unable to vote on election day, despite the thoroughly cynical ministerial statement to the effect that only a few people were disenfranchised.

Dr. Haynes said that the DLP and all Barbadians were committed to periodic, free and fair elections as the cornerstone of the democratic process, and all we are asking the Government to do is to take appropriate steps to ensure that the electoral lists are as accurate as possible since these form the basis of free and fair elections.

"In my own constituency," said Dr. Haynes, "to have won in 1981 by the majority I achieved, it was necessary to obtain 79.2 percent of the votes of persons actually living in the constituency and not less than 48.1 percent of those persons who did not live in the constituency but whose names are on the register.

"Mr. Cameron Tudor recently highlighted the situation which exists in the Belleville area where some 503 people are on the register when in fact less than 200 live in that polling district. The same applies to the other polling districts. It is thoroughly ridiculous to suggest that there could be 897 electors in the Halls Road area; 925 in the area of Bannister Land, Delamere Land, and one side of George Street; 752 in the retangular area bounded by the one side of the Pine Road, one side of Upper Collymore Rock, one side of Pine Plantation Road, and one side of Pine Hill; or that there could be 1 295 electors in the area comprising Highgate and the area of Brittons Hill between one side of Laynes Road, one side of Brittons Cross Road and one side of Upper Collymore Rock."

Dr. Haynes said that his branch had an accurate record of all persons living in St. Michael South Central up to June 1981, and subsequently.

Said Dr. Haynes: "I am tired of drawing these gross discrepancies to the attention of the electoral office only to be told that I have to tell them where those persons reside who do not reside in St. Michael South Central in order that the changes may be effected."

He said: "Again and again one is told that the resources is not available and that the personnel are not available to have the list in Barbados corrected and yet we hear that the Government is offering to send officers to Grenada to assist with the preparation of an electoral list which the British Government would be only too happy to do." [as published]

CSO: 3298/591

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DEBT--Barbados' national debt stood at $861.3 million at the end of last year, the Barbados Central Bank has revealed. The latest issue of the Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics revealed that of the amount, the domestic component accounted for $514 million, and the foreign $347.3 million. At the end of 1982 the national debt stood at $760 million. The domestic component then was $473.1 million and the foreign component $286.9 million. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 4 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/591

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PRESENT OBJECTIONS TO ANTITERRORIST LAW

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 5

[Excerpt] The antiterrorist bill was characterized by the Social Democratic Regional Political Commission as "an attempt to legalize repression, torture and violation of human rights in Chile."

Rafael Senoret and the other members of the aforementioned commission explained at a press conference that "from the constitutional and legal point of view, all established principles, including those provided by the 1980 Constitution itself, are being violated when it is sought to enact this bill without complying with the stipulation of Article 9 of the aforesaid text, which provides for a law by a quorum qualified to pass it. Article 19, Item 1, concerning the application of illegal constraints, and the same article, Item 2, first and second sentences, concerning arbitrary differences or privileged groups, are violated when Article 3, Item 2 establishes a different and privileged class composed of the military, their spouses and their direct or indirect ascendants. Every positive Chilean doctrine, jurisprudence and legal text is disregarded when the penalty of the accomplice and the perpetrator are equated, and the difference in the penalty of an attempted, a frustrated and an consumated crime are eliminated."

The social democrats of the metropolitan regional party organization added that the bill could not avoid a breach of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights even if it were enacted by means of a plebiscite.

The statement that they released asserts that the extreme urgency of the bill has not expedited it because the armed forces representatives probably consider that it does not do them justice. They add that the ambiguity in determining terrorist behavior would leave "all Chileans exposed to the most terrible uncertainty about their security." Moreover, they estimate that enabling military courts to deal with these matters is granting them political power.

Further on, they add: "The real beneficiaries of this law are cited in Article 12, and Article 14, essentially folkloric and tropical [sic], provides that the chief justice will be the top official responsible for carrying out the judicial mandate, which does away with all legal possibilities of preventing a juridical artrocity in the defense of any defendant. The same article provides that the armed forces and the security forces garrisons will become prisons, thus transforming the military into the jailers of Chile."

8414
CSO: 3348/280

WORKERS COMMAND CALLS FOR NATIONAL STRIKE IN MARCH

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 12

[Text] The self-styled National Workers Command insisted on organizing a "peaceful national protest" for 27 March, and a national strike in the near future "to demand an answer from the authorities to the reiterated peitions to amend the economic model forcibly imposed on the people, and because of the government's refusal to respond to a document delivered (by this command) on 27 October 1983." Moreover, a 15-point statement was released by leaders Rodolfo Seguel (Copper Workers Confederation) and Jorge Millan (CEPCH [Chilean Confederation of Private Sector Employees]).

The document was handed out at a press conference during which it was disclosed that it contained resolutions made at Puente Alto last Friday in the founding of the so-called "Council of Confederations, Federations, National Unions and National Associations," which was attended by 315 grass-roots leaders. When asked why the Maipu Labor Union Federation (FESIMA), which groups the supporters of Clotario Blest, had been turned down, the answer was that it involved national, not regional, organizations.

The 15 points set down in the statement relate to an evaluative assembly of labor union leaders slated for 14 April, and the projected peaceful protest and national strike. Moreover, they make an appeal to the "social body of the country" --townspeople, students, professionals, and transportation, business, agricultural and industrial managers, jointly with political parties--to participate in these activities. Also, to proceed to the creation of workers subcommands at the regional and provincial levels; to participate in the acts commemorating the assassination of ANEF [National Association of Government Employees] leader Tucapel Jimenez on 25 February; to carry out a workers rally to propound a thorough change in the political and economic models in effect in the country, a change that will contemplate, among other things, an end to unemployment and to the private undertaking of health, education and social security, a low-cost housing construction program, and the return of lands to peasants and Araucans. Furthermore, that legislation be enacted to establish a powerful labor union movement that will include not only the industrial sectors, "but will enable peasants and public workers to have organizations recognized by the majesty of the law."

The document also advocates the dissolution of the CNI [National Information Center], and pronounces itself against the antiterrorist bill considering that it is an attempt against the labor movement and the people; it opposes the establishment of a designated or an elected parliament "as long as a new constitution, freely drafted, discussed and approved by the people, is not enacted with the guarantees of a democratic act;" and it demands a solution to the problem of the small savers in mutual funds, whose money was devalued for as long as the enterprises in which it was invested do not recover.

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CSO: 3348/280

BRIEFS

AD FAVORS MARCH 1984 PROTEST--The Democratic Alliance [AD] will support the labor protest called by various workers sectors for the latter part of March. It also announced through its chairman, Mario Sharpe, that it will carry out simultaneous public acts in all the regional capitals of the country on 30 March. Sharpe also said that in tomorrow's meeting, the AD will discuss the public appeal for joint action in a common front made by the Popular Democratic Movement [MPD]. Speaking for himself, inasmuch as the matter still has not been discussed by the AD, Sharpe explained that they have acted jointly in social demonstrations, but a political coalition is a different affair. The AD coalition was formed to support the transitional government and the program that it is drafting--the alternative government program. We advocate a peaceful, nonviolent opposition. The MDP does not discard the violent route. Therefore the difference persist. Changing the subject, Mario Sharpe announced that he will attend the ceremony of the public establishment of the AD in Angol on Saturday, and that a rally will be held at the port of San Antonio on 23 February. The setting up of the municipal councils will begin within the next few days--at La Pincoya on 14 February, and at El Llano (San Miguel) on 16 February. Subsequently, four in San Bernardo and another two at La Reina and Nunoa. [Text] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 5] 8414

CSO: 3348/280

REACTION TO U.S. AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT CONSIDERED OVERBLOWN

San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Jan 84 Section II p 2

[Editorial: "Ambassador's Statements"]

[Text] When necessary, we have been on the front line defending our sovereignty. Therefore, we are not willing to permit an ambassador from a foreign country to come and impose his opinions on the conduct of our politics.

However, in spite of not having a literal transcription of the statements imputed to him, it seems to us that the statements that last Sunday's LA NACION put in U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor's mouth have caused an exaggerated reaction from the Political Directorate of the National Liberation Party. We would like, therefore, to give our opinion in order to prevent a tempest in a teapot, even if it only lasted for 3 days. Foreigners do not understand this traditional mechanism for scandals that often helps us conceal other matters that have nothing to do with the apparent cause.

The text of the statements has to be analyzed within the circumstances. One is the ambassador's inadequate mastery of the Spanish language. Another circumstance is the informal framework in which the statements were made and another is the occasion: apparently an invitation from the Sugar Cane League to try to obtain concessions for exports of sugar and derivatives to the United States.

Looking at the matter this way, it is obvious that it is exaggerated to conclude--as the Political Directorate of the National Liberation Party does--that the ambassador is trying to impose his opinions on the conduct of our politics. Perhaps he is indicating to us how we should orient our economy but only as advice and, more importantly, necessarily related to the way we can take better advantage of the markets and latest customs concessions the United States offers us.

In an attempt to find serious reasons to censure the ambassador, we found that he stated that, in order to exploit those concessions, the country needs to have efficient bank operations, competitive port policies, a working customs system and a tax position favorable to the exporter. He added that the customs, ports and banking system now "are scandalous."

It will take an expert in international law to see if the ambassador violated some diplomatic convention with his words. However, his words only repeated the constant charges and complaints of producers and exporters. To censure him, then, without recognizing that hardly anything has been done about this in 2 years of government resembles to us the conduct of the husband who, confronted with his wife's adultery, only sells the sofa used.

Stating that he has confidence in President Monge, calling him a very competent politician, reporting that he is negotiating to obtain tax exemptions to sell alcohol in California--which he called an unlimited market--or announcing that Nicaragua's sugar quota will be given to us are merely signs that the ambassador acted without trying to violate our sovereignty. Rather, he was interested in helping us. It is unfortunate that we are so thin-skinned.

After all, it is obvious that we are not going to hand over our sovereignty to the countries that help us. However, we cannot ignore the fact that the fullest sovereignty will come from our economic independence. The fact that we do not have that independence and the fact that the greatest achievements of this government lie in direct or indirect aid from the United States must concern a party like the National Liberation Party that has historic responsibility for 30 years. Those 30 years cannot be interrupted by the blunders of the previous government which did nothing more than aggravate problems and errors that appeared during National Liberation governments.

7717
CSO: 3248/468

GOVERNMENT VIEWED AS SHORT ON LEADERSHIP, VACILLATORY

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Feb 84 p 12

[Editorial: "Tremendous Absence"]

[Text] What is happening in the country is so serious that it cannot pass unnoticed. It requires a comment to advocate corrections in the trajectory of the government if there is still time and if there is still some vestige of a will to command in the man who 2 years ago accepted the serious and unavoidable responsibility of directing state activities.

Now we have a state that is adrift, reeling without any definite route, without a helmsman. The waves of the chaotic situation in the area and the buffets of internal politicking throw it around, threatening to capsize it. There is no agreement even on the most vital things like security, social harmony or economic survival among those who have to march together, work in unison and indicate together a reliable and secure course for the people to follow. A few months ago, these people formed a large group with hopes and determination to advance.

Never before has the electorate given a government so much power at the ballot boxes. Never before has a government received so much national support originating both nationally and abroad. The entire nation trusted that it would guide it with a firm and secure hand to overcome the crisis in which the previous government had left it submerged. That is the reason the people accepted the sacrifices announced, willing as always to do what is necessary to advance. The press during these months, without exception, clearly reflected what happened: hope was replaced with doubt, doubt with disillusionment and disillusionment with a strong feeling of abandonment, frustration and failure.

All this is due to the tremendous absence of a captain who, after obtaining total command, has not wanted or known how to command. The country is like an enormous orchestra where no one has a baton, making harmony impossible. We are like a blind man who walks through a street filled with dangers and does not even have a guide to take him by the hand. Perhaps there is the single exception of President Reagan who sends us dollars to help us. National security is divided into two branches and those responsible for it have conflicting opinions and actions on any important matter that comes up. The Ministry of Energy insists on continuing oil exploration that is already very advanced

and the Economic Council orders that exploration stopped. President Monge and his minister of finance pressure for a gasoline tax of about 25 percent, threatening monetary devaluation if that measure is not passed. Meanwhile, Vice President Fait says they exaggerate, not to say lie. The alleged tax, indispensable to some, is reduced and might be eliminated, forgetting what was said only hours before. It is stated that without the so-called "emergency law," there will not be a new understanding with the IMF and this will precipitate economic chaos. Then the government deputies do not agree and vote down that "emergency law." The government says that the creation of the Labor Economy Sector is the cornerstone of its project and then demonstrates to the country that it does not know how to do it. So many versions of it have been presented that we don't dare say how many, indicating that it has an idea that it cannot carry out. They cry out against corruption and for the need to decrease public expenditures and corruption spreads and not even the slightest sign of a desire to spend less in the official sector is glimpsed. The ministers fight among themselves, one vice president confronts the president of the Central Bank and the government deputies, divided into factions, bicker and haggle. Meanwhile, the people are flabbergasted. They see the faith vanishing that they sincerely put into a group that stated that it knew how to govern. In that environment, everything dissipates or overflows through lack of decision and spirit.

President Monge has to take the helm of the government firmly or the uncertainty will be greater than in the time of Carazo. It is all right to try to apply what is described as a policy of consensus but it is indispensable to tighten the reins when the horse takes the bit in his teeth. The president must set policy in basic aspects or he is not the president. It is not a case where everyone can do his own thing to the sway of the politicking of the party in government. Over and above those interests, the president must impose the interests of the fatherland. We believe there is still time to do it and to win back the support offered originally. Otherwise, the decay of the regime that began some months ago will advance at a dizzying rate and the country, in disorder and without a captain to govern it, will remain at the mercy of the forces that fight from abroad to undo its system and to weaken its democratic and social stability.

We are not trying to sound the trumpets of Judgment Day. In spite of what is happening, there are signs of economic recovery which indicates that there is still hope. However, that reality shows the gigantic responsibility Luis Alberto Monge has to govern, not be front man for disorder and intrigue in the heart of his own government.

7717
CSO: 3248/468

CP HEAD ASSAILS 'IMPERIALISM,' DISCUSSES PARTY'S STRATEGY

Moscow POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE in Russian No 1, Jan 84 pp 112-118

[Article by Rene Mauge Mosquera, general secretary of the Ecuadoran Communist Party Central Committee: "Imperialism--the Main Enemy of the Peoples"]

[Text] Lenin's teaching about imperialism, which was thoroughly and comprehensively worked out in the book "Imperializm, kak vysshaya stadiya kapitalizma" (Imperialism As the Highest Stage of Capitalism) is one of the most important achievements of human thought. It has passed the main test--the test of time. The main tenets of this teaching have been confirmed by the entire experience of the international communist movement and the activities of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which has enriched Leninist theory with an analysis of the new phenomena which have arisen in the subsequent years.

The predatory and criminal nature of imperialism is now manifested in all spheres of human activity. Imperialism hinders the resolution of such important and acute problems as those of how to overcome the poor development level of the former colonial countries, how to eliminate poverty and hunger and how to utilize natural resources for the benefit of man. Its crimes include two bloody world wars, especially the second, which brought untold suffering to many peoples, and especially to the Soviet people. Imperialism reared Hitlerite fascism and today it supports neofascism of various types, as well as dictatorial, despotic regimes in various countries. It bears responsibility for numerous local wars, acts of aggression and intervention (direct and indirect) aimed againt national-liberation, democratic and progressive movements. It has on its conscience countless acts of genocide similar to the crime against the people of Palestine, which is being carried out at the hands of the Israeli Zionists. Imperialism makes wide use of threats, sabotage, slander and every kind of provocation against the socialist system and against the countries which have chosen for themselves a noncapitalist path of socio-economic development. It encourages in

every way possible the constant growth of the military-industrial complex, which presents a serious threat to peace.

Acute economic, social and political crises constantly shake the capitalist world. They are accompanied by a reduction in the rate of economic growth in the countries of capital, by inflation, by a worsening of the balance of payments, by a wave of bankruptcies, by a reduction in the volume of foreign trade, by a worsening of inter-imperialist conflicts and by other similar phenomena.

Unemployment has become one of the most acute problems of bourgeois society. At the present time, according to official data, the number of completely unemployed people in the industrially developed countries of capital has exceeded 32 million. In Europe alone, as the forecasters of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development claim, the number of unemployed will reach 20 million by the end of 1984. In the United States of America itself, the main citadel of world imperialism, the number of unemployed, according to official data, exceeds 12 million people, and there are more than 34 million who live below the official "poverty line."

The deeper the bourgeois states are drawn into the quagmire of economic crisis and continuously growing military expenditures, the stronger is the attack on the rights of the working people. This kind of policy is widely practiced in the world of capital. Billions of dollars are taken from the pockets of the rank and file taxpayers through reductions in wages and pensions, through continuous growth in prices, through increased rents and higher costs for using public transportation and for receiving medical care, etc. The exploitation of all categories of working people, including children, is increasing. According to a report by the International Organization of Labor, millions of children were employed at industrial enterprises in the capitalist world in the late 70's: specifically 100,000 in Portugal, 280,000 in Spain, 300,000 in the FRG, 600,000 in Italy, 650,000 in Great Britain and 800,000 in the USA. A majority of under-age workers belong to ethnic groups which are subject to racial discrimination. In fact, these are defenseless slaves who can be bought and sold. They are doomed by capitalism to relentless exploitation; they are deprived of any rights. And how many other ulcers show through the advertising tinsel of capitalism! Degradation of the individual, pornography and prostitution carried to extreme limits, including child prostitution, the cult of violence and drug addiction...

Capitalism in its highest and last--imperialist--stage lacks any future and is not capable of resolving the contradictions which are inherent in it. True, it still retains its influence and holds dominating positions in many countries of Asia, Africa and

Latin America (with the the exception, of course, of those which have chosen for themselves a socialist path of development). And it is precisely the depraved policy of the imperialist monopolies, which practice methods of neocolonialist exploitation and robbery of natural resources, which bears the guilt for the backwardness of the economies and cultures in the developing countries, including the fact that their industries are in an embryonic state or limited to the service sphere, while pre-capitalistic and semi-feudal features characterize their agriculture.

In many Latin American countries such as Ecuador, for example, capitalist development under conditions of foreign dependence is characterized by increased penetration of international financial capital. The national industry is economically and technologically completely dependent on foreign monopolies and is characterized by poor ability to compete in world markets. The activities of the multinational corporations in these countries undermine the national economies and make them one-sided; it turns these countries into mono-exporters of raw materials and intermediate products and importers of industrial output.

While shifting the weight of the crisis onto the shoulders of the poorly developed and dependent countries, imperialism skilfully makes use of their foreign indebtedness. By the beginning of the 80's, the foreign debt of the Latin American states alone reached an enormous sum--$300 billion. This is more than four and a half times the debt which they had in 1975. Hunger and unemployment on our continent have reached enormous dimensions. The fourth conference on planning for employment in Latin America, which was held in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, confirmed that 40 percent of the manpower in the countries between the Rio Grande and Patagonia is unemployed or semi-employed.

The various forms of dependence in the economic, political and ideological areas are the consequence of the neocolonialist policy of imperialism; the strategic goal of the latter is to keep the developing countries within the framework of the world capitalist system as its vassals and taxpayers. Imperialism forces them to move within the groove of their own reactionary policies and tries to make them collide with the countries of socialism and with those states which have chosen a socialist orientation; it imposes on them the militarization of their economies; it fans religious conflicts and draws these countries into the anticommunist and antisocialism campaign.

The anti-people essence of imperialism is manifested in the creation of a tense situation in various regions of the globe.

The Camp David policy, for example, has seriously complicated the situation in the Middle East. By using Israel as an instrument to

protect territories which the USA declares are "vitally important for its own interests," imperialism encourages the expulsion of the Arab people of Palestine from their native places and genocide on the occupied lands of Lebanon. It fans in every way possible the fire of war between Iran and Iraq, which it uses as a screen to hide its intentions of creating new military bases in the Middle East.

In Africa imperialism supports the reactionary regimes which are anti-people, counterrevolutionary bands and the racist government of the South African Republic, which creates a constant threat to Angola and other peoples in this region.

In Latin America Washington strengthens its links with dictatorial and fascist regimes, encourages counterrevolutionary military coups and increases the number of repressive acts against anti-imperialist, democratic and patriotic movements, especially against the communist parties. While stirring up the activities of the military blocs, the United States draws the Latin American countries into the arms race, using for this purpose the Central American Defense Council and the Inter-American Treaty on Mutual Assistance, as well as its control over the armed forces of the Latin American states. Imperialist propaganda disseminates geopolitical anticommunist concepts in every way possible; it extols the doctrine of "national security," ceaselessly maintains that there is a "threat from outside" and frightens peoples with the possibility of "aggression from outside the continent," obviously hinting at the USSR and the socialist countries. However, the events surrounding the Malvinas Islands, and the subsequent piratical attack by the United States on Grenada have made it completely obvious that the only foreign aggression from beyond the continent which threatens the peoples of Latin America is the aggression of British or American imperialism or both together.

In carrying out its inhuman hegemonic policy, imperialism resorts without hesitation to crimes and terror against whole peoples. It does not stop creating diversions directed against the progressive countries of the Latin American continent, primarily against socialist Cuba and the Nicaraguan revolution; it does not stop before the murder of progressive figures and it does everything possible to strangle the aspiration of peoples to follow a path of independence, social progress, democracy, peace and socialism. It is perfectly obvious that without the support of North American imperialism the fascist regimes of Pinochet in Chile, Stroessner in Paraguay, Duvalier in Haiti, the military dictatorship in Uruguay and the regime of genocide in El Salvador could not exist.

The pernicious consequences of imperialist interference in the economics and politics of the sovereign Latin American states also has a tangible influence on the life of the Ecuadoran

people. Ecuador is an agrarian-industrial country which is very dependent on the external market and on foreign, mainly North American, capital. Backward forms of landholding and land use dominate in agriculture. About half of all agricultural output goes for export, and at the same time a significant portion of the necessary foodstuffs and raw materials is imported (wheat, barley, rice, milk powder).

In the early 70's the discovery of deposits of petroleum, gas, uranium and a number of other minerals in Ecuador provided a powerful push towards economic development. They served as a catalyst for significant industrial growth, for the active development of the infrastructure and for the emergence of a relatively strong state sector in the economy. The country established a very large enterprise, the State Petroleum Corporation of Ecuador, and it has become the primary petroleum-producing sector. However, the imperialist multinational corporations, by using the developing market conditions, hastened to extend a tentacle toward the Ecuadoran storehouse. They were able to insinuate themselves into all spheres of economic life and politics quite rapidly. And the local monopolies appeared soon afterwards. As a rule, these are mixed enterprises with national and foreign capital, with the majority of the shares belonging to foreign monopoly companies. In sum, the prospects for independent industrial development were very rapidly dispelled. And so the country was not able to turn away from the dismal, but well-worn path of economic dependence.

At the present time Ecuador is experiencing a period of economic downturn. This is the result of the economic crisis of capitalism, the weight of which imperialism attempts to shift onto the shoulders of the working people. Its consequences are a backward national economy and Ecuador's growing foreign debt, which exceeds $6 billion. For the economy of a country with a population of about 8.6 million people this debt is more than heavy. The private sector's indebtedness to foreign banks is great (it exceeds $1.6 billion), as is the secret debt related to defense expenditures. As a result, more than 25 percent of the national budget goes to cover foreign debt to the detriment of economic and social development.

Out of a total able-bodied population of about 3 million people, 1.8 million lack full-time employment and 200,000 are totally unemployed. Many thousands of Ecuadoran peasants suffer from a lack of land, from poverty and hunger. The large landowners retain vast tracts of land. The latifundists get the lion's share of the credits appropriated by the National Development Bank. By no means all of the workers who are "free" of land find work with a large landowner or a kulak. As a result, people flee to the cities in massive numbers, only a few find jobs there and the rest become the so-called marginal people--the largest

stratum in Ecuadoran society today. These are hungry, sick, unfortunate declasse people. For example, the country's largest city, Guayaquil, has 1.2 million residents, and two-thirds are marginals who have come--mostly from the countryside--to seek their fortune.

The attack on the vital rights of the Ecuadoran people is encountering growing resistance from the working masses. Major class battles, for example, took place in September and October 1982. The size of the strike-related struggle and the extent of the demonstrations by the popular masses during these months had no precedents within the last 15 years. They were directed by the United Front of Ecuadoran Workers, which was created on the basis of a common platform of struggle by the three major trade union centers. Particularly impressive was the October general strike against the economic measures imposed upon Ecaudor by the International Monetary Fund. This fact gave the strike a clearly expressed anti-imperialist nature. In March of last year workers' strikes paralyzed public life and economic activity in the country for four days. Following them, there was new wave of strikes in April; the workers were trying to achieve satisfaction of their socio-economic needs and the repeal of the decision--imposed by the IMF--to devalue the national currency.

It should be said that the Ecuadoran workers movement, which was formed at the beginning of the century, has accumulated a wealth of experience in the class struggle. Today the leading and vanguard role of the working class in the anti-imperialist struggle is indisputable. Peasants, tradesmen, teachers and other representatives of the intelligentsia are joining this movement At present the overwhelming majority of the people are participating in the revolutionary process. And in the lead one finds the Ecuadoran communists, who stand for the solidarity of the country's progressive forces in the struggle against imperialism and for socio-economic transformations in the interests of the popular masses.

The Communist Party of Ecuador (CPE) is a relatively small party. But in its actions it is the most consistent, ideologically mature force, which is capable, in the opinion of the leftist forces, of uniting them for the common struggle. When the Socialist Party of Ecuador posed the question of uniting the leftist forces without the CPE, none of the potential participants would agree to this, stating that without the communists this kind of alliance was simply not realizable.

And, in fact, the influence of the Communist Party significantly exceeds the numbers of its members. It is the deciding political force in the Confederation of Workers of Ecuador, in the Federation of Coastal Agricultural Workers and in the Federation of Ecuadoran Indians. The student movement feels its influence as

well. However, it does not follow from the important role of the communists that they are automatically guaranteed the role of revolutionary vanguard. On this question we have worked out a perfectly clear criterion: it is not enough to declare yourselves a vanguard, you must become one in fact. And it was toward this end that the decisions of the 10th CPE Congress, which took place in November 1981, were aimed.

At the present time the Ecuadoran communists are working to create a left-center front based on a common program for participation in the 1984 elections. We are striving to implement a policy aimed at achieving unity for the mass movement, and at the same time we are strengthening our party, seeing in this a guarantee of the development and acceleration of the revolutionary process in the country.

The program of the Communist Party of Ecuador notes that American imperialism is the main enemy of our people. It is responsible for the low level of development in our country and in other countries of the continent. A merciless struggle must be waged against it. However, we can defeat imperialism and create the conditions for the progress and happiness of our peoples only if the firm unity of the anti-imperialist forces is achieved.

On the threshold of the 80's imperialism has shifted to a fierce counterattack in its attempt to hold back the revolutionary process, to retain its sphere of dominance and to recover its lost positions. The last--and at the same time the most rapacious--exploiting system in history is trying to use a policy of confrontation, which is being carried out by the imperialist powers, and especially by the USA, to impede the forward movement of peoples toward peace and progress. In the final analysis an attempt--no matter how unpromising it may be--is being made in this way to turn the wheel of history back.

And, in fact, since representatives from the military-industrial complex and the most conservative and reactionary circles of the USA arrived in the White House, the threat of war has grown as never before. The aggressive NATO military bloc has increased the level of its activities. There has been an exacerbation of the ideological struggle, in which imperialism makes broad use of lies, slander and various conjectures in order to manipulate public opinion. The international reaction, inspired by the United States, is attempting to unleash a counterattack against the forces of peace, democracy and socialism and to return to lost positions. Not wishing to accept detente, it is leading matters toward confrontation and an unprecedented arms race, toward the creation of new types of nuclear weapons for mass destruction such as the MX intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Minutemen missiles, atomic submarines with Trident missiles and long-range cruise missiles. In the hands of the imperialists all

of these represent weapons of expansion and aggression rather than means of defense.

The arms race, which swallows up enormous material, scientific and human resources, lies like a heavy weight on the shoulders of the working masses; it has a negative effect on the resolution of the most acute problems of humanity such as hunger and the low development level of various peoples. However, these problems do not concern the Washington "hawks" much. They are engaged in economic war against the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist alliance and in open interference in their internal affairs.

U.S. imperialism hopes to change the existing military-strategic balance to make it favor the U.S. side and to achieve military superiority at the expense of unheard-of sacrifices on the part of its own people and the peoples of other countries. While blackmailing the socialist alliance and all progressive forces, it is attempting to impose its power upon the entire world even at the price of thermonuclear war. With the monstrous arms race and economic blackmail, imperialism is also pursuing the illusory goal of impeding the swift progress of the socialist countries by forcing them to expend their resources on defense and thus to hold back their socio-economic development, which serves as an example for other peoples to imitate.

Again and again American imperialism resorts to its traditional policy of operating "from a position of strength." The barbaric essence of this policy manifested itself as early as the end of the Second World War in the criminal dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which made no sense from a military point of view. Today it is hoping to emerge the victor in a "limited" nuclear war, specifically with the aid of the neutron bomb, a "clean" weapon, which kills people but does not destroy buildings. The "humane," "ideal," "moral" bomb, according to the designs of the imperialists, will supposedly bring them success, if they drop it first.

All this insane "logic" on the part of the warmongers reflects the moral and political poverty, the degradation of the present-day militarists and of those who hold blocks of shares in the military-industrial monopolies. It is precisely this political and military strategy which threatens peoples with an inhuman war leading to the destruction of civilization and turns U.S. imperialism and all of monopoly capitalism into the main enemy of humanity.

In today's complex and dangerous international situation, as never before, all revolutionary and democratic forces have a growing responsibility to consolidate the unity of the three basic streams in the revolutionary movement: the world socialist

system, the international workers movement and the national-liberation movement. Hence the large amount of attention which the CPE devotes to strengthening its ties with other communist and workers parties and to carrying out actively its proletarian duty and tasks of an international nature. We have in mind first of all solidarity with peoples who are fighting for their freedom and independence, in particular with our brothers in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, which today are threatened with intervention by American imperialism.

The most important component of our political policy in the international arena is participation in the defense of the general peace and in the struggle for detente and disarmament. Hence our firm and unwavering support of the Soviet Union's peace-loving course and our high regard for the role which Lenin's Homeland plays in the prevention of war.

The current unprecedented exacerbation of the international situation has been caused entirely by the policies of the imperialists, and especially by the ruling circles of the United States and their NATO allies. The U.S. decision to deploy its own nuclear missiles in Western Europe demonstrates Washington's desire to achieve military superiority over the USSR at all costs. The working people and all honest people on the Earth express full understanding and support for the measures taken in response by the Soviet Union and set out in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's statement; these measures are aimed at ensuring the security of the socialist alliance and of all humanity. These measures do not have as their purpose the achievement of the strategic superiority to which the USA aspires, rather they help to prevent the threat of nuclear war and to strengthen peace on our planet.

The Communist Party of Ecuador decisively and unconditionally supports this policy of peace. The Ecuadoran communists understand well that it is the aggressive circles of the United States of America and the other imperialist powers which make up NATO who are guilty of aggravating the international climate. It is they who are responsible for a possible atomic war and for those sufferings which it can bring to the peoples of the world. And it is for this reason that we consider imperialism to be the main enemy of the peoples. It is our duty and an urgent necessity to struggle against imperialism and to conquer it.

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8543
CSO: 1807/136

FRONT AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION FORMED BY 42 GROUPS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Jan 84 pp 4-A, 31-A

[Text] Representatives of more than 42 political, student, and labor union organizations as well as organizations supporting the struggles of Guatemala and El Salvador met yesterday at the Versalles movie theater to join the National Front Against United States Intervention in Central America.

Before an audience of hundreds who filled the aforesaid meeting place, the speakers protested against the Kissinger Report sent to President Ronald Reagan.

Pedro Penaloza of the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] said that this plan represents a major threat against those who struggle for their freedom in Central America. At the same time he considered possible intervention in the area embraced by the revolutionary dynamic of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Cuba, a struggle which seeks to consolidate their democractic structures. For that reason, U.S. officials are slandering Nicaragua as having a totalitarian regime without considering that that country will hold elections in 1985.

It was mentioned that the United States "is mistaken if it believes that it will hit El Salvador, because the latter has an armed population ready to deal with it."

The participants noted that a war in Central America would be lost by the United States. "However, we do not want one, given that the social cost and losses, both for the imperialists and for our peoples, would be fairly sizable."

Gilberto Lopez y Rivas, coordinator of the Solidarity Front with El Salvador, said that the formation of the National Front Against United States Intervention in Central America seeks to achieve a coordinated effort to bring together those elements making it possible to avoid, through dialogue, a war in Central America.

Lopez y Rivas added that it is already time for the United States to halt its warlike policy, that the Monroe Doctrine and intervention must be replaced by dialogue.

Regarding the meeting they characterized it as an act of peace, of solidarity, which seeks nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

Finally, the participants voiced their concern about the probability of a

regional war triggered by the intervention of the United States, an event that would oblige Mexico, because of its proximity, to become involved in the conflict. Hence the importance of a dialogue and the halting of a policy based on the use of force.

Attending the event were Gilberto Rincon Gallardo of the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico]; Oscar Loza Ochos, PSUM deputy for Sinaloa; Ramon Danzos Palomino of the CIOAC; as well as Octavio Rodriguez Araujo of the Faculty of Political Science.

2662
CSO: 3248/458

AGREEMENT INCLUDES SOVIET TRACTOR ASSEMBLY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Feb 84 Financial-Cultural Section pp 1, 4

[Article by Hernan Rodriguez Molina]

[Text] Moscow--15 Feb--A spokesman from the Press Office of the Ministry of Foreign Trade reported in Moscow that Mexico will sell oil equipment to the USSR. Deputy Minister Viktor Ivanov went to Mexico last night, leading a delegation of 18 specialists.

Luis Cabrera Cuaron, former representative of the IMCE [Mexican Foreign Trade Institute], announced this to this correspondent some months ago; it was confirmed here officially today. The current IMCE representative, Fernando Fuentes, also went to Mexico City with the Soviet delegation.

Viktor Ivanov and his delegation will meet with the members of a Mexican committee headed by Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, assistant secretary of economic affairs of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, from 22 February to 24 February. Mexico will also be represented by the IMCE, other government offices and some private organizations.

The commissions will study and sign a financial protocol to stabilize trade between the USSR and Mexico that will reach a minimum of $40 million. It is estimated that the volume of trade between the two countries might reach $200 million to $300 million in coming years.

Mexico will not only sell the USSR oil equipment but also sulfur, agricultural products, etc., totaling $20 million.

The USSR will sell Mexico manufactured parts worth $20 million. Special emphasis will be given to the assembly of Soviet T-25 tractors in Mexico.

Here in Moscow the meetings that the delegation headed by Ivanov will hold in Mexico are considered important since the economic exchange between the two countries so far is one of the lowest the USSR has with a Latin American country.

7717
CSO: 3248/480

STATES SIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Jan 84 p 22

[Article by Fernando Ramirez de Aguilar L.]

[Text] On the basis of the provisions of the National Public Safety Plan approved by the Maxican president, the public prosecutor's office in the Federal District of Mexico City signed yesterday a cooperation agreement with the public prosecutor's office of the state of Queretaro, while the Secretariat for Safety and Roadways did likewise with the Directorate of Public Safety and Roadways of the government of the state of Morelos.

These agreements mention the need to exchange information on the theft of vehicles, the escape of suspected criminals, the extension of previous evidence, and cooperation in expert investigations. Signing the agreement on behalf of the public prosecutor's office in Mexico City was the Federal District's attorney general, Victoria Adato de Ibarra; and for the state of Queretaro, that unit's public prosecutor.

As for the signing of agreements between the Secretariat for Roadways of the Federal District Department and the Directorate of Public Safety and Traffic of the state of Morelos, it was mentioned that cooperation will take place in the fields of disaster control, the operation of equipment--powered and manual--and the exchange of information.

Without the disclosure of official information in this respect, it is known that said agreements signed yesterday morning in the states of Queretaro and Morelos are part of the cooperation anticipated in the National Public Safety Program. The capital's public prosecutor's office has signed agreements with its counterparts in the states of Mexico, Morelos, Tlaxcala, Puebla, and Queretaro. On its part, the Secretariat for Safety and Roadways--previously of police and traffic--has signed agreements with the states of Mexico, Morelos, and apparently, Queretaro. The public relations office of both agencies have refused to disclose information regarding the substance of the agreements, but it was explained that technical and scientific cooperation in police investigations is included in them.

Representatives of the governments of the states of Queretaro, Morelos, and the Federal District as well as of the Secretariat of Government and of National

Defense were present at the signing of the agreements.

The director of the Secretariat of Safety and Roadways of the Federal District Department, as well as the attorney general of the capital, Victoria Adato de Ibarra, lauded the said agreements whose benefits are expected to become evident in about 5 years.

2662
CSO: 3248/458

VELAZQUEZ SAYS WORKERS TO SEEK BIGGER SHARE OF PROFITS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Jan 84 pp 4-A, 18-A

[Text] The labor sector will demand this year that profit-sharing in businesses rise from 8 to 12 percent and will also demand that the revision of that percentage, which by law has been performed every 10 years, be done annually at the same time as collective contracts or salary schedules are modified.

Fidel Velazquez, secretary general of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], specified upon announcing the foregoing information that better distribution of wealth is sought.

Regarding the government project of selling businesses that belonged to the banks before being nationalized, the CTM leader declared that "it is fitting that the government put them up for sale" if it is not in a position to manage them or has difficulty doing so.

This by no means represents a step backward in the policy of economic nationalization since it does not involve basic enterprises like the electric, petroleum, rail or other industries which are key to the economy, but rather enterprises which the government has been acquiring for different reasons, the CTM director said.

Concerning worker profit-sharing, Fidel Velazquez announced that the modifications demanded by the labor sector will require an initiative by the executive or the union representatives so that the law governing the said payment may be reformed.

The initiative will have to be submitted during the next session of the congress of the union, for which reason it can no longer be this year that an annual review of profit-sharing could go into effect, Velazquez specified.

The CTM hierarch considered that according to the present dispositions of the Law of Workers' Profit-Sharing, the extent of this share is fixed every 10 years, and this is not equitable since situations change.

In the same interview, Fidel Velazquez reiterated that the CTM is ready to buy some of the businesses that the government is selling, for which purpose it can dispose of 500 million pesos. He clarified, however, that the CTM is not primarily interested in the businesses but rather in the machinery of some of them for the production of basic articles.

12372
CSO: 3248/457

FORTY-TWO PERCENT OF HIGHEST OFFICIALS LACK ANY PARTY TIES

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p 5

[Article by Roberto Vizcaino]

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is well on the way to drawing up a register of its members that will put an end to myths and reorganize its "forces," Julio Cesar Mena Brito, the PRI undersecretary of organization, affiliation and registration, announced yesterday. He noted that, among other things, the party has found that 42 percent of the 3,500 highest-level government officials in Mexico have declared that they "do not belong to any party, which not only bespeaks a lack of political sensitivity but is intolerable to PRI itself as well."

Mena Brito, a former federal congressman, a former PRI delegate in Campeche, a former leader of the National Movement of Revolutionary Youth and a career politician, stated: "This is why we are now forcing all officials to join PRI, because we cannot conceive of a liberal government within a revolutionary regime, inasmuch as this is not a coalition government; this is a government born of the Mexican Revolution, and thus we cannot be indulgent towards people who are indifferent to our ideology and our principles. We cannot allow these people to govern the country," he emphasized.

A member of the National Executive Committee, Mena Brito demanded that his party secure the right to veto the appointments of federal officials. "We would settle for PRI having the right to veto, not necessarily to nominate, just to veto, because then the party could review the resumes of certain officials who might later cause great harm to the party."

He noted that this process is necessary because the populace in general thinks that all officials are members of PRI.

This involvement in the selection of officials should be complemented by the creation of an Honor and Justice Commission that could bring impeachment proceedings [juicio politico] against party members based on accusations filed by fellow party members. There would be four

possible outcomes of such trials. If acquitted, the person would receive the party's backing. If found guilty, he could either be debarred, suspended or expelled permanently from the party, Mena Brito explained. He added that the bylaws provided for this and that it was merely a question of putting it into practice.

He stated that another way to strengthen PRI and the government would be to establish a "memory bank" in the party that would contain the complete records of all leaders or members. The government could then make use of these records to choose the people it needed. Ability would thus be complemented by political affiliation and sensitivity, which are needed, he said, to hold public office.

He went on to say that many high-level government officials today graduate from universities overseas and that although they have the theoretical and academic training, they lack political training.

In Mena Brito's view, these officials should take a 2- or 3-year course within the party's structures. "A politician is forged, trained and gets to know himself in his daily work, on the job," he said. "Appointing a person does not make him a politician," he added, pointing out that the people in positions of responsibility now are the ones who were trained abroad, while others were engaged in politics back here. "We will see which is more important, theoretical grounding or political training," he added.

He indicated in conclusion that the PRI register would shed light on many problems. The assumption was that there were 15 million PRI members in the country, he said, but so far only 3 million have been firmly identified. He remarked that the party hopes to have a register of 10 million persons by the 1985 federal elections. Among other things, they will pay dues and begin political training activities, because "an incredible number of leaders have never read our party's basic documents, and the conceptual inadequacy of our PRI members is inadmissible." He indicated that 400 party leaders have been located so far, including sectional, municipal, state, regional and national leaders.

8743
CSO: 3248/474

PMT'S CASTILLO REJECTS EXEMPTION OF PRESIDENT FROM CRITICISM

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 381, 20 Feb 84 pp 31, 32

["Analysis" Column by Heberto Castillo: "Long Live Good Government"]

[Text] The president of the republic gave his first press conference for foreign correspondents. Representatives of developed capitalist nations predominated. Mexico is world news because of its oil and its open doors for foreign investment.

The president used the occasion to lash out at government critics. He said that the economic crisis is not due to his policy; it is in spite of it. He said that the government economic policy has mitigated the effects of the crisis, not the opposite. He stated that it is irresponsible to ask for a change in economic policy.

It is no good to disagree. The opposition can say that the government policy is a cause of the crisis but no one should listen. Those who state such a thing are not making correct analyses. They do not know the problems because they are not governing. They do not have responsibility and, therefore, they criticize. It is easy to only criticize without having the obligation to solve the problems. They only talk; they do not solve anything. They cannot solve anything. Some have the opportunity to send bills to congress; others, without registration, do not even have that.

The bills of the opposition will only serve to confirm their concern. The official gavel in congress will throw them out. The opposition knows that it is useless to refuse to pass new laws since any word from above must be approved. This happened with the amendments to the Federal Agrarian Reform Law. All the deputies of the opposition walked out to oppose passage. The objective of these amendments is to return community farms to landowners. It cannot be said that the opposition did not fight against such a reactionary measure. Nor can it be said that those who opposed those amendments do not have the ability to analyze or responsibility.

The government thesis is unacceptable. According to it, only those who govern can talk about the problems of the country, not those who live them. Therefore, it will be necessary to evaluate every citizen who complains about government actions. John Q. Public has nothing to say about how he should be governed because he has never governed.

It is the most conservative thesis that can be wielded. Anything that has not been done should never be proposed. Only the tested is viable. This goes beyond the traditional conservative statement: "Better a known evil than an unknown good."

The government does not tolerate criticism. Perhaps it is surprising that everything abroad is recognition, encouragement, congratulations and awards. World banking is very pleased with it, not to mention foreign investors. The project to make all of Mexico an in-bond plant continues forward. Pressures by the U.S. Government on the Mexican Government by putting an additional tax on Mexican steel do not even merit a government protest. However, PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] continues to be an automatic oil supplier for the United States. U.S. officials who come to Mexico openly state that the oil and minerals that lie under our territory will inevitably serve the United States. A top defense official of that country just stated that in a meeting to analyze international energy alternatives held at the Lazaro Cardenas project (CONACYT [National Council for Science and Technology], UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], PEMEX). It focused on the strategic position of oil in the Western Hemisphere, according to John Saxe Fernandez.

The government's anger toward those who proclaim a different truth increases each day. The government hit list grows. Journalists who do not have the strength to defend their tribunal slowly drop out of circulation. Veiled and open threats against those who dare dissent increase. Faustino Mayo was savagely beaten for doing his journalistic duty with dignity. The libels that Carlos Monsivais cited in these pages are an eloquent sample of the government's readiness to strike out at those who bravely and with dignity stand up and point out the government's defects. The so-called "tolerated writers" are inserted in newspapers to attack journalists who are not government supporters. We found out that Helio Flores, my comrade at EL UNIVERSAL, has disappeared from the pages of that newspaper because of indications from "above." It is not good to touch on the president, much less make critical caricatures of him. You can only celebrate his triumphs. If the pens of the artist or writer criticize him, it will be said that these are unquestionably "citizens who do not know how to analyze national reality and who do not have direct, concrete responsibility in handling government affairs." It should be pointed out that, out of the nationally circulated magazines and newspapers, only PROCESO contains direct criticism of the president.

We would be poor devils indeed if we did not fight to get our truth to the people. If we are wrong, if we do not know how to analyze national reality, if we do not have responsibilities, the people will judge this and turn their backs on us, not the government. One of its primary, fundamental obligations is to respect dissidence and criticism, according to the Constitution.

If those governing have better reasons than the opposition, let them wield them. It is childish to say, as Jorge Diaz Serrano once did in congress, that the opposition has more resources than the government to spread its ideas. For every line written by a dissident, there are thousands of pages available to the government. To try to disqualify the opposition by stating that it is not equipped to criticize demonstrates that the government does not have the

arguments to convince the people that the opposition is lying. It is not a matter of convincing the opposition which can be stubborn in not relenting in its statements even facing the open repression that has affected many already. It is a matter of rebutting its arguments. Is the government so devoid of reasons that it has to try to disqualify its opponents? In the end, anyone who wants to review our history knows that truth floats, lasts and is picked up by those who come behind. It is possible to burn whole publications of books, seize magazines, close tribunals, beat Mayo and get rid of journalists like Helio Flores with instructions from "above."

Those who criticize government actions and propose alternatives cannot do anything else. It is up to the government to implement solutions.

That is our case with the Agrarian Reform Law that has been converted into a counterrevolutionary instrument. It grants all-embracing faculties to the Agrarian Reform officials to strip the communities, without water and without credit, of their parcels of land. The official although unadmitted plan is to return the land to the landowners. The government refuses to recognize a concrete reality that its analysts must have seen. One of them, Carlos Tello, with some progressive awareness said in his book "La politica economica de Mexico, 1970-1976": "The total area under the 1970 census--when will the 1980 census figures be published?--was approximately 140 million hectares with 69.7 million in community land and the rest, 70.2 million, private property." Tello published a table in his book that shows the distribution of land that year. In summary, he stated: "At one extreme, less than 5 percent of the total area is divided among 80 percent of the owners. At the other extreme, about 60 percent of the area corresponded to 1.1 percent of the owners." The distribution of worked land was not much better. "About 80 percent of the private farms had 16 percent of the area while 2 percent of the farms had 40 percent of the area." This is all 60 years after the Mexican revolution began.

However, according to the government, we in the PMT [Mexican Workers Party] do not have the right to dissent. We do not have deputies in congress. We are not recognized. We do not exist as a party. To be able to dissent, we must have responsibilities. To prevent us from having responsibilities as legislators, the road to registration is closed to us.

It is all so easy. If a dangerous opponent appears, disqualify him. In that way, victory is assured. The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] will continue rolling without any enemy in front of it. Long live democracy! Long live good government!

Let no one criticize or dare discuss government actions, especially the president's. He is untouchable. The mistakes belong to his collaborators who "do not correctly interpret the always revolutionary spirit of the chief executive," as those writers who criticize, but not much, would say.

Perhaps the government is again closing the way to electoral participation by the PMT. There are no signs that it is going to summon new political parties to register. The argument that it can use now is there is no reason to register them if they have never been registered. They have not had responsibilities. They only know how to criticize. That is obviously very easy and safe, especially in Mexico. History tells us that.

7717
CSO: 3248/481

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT SALARY, LIVING STANDARD DATA

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Mar 84 pp 1, 7

[Article by Mario Alberto Reyes]

[Text] According to studies by the COR [Revolutionary Labor Confederation], inflation has had serious effects on the buying power of the workers in addition to worsening the problems of malnutrition in the country. It considerably reduced the consumption of milk and is the reason 65 percent of the population does not eat meat, 70 percent has never eaten fish and 78 percent does not include eggs in its diet. This is because of the prohibitive prices of basic products, "subject to the whim of a chain of middlemen," according to the union organization.

The Labor Congress stated that some 12 million workers--54 percent of the economically active population--receive less than the legal minimum wage, 31 percent receives the minimum wage and only 15 percent receives higher wages.

According to studies by several labor organizations presented at the Labor Movement Forum in Defense of Collective Labor Contracts and Unions, more than 1.5 million workers who lost their jobs in 1982 and 1983 still have not found work. Another 800,000 people are added to the unemployed rolls each year.

The management policy of imposing wage ceilings and threatening to close enterprises and dismiss massive numbers of workers if the unions increase their demands persists.

The Welders League stated that during revisions of wages and collective contracts in recent months, the workers not only did not break the wage ceilings but have not been able to obtain higher benefits. They face management conditions to begin negotiations based mainly on the dismissal of a group of workers in order to be able to initiate talks.

The COR study also presented at the Labor Movement Forum in Defense of Collective Labor Contracts organized by the Mexican Electricians Union stated that the constant price increase of basic products has been the cause of social outbursts and a worsening class struggle throughout history.

It added that the developmentalist system attempted in Mexico sacrificed agricultural-livestock production in favor of industrialization. Now the

country has a deficient food industry in the hands of multinational enterprises that import the basic products. This makes federal subsidy inevitable. It has meant that the "fictional economy" prevails and the only ones who benefit are the intermediaries.

Cornered by the management offensive to limit the clauses in the collective labor contracts containing conquests of the workers, independent organizations and organizations of the Labor Congress will hold a massive protest rally Wednesday to demand respect for union organizations.

The Sole Trade Union of Nuclear Industry Workers, in a study on the decline of the buying power of wages from 1970 until now, indicated that employment and real wages went up steadily from 1970 to 1976. During that period, employment went up with more than 2.5 million new jobs and the average real wage increased 33 percent. This permitted the economic weight of the workers to increase from 35 percent of the gross domestic product in 1970 to 40.3 percent in 1976. That was the highest in the history of the country.

It stated that this all ended a year later. The government sector argued in favor of the creation of jobs but explained that this could not be achieved with a sustained growth of the buying power of the workers. It was necessary to choose one of the two roads. The road of employment was chosen. Between 1977 and 1981 3,805,000 new jobs were created but there was little growth in the buying power of the average real wage: 7 percent. The economy only grew 38 percent compared to 40 percent at the beginning of the 1970's. This reduced the weight of the workers in aggregate national production from 40 percent in 1976 to 37.4 percent in 1981.

The economic crisis was added to this situation in 1982. The government plan at that time was to sacrifice production and employment in order to solve the crisis. The result was a reduction of 900,000 paid jobs and a 4-percent decline in the buying power of the workers. In 1983 it went down about 50 percent. This has not been solved yet.

7717
CSO: 3248/480

BRIEFS

STEEL PRODUCTION STATISTICS FOR 1983--The Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Siderurgical Division produced 1,016,037 tons of liquid iron, which surpassed its production program by 113 percent, an increase over the 1982 production of 16.9 percent, according to yesterday's announcement by Productos Siderurgicos Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V. (Sidermex). It was stated that such an increase in productivity, an achievement shared equally by the workers, technicians and laborers of the same plant, included each of the production levels: grinding [beletizado], coke production, iron casting, crude iron and finished products, barbed wire and rods. It was emphasized that such production levels were obtained without failing to observe the austerity conditions put in place by the federal government: imports, especially of mineral carbon, were substituted; shares were adjusted to disposable resources; exchange savings of approximately 3 million pesos were realized, etc. It was brought out, significantly, that the capacity and productivity of Mexican workers is what is necessary, and it is growing daily. It was added that the productivity of Sicartsa is at a satisfactory level: 171 tons per man per year, with regard to the production of crude iron in particular; the utilized capacity for steel production was 95 percent. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Jan 84 p 28-A] 12372

BORDER INDUSTRY LABOR SHORTAGE FIGURES--The border milling industry is suffering a severe labor crisis-- close to 7,000 workers -- despite the fact that attractive salaries and enviable social services are being offered, said Plutarco Elias Calles, advisor for the milling industrial sector. He indicated that in the face of a lack of stimuli for production, various businesses that have changed their investment projections here are settling in Mexicali or other areas of the border. He also recognized that thousands of workers prefer to enter the United States, where they seek better paying jobs. The milling industry, he said, is not growing at the desired pace even though incentives are being offered very much above what is stipulated by the Federal Work Law, but the crisis resulting from the lack of workers persists. Elias Calles declared that one of the empresarios' incentives is that labor here is very inexpensive, "but if there are no workers, there is no way to develop the industry and there is the danger that interest may be lost with the appearance of capital at the border," he concluded. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Jan 84 p28-A] 12372

COAHUILA AGROINDUSTRIAL LABOR SHORTAGE--Due to a shortage of qualified labor, 20 of the 28 member agroindustries are paralyzed, indicated the associate secretary of the League of Agrarian Communities, Gilberto de Leon. He explained that the eight that are in operation work at 50 percent of their capacity because of the lack of professionalism of their administrators. The peasants, he said, have not received the necessary preparation for the industrialization of the countryside, and he demanded greater technical support for this type of industry. This situation is not the fault of the peasants but rather of the authorities who have not been able to train their labor force located in the countryside to develop the agroindustries, the functionary asserted. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Feb 84 p 32-A] 12372

SHORT VISIT BY LOPEZ PORTILLO--Jose Lopez Portillo came here last Saturday from Europe. He will spend about a week in our country. The purpose of his visit is to settle some personal affairs although the possibility that he will meet with President De la Madrid has not been discarded. Portillo was accompanied by his son, Jose Ramon, now Mexican representative to the FAO based in Rome. After arriving at the international airport in this city, they went to the former president's house in Cuajimalpa. Only Carlos Hank Gonzalez, chief of the Department of the Federal District under his administration, was there to welcome him. After his brief stay in Mexico, Lopez Portillo will return to Rome where he lives in an apartment near the Vatican. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 4] 7717

CSO: 3248/481

REPORTAGE ON SHINING PATH ACTIVITIES

Casualties for 1980-1983 Reported

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] While terrorism over the past 3 years has cost the lives of 860 persons, including civilians and members of the security forces, the monetary losses caused by this "social cancer" have risen to 156,140,346,380 soles.

The most recent reports on terrorist violence indicate that there have been 1,763 attacks against property and that there has been an almost equal number of acts of so-called "white terrorism" (telephoned threats, signs on walls and messages referring to possible attacks, etc). This was stated yesterday by Deputy Zureo Zegarra Pinedo, vice chairman of the Committee on National Defense and Police Forces.

The escalation of subversive activity is continuing. In the past few days a lecturer at the National University of Huamanga in Ayacucho was arrested in Chimbote. In his home he had an arsenal of explosives: 1,000 sticks of dynamite and other explosives.

This was reported by Minister of the Interior Luis Percovich Roca, who refrained from providing the name of the "lecturer," in order to avoid obstructing the on-going investigation.

Percovich declared that since the acts of student violence began, 504 persons have been arrested in Lima, but he indicated that not all of them were university students.

He added that this violence is the result of the existing subversive infiltration of the university "and that this does not involve protests against the law on the universities or against the increase in public transportation charges but simply seeks to create chaos."

For his part Deputy Aureo Zegarra stated that between July 1980 and December 1983 a total of 39 civilian officials were killed by the Shining Path terrorists and more than 100 police officers were also killed.

The member of Parliament from the Populist Party stated that about 1,430 terrorists have been killed.

Aureo Zegarra declared that in all there have been 12 attacks on political party offices: 9 involving centers of the AP [Popular Action Party] and 3 involving centers of the PPC [Popular Christian Party].

He also said that, according to available statistical data, 93 percent of the attacks were committed by young men and 7 percent by young women. The age of the subversives involved in the attacks ranged between 20 and 22.

Attacks in Ayacucho, Ocros

Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 5 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by Polo Ruiz and Domingo Huerta]

[Text] Ayacucho--Friday night [3 February] there was a new attack against the ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru] repeater station above Yanachorco, in the Quinua area. An unknown number of guerrillas fired against a Republican Guard station, at the same time they shouted messages over a megaphone, calling on the guards to come over to the side of the armed struggle against the government.

The incident did not cause any injuries to the police or to the terrorists. After about 2 hours of an intensive exchange of fire the attackers withdrew without achieving their objectives.

Ocros

From another source it was learned in Lima that in the Ocros area, about 170 kilometers south of Ayacucho, there were violent clashes between military patrols and armed groups, presumably affiliated with the Shining Path terrorists. In the capital of this district a police patrol [sinchis] reportedly broke up a clandestine meeting at which 22 guerrillas were being trained. All of them were reportedly killed.

In Pacaypampa, also in the Ocros district, reprisals were reportedly carried out against 17 farmers by a guerrilla unit. After executing the farmers, who were accused of collaboration with the enemy, the guerrillas burned their houses and the fields they had planted.

Yesterday afternoon it was learned that there had been considerable activity at the Ayacucho airport, leading observers to the conclusion that the helicopters of the Military Police Command were moving to Ocros.

Totos

Unconfirmed reports finally indicated that in Cangallo, Totos district, a guerrilla unit was allegedly intercepted by a military helicopter. Radio communications were reportedly the means used to report the movement of the armed group.

Terrorist Cells Reorganizing

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The Shining Path terrorist group is reorganizing itself and establishing new cells in various parts of the country, following the hard blows dealt by the armed forces and the police, Minister of the Interior Luis Percovich Roca revealed last night.

In an interview on the "Documento" news program on Channel 9, Percovich was not prepared to say that the subversive movement is on the verge of being liquidated. He said: "I am just reporting the hard blows dealt to this movement, but I cannot say that we are finished with subversion."

Later in the interview the minister revealed that in connection with the kidnapping of Onrubia, the banker, there is a suspicion that action has been taken in the courts to avoid intervention by the police, who have been following his trail.

Percovich also announced in the course of the interview that a special commission has been set up at the highest level of the police forces to investigate complaints that some members of the police are reportedly abusing their authority.

Regarding the hard blows dealt to the Shining Path terrorists, the minister referred to the fact that the capture of their principal ideologues, one of whom is Diaz Martinez, has revealed that the subversive movement is being reorganized and is presently training new groups.

Professor Arrested With Explosives

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] Chimbote, 6 February--Victory Raul Zorrilla Aramburu, 40 years of age, is the lecturer at the National University of San Cristobal de Huamanga (Ayacucho) who was captured here about 4 days ago, together with a woman, when he was about to receive a "shipment" of about 1,000 sticks of dynamite and other explosives. His companion was identified as Delia Rodriguez Villena (25 years old).

The capture of this lecturer was revealed in Lima by Minister of the Interior Luis Percovich, but he did not give the name of this Shining Path supporter.

Zorrilla Aramburu, considered one of the closest collaborators of the leader of the outlawed Shining Path group, Abimael Guzman, was arrested by the police when, together with Delia Rodriguez, he had gone to the Pallasca transportation company to receive two packages which contained the explosives.

When he was interrogated by members of the Intelligence Service of the 37th Command of the Civil Guard, Zorrilla said that the "shipment" was sent to

him by Augusto Demetrio Mezzich Naucapoma, a friend of his, who is suspected of being a terrorist.

Zorrilla Aramburu was born in Ayacucho. He is a lecturer in history, social sciences, and philosophy at the University of San Cristobal de Huamanga. He stated that he was preparing a thesis for a master's degree in his field of specialization and that he had been in Chiclayo for that reason. He also explained that he had visited a number of places along the coast.

Police sources which provided this information recalled that the Intelligence Service had been following Zorrilla's trail since November 1983, when 30 or 40 terrorists, led by a woman, had attacked the Pucaquilcha mine in Pallasea, Pampas District, carrying off 100 cases of dynamite, a radio set, and other equipment.

Background on Arrested Professor

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Feb 84 p A 11

[Text] Chimbote, 7 February--Victor Raul Zorrilla Aramburu (40 years old) is the name of the lecturer from the National University of San Cristobal de Huamanga who abandoned his teaching career and advocates terrorism as a system of government to the people of the country, in order to frighten them. This is what the Shining Path group is now doing.

Zorrilla Aramburu was born in Ayacucho. He is also known as "Comrade Raul." He was arrested in Chimbote when he tried to take delivery on two packages containing 1,000 sticks of dynamite. He confessed that he was a student of Abimael Guzman Reynoso at the University of Ayacucho in 1967.

He was arrested together with Elia Rodriguez Villena (26 years old) a native of Ayacucho, who has served as a "messenger" for the subversive groups in the region.

Zorrilla had with him several voting identity documents [libretas electorales] which let him have access to different places. Generally, he passed himself off as a food salesman, in contact with travelling salesmen and truck drivers from the mountains.

According to the initial interrogation report, it was learned that he had the areas of Cajabamba, Pallasca, Chimbote, Trujillo, and Chiclayo under him, with contact personnel in strategic places whose identity the police are trying to establish.

Zorrilla Aramburu, who has visited Russia, China, and Cuba, among other countries, reportedly has still not explained to the police whether the sticks of dynamite belonged to the Pusacarqui mine, where there was a theft of explosives 2 months ago.

It has been learned that the two packages of explosives were brought to Chimbote from Pallasca Province, addressed to Francisco Gonzales, an alias used by the lecturer.

Soldier Assassinated in Ayacucho

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p A 11

[Text] Ayacucho, 12 February--A soldier from No 51 BIM [Mountain Infantry Battalion] known as "Los Cabitos" was murdered today, presumably by elements from the Shining Path terrorist group. Another soldier was wounded while on duty in Barrio Quinuapata of this city.

The attack occurred at 11:30 am when a religious ceremony in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes was being held in the Plaza de Armas in the city, with a large number of the faithful in attendance.

It has been learned that the attackers took the soldiers' weapons away and shot them in the back, using rifles from the FAL [Liberation Armed Forces]. This is the first time that army soldiers have been attacked by seditious elements in the area, where a state of emergency has been declared. The identity of the two victims of the attacks is not known.

Shortly after the attack a security sweep was made through Barrio Belen in search of the assassins. However, as of the time when this dispatch was transmitted, there had been no positive results from the search.

Terrorists Detained in La Victoria

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p A 11

[Text] Two presumed terrorists have been arrested by the police. Explosive devices, a notebook with entries in code, a leaflet referring to the "Third National Conference of the Central Committee," a pamphlet on "Guerrilla War," and a large quantity of subversive propaganda were seized from them.

One of those arrested, Luis Nelson Toledo Poma (28 years old), a former student in the teachers' retraining program at the Enrique Guzman y Valle University (La Cantuta), had served a sentence at Lurigancho Prison in 1975 for a crime against property. On 22 July 1980 he was arrested in Huanta (Ayacucho) for having participated in the theft of seven cases of dynamite and other explosives from the engineering and projects unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Roberto Lorenzo Rodriquez Arevalo (19 years old), his accomplice, was born in Huacho. He told police that he had no job and that he sympathized with political groups of the Left.

The two presumed members of the Shining Path group were captured by members of Mobile Police Unit P-162-L at the corner of Avenida 28 de Julio and Avenida Nicolas Ayllon, in La Victoria.

In a small suitcase which they were carrying, 13 homemade bombs were found, as well as a leaflet entitled, "For a New Flag," and a report on the results of the expansion of the first company.

Blackouts in Ayacucho

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Feb 84 p A 10

[Text] Ayacucho, 14 February--About 75 percent of the town of Ayacucho is without electricity, as a result of two terrorist attacks which took place yesterday between 6:50 pm and 7:15 pm. The attacks affected three electrical lines belonging to Electro-Peru.

According to a report by the company, the damage amounts to 200 million soles. Service will be reestablished within 72 hours.

The areas left without electricity are the central area of Ayacucho; the neighborhoods of La Libertad, El Calvario, Belen, and Barrios Altos; the districts of Belen and Carmen Alto; and the Cerro Acuchimay area.

At the time of the dynamite attacks there was an exchange of gunfire for a half hour, during which four persons reportedly died. One of the victims was found this morning in the vicinity of La Plataforma market. He was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Huanta Prison Attacked

About 30 Shining Path terrorists attacked Huanta Prison for a half hour, during which they threw 20 dynamite bombs. The attack was repulsed by members of the Republican Guard, with the support of members of the Civil Guard and Navy personnel. The incident took place on Sunday, 12 February

It is not known whether the terrorist attack caused any casualties. The authorities have not provided any further information in this respect.

Police Arrest Eight Terrorists

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p A 1

[Text] Minister of the Interior Luis Percovich revealed today that, following the events of the night before last, the police had arrested 8 terrorists, who were found in possession of 19 explosive devices.

He added that another 10 suspects had been detained and are being interrogated. He said that all of them are Peruvians.

He denied rumors circulating about a clash in the Tingo Maria area between narcotics traffickers and police. He commented: "I have no confirmation of this alleged development."

Minister Percovich had gone out to the airport early in the day to receive the casket containing the remains of Gen G. C. Jorge Monge Llanos.

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