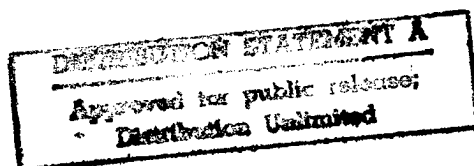


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1 June 1984

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BRIEFS

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION BEGINS--Punta Arenas--According to a report from the National Petroleum Enterprise [ENAP], work has been started on the oil prospecting to be carried on outside Magallanes, extending as far north as Arica. There are six ENAP geologists in charge of this work, which consists of making surveys of different sections of solid ground, in order to select the most attractive sites from a petroleum standpoint. The budget for this year amounts to \$7 million. The work started with three groups, each consisting of two geologists, in the area from Osorno to Puerto Montt, in the section between Salar de Atacama and Pedernales and on the Tamrugal Pampa. Similar work was done by ENAP before 1960, and hence there is a large amount of information available that will be analyzed from the standpoint of oil. Moreover, during the course of this month, there will be an award of the bid for the marine seismic survey in the areas of the Gulf of Penas and between Arauco and Valdivia. Three United States companies have made offers for it: Genosource, GSI and Western, which rank among the largest in the world. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Apr 84 p C-4] 2909

CSO: 3348/412

BRIEFS

GASOLINE, DIESEL PRICES BOOSTED--The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has announced that, starting at 0000 hours today, prices of gasoline (high-test and unleaded) and diesel fuel were increased. As of today, Friday, 13 April, the high-test gasoline will cost 54 pesos; the unleaded, 40 pesos per liter; and the diesel fuel, 26 pesos per liter. The department hastened to declare that "the increases authorized yesterday (under the annual inflation target) will be the only ones made for this type of energy for the remainder of 1984." It also noted that the inflationary effects of these increments "have been considered in the federal government's economic reorganization program." Furthermore, it observed that this adjustment is part of the revenue program for Mexican Petroleum and the federal treasury, stipulated in the 1984 revenue budget which was approved by the Honorable Congress of the Union. The press release from the Finance Secretariat announcing this increase makes the following statement: "The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, the entity responsible for making revisions and establishing prices and rates of goods and services in the public sector, in response to the request submitted by the Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry, and after having heard the views of the Integrated Intersecretariat Commission on Prices and Rates, as well as the two previous opinions from the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, the Secretariat of the General Comptroller's Office, the Secretariat of Government, the Secretariat of Programing and Budget and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Cabinet, has decided to authorize PEMEX to increase the price of gasoline and diesel fuel starting on Friday, 13 April." During the meeting of the state secretaries who are members of the Intersecretarial Commission on Prices and Rates, it was noted that the increase in gasoline prices would have repercussions on the prices of other products, to which the head of the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development remarked that an attempt would be made, using all means, to prevent speculation involving items of prime necessity and a takeoff of prices. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 1-A, 11-A] 2909

CSO: 3248/602

VENEZUELAN, ARGENTINE POLITICIANS MEET

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p D-15

[Text] A meeting with Argentine radicals was just held and in June both groups will submit a document to the ILO.

Andres Velasquez, former presidential candidate for Cause "R," has just returned from Argentina where he held talks with representatives of that country's Radical Party.

Among the points agreed on were the need to maintain contacts with a view to democratizing the labor movement in Latin America and opposition to trade union bureaucracy.

Velasquez indicated that the Venezuelan and Argentine groups shared a number of political views. He reported that the following proposals were made at the meeting: periodic elections should be held in the unions; trade unions should operate independently (without intervention by the federations); and, a document describing the status of the Latin American labor movement should be drafted and submitted to the International Labor Organization (ILO).

He went on to say that the idea of setting up a special committee to supervise trade union proceedings in Venezuela during the year would be put forward at the Geneva Convention of the ILO. "This is to prevent the Venezuelan Workers' Confederation from amending electoral regulations and thus to make sure that trade union elections do not become politicized along party lines."

The Guianese leader added that the purpose of this measure is to perpetuate the confederation's power and to prevent new labor organizations from entering the scene.

Other points of agreement between the Argentine Radical Party and Cause "R" in Venezuela included the following: the need for a meeting of trade union leaders to discuss the idea of democratization and the foreign debt of Latin American countries and its influence on the labor sector; and the need to garner support and cooperation.

There will be a meeting of metalworker leaders in Sao Paulo in July of this year. According to Velasquez, our country will be represented by Pablo Medina, secretary general of Cause "R."

Municipal Elections

The Guianese workers' representative will head Cause "R's" ticket in the municipal elections in Caroni District. He hopes to win out over the AD [Democratic Action], the COPEI [Social Christian Party], and the Left. Here in Caracas they will be part of the Catia political group, based on communal work. In conclusion, he said that the people are naturally apathetic about the 27 May municipal elections, but that they should not vote for the AD, COPEI or the conniving Left, but should give their support to Cause "R."

9805

CSO: 3348/406

TRADE REPRESENTATIVES OF ANDEAN PACT NATIONS MEET IN CARACAS

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 2-3

[Text] Representatives of the agencies involved in foreign trade in Andean Pact countries, including central banks and private management firms, met in Caracas at the headquarters of the Andean Development Corporation to find ways to boost trade among the countries in the Andean area--Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

The working group analyzed the current status of subregional trade and recommended that certain actions and policies be implemented at both national and subregional levels.

According to its analysis, the deterioration in trade among member countries reflects the effects of their current economic difficulties, which have forced them to adopt measures to adjust their aggregate demand--particularly affecting imports--because of the shortage of foreign exchange.

The affected trade mainly involves nondurable consumer goods and raw materials, and intermediate goods for industry.

The program discussed is designed to remove obstacles to intra-subregional trade, identify commercial opportunities and encourage solutions to specific problems, with the participation of representatives from the public and private sectors.

Cesar Salazar Cuervo, president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute (ICE) and of the board of directors of the Andean Development Corporation, told the press that all the Andean countries had imposed restrictions on trade in the region to one degree or another.

In view of this situation, the meeting of financial agencies involved in foreign trade in the Andean subregion is attempting to reduce these restrictions and their impact. Creative efforts are needed to reactivate trade in the region.

The great challenge of our countries is to strengthen trade. To do this, restrictions must be reduced and Andean financial agencies must be given an active role in boosting trade under the Andean export promotion plan, which is

✓ part of the subregion's trade strategy, based on the political decision by heads of state to reorient Andean activities made in Lima in August 1983. Pursuant to this decision, agencies of the Cartagena Agreement were to take actions to resolve short-term trade problems and stimulate new currents of trade among countries in the subregion. The activities planned for 1984 are therefore directed towards helping reestablish inter-Andean trade and supporting and enhancing the efforts of each country to increase its exports to third countries.

The export promotion plan covers various aspects, including financing, which is given priority and is one of the factors limiting the growth and diversification of trade. This is why financial agencies from the member countries of the Andean Pact, namely, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, were invited to the meeting to analyze the situation and look for answers to specific problems in their domaine, such as the availability of resources to support trade, insurance, payment methods that will not place further pressure on foreign exchange, and other current problems.

The Andean Development Corporation reported that short-term financing is provided to subregional exporters or importers under the Andean Trade Financing System (SAFICO). SAFICO is another mechanism for financing subregional trade which helps strengthen integration by expanding and diversifying exports within the Andean region and to third countries.

SAFICO's operations in 1983 reflect the impact of the decline in the volume of exports, resulting from the critical situation of member countries' economies, which has forced them to limit imports from within and outside the region. Since the end of last year and during the first quarter of this year, an increase in trade--albeit only partial--has been observed.

The subregional meeting of financial agencies drew the following conclusions, among others:

- Given the growing participation and success of marketing firms in world trade, it is recommended that they be included in Andean trade through the direct support of subregional agencies and any international cooperation they may receive;

- In order for Andean importers to regain and strengthen their purchasing power, it was suggested that the idea of preferential lines for the subregional importer of Andean products be looked into. This preference could be reflected in financial terms, particularly maturities, and also in arrangements central banks may make with importers.

9805

CSO: 3348/406

BRIEFS

CHILEAN, PERUVIAN TRADE MEETING--Today, in this capital, the Sixth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Chilean-Peruvian Cooperation opens, headed by the fraternal country's vice minister of foreign relations, Ambassador Jose Carlos Mariategui, and the national vice foreign minister, Sergio Covarrubias. At that meeting, which will end this Saturday, an analysis will be made of topics associated with economic and commercial affairs, the purpose of which is to suggest measures aimed at increasing the level of exchange between Chile and Peru. Insofar as financial matters are concerned, a study will be made of the reciprocal credit between the respective central banks, within the scope of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association]. Some aspects of transportation and telecommunications will also be discussed. In the area of scientific and technical cooperation, an evaluation will be made of the technical assistance that has been requested and offered to date by both countries. New programs will be submitted, and the possibility of signing supplementary agreements will also be studied. In the cultural realm, consideration will be given to the possibilities of developing a work program for cultural exchanges between the two nations. The Peruvian vice foreign minister, Jose Mariategui, who previously served as his country's ambassador to Chile, arrived yesterday at Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez airport, where he was received by his counterpart, Sergio Covarrubias, and other authorities. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 May 84 p C-3] 2909

CSO: 3348/412

OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT MOVEMENT AS PRESSURE GROUP

Leaders, Factions Described

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 6-8, 13-14

[Text] In present-day Argentina, a fundamental discussion is taking shape which could, in the final analysis, test the extent to which the Alfonsinist government will be able to keep its electoral promises: What type of university will the country have in the years to come? There is a quiet, intense struggle under way among several sectors attempting to impose their mark on this politico-educational design, involving Franja Morada, the Church, the private schools and the university councils, and obviously including the "descending line" from Balcarce 50. An analysis of what may occur is impossible to make without first considering the complex mosaic of the student movement in the universities and, as part of it, the representative of the government party in the university councils: Franja Morada.

Between the Lines

The student movement, which is currently one of the power factors struggling to put their seal on the university, consists of a sophisticated political group with a majority from Franja Morada. The board of directors of the University Federation of Buenos Aires (FUBA) is comprised of 15 members, distributed as follows: Franja Morada, six; Coordinating Board of Independent Students (anti-Marxist), three; Intransigent University Youth (JUI), two; Independent University Bloc for Change (leftist group), two; Reformist Morientation Movement (Communist), one; and Peronist Youth, one.

In addition to its board of directors, FUBA has a council consisting of 120 delegates, 54 of whom belong to Franja Morada, the group that is now the leading voice in most of the student centers throughout the country; although some experts predict that this support could decline in the next elections. And they explain: "Now there won't be the Alfonsin factor, which took many votes from the left and right wing sectors, as well as the schools." Nevertheless, these are predictions that will have to be compared with reality.

Some data are useful for putting two and two together, and ascertaining the extent to which Franja Morada has interfered in university affairs, and what

chances it has of imposing its political plan on the classrooms. The University of Buenos Aires has 11 schools and 13 student centers, eight of which were won by Franja, two by independents (Agronomy and Biochemistry), two by the intransigents (Psychology and Sociology) and one by the leftist independents (Dentistry).

With the passage of time, Franja Morada is not becoming a homogeneous group with an ideological and strategic identity, but rather at least three different movements are coexisting under that name: the National Coordinating Board, the National Popular Movement (CNP) and University Convergence. However, the situation is more than "mobile," because the opinions are sometimes opposing, and because there is a process of "change" of leaders from one line to another; and those thoroughly knowledgeable on the subject say that the majority share is held by the Coordinating Board, followed by the National Popular Movement, in which Samuel Herman, Hernan Basanes and Gustavo Carzolio, among others, are militants.

Those sources claim that the Coordinating Board controls the centers for medicine, philosophy, law, architecture and economics, while CNP does so in those for engineering and exact sciences. Convergence, for its part, has made its presence felt in the veterinary center.

In the interior section of the country, Franja Morada gained control of the centers for law and chemical engineering, in Santa Fe; medicine, political science and engineering, in Rosario; humanities, in Santa Rosa; and fine arts, in Misiones. It was also victorious in 11 of the 14 centers of the National University of La Plata, where the intransigents, combined with the non-orthodox Peronists, kept economic sciences, and the orthodox Peronists kept journalism. The intransigents also kept the fine arts center.

The differences among the Franja Morada internal lines seem to be more related to form than to essence, according to some; and more related to essence than to form, according to others. The fact is that, on the current map of Radical Youth, CNP and Convergence, a smooth internal dialog is going on; something that does not hold true for the Coordinating Board. Apparently, those differences were marked on 14 April of last year, in Gonet, where the Franja Morada's Third National Congress took place, attended by delegates from all over the country. Afterwards, a spokesman for the National Popular Movement remarked: "We were unable to enter, despite the fact that we were Franja Morada delegates. We arrived there, and they ejected us, telling us that it was a congress of the Coordinating Board, even though Franja had issued the summons. We were unable to attend the discussions, because they would not allow us to enter...."

Moreover, spokesmen from Convergence give a reminder to anyone willing to listen to them that, during the election campaign, the Coordinating Board was claiming to be the only owner of Franja Morada, "something that ended when the complaints reached Alfonsín himself." There are Franja members who also question other aspects. A top-level source commented: "No good Radical could claim that the members of the Coordinating Board are Marxists, because that would be a lie. What I do believe is that they were halfway between the French

May and the Argentina of 1984. I do not think that they have a very clearcut ideological position, and that causes them to act in a contradictory manner."

However, it is the Coordinating Board which has demonstrated the most mobilization capacity both inside and outside the university councils, and which has taken the lead in the attempt to start up the creation of the "historic third movement" proposed by Raul Alfonsin.

It also appears true that the Coordinating Board controls the vast majority of the centers won by Franja throughout the country, and that the difference among internal lines is noticeable only in Buenos Aires and the Federal Capital.

Nevertheless, there is an obvious internal mobility. CNP has just joined what is now called Franja Morada's Integration and Renovation Board, along with the Renovation and Change Radical Youth and the Socialist Radicals. This group claims to be the "genuine representative of Alfonsin's thinking," a title which all of Franja's sectors are, not fortuitously, alleging to have.

The current chairman of the Argentine University Federation is Roberto Vazquez, who is also a council member representing the Federal Capital. In the university environment, there is already talk of the candidate that Franja will promote for the next term in FUA: Marcelo Garcia, a fourth-year student at the Santa Fe Law School. Garcia is a member of the Coordinating Board, and works closely with one of the leading figures in that internal movement: Luis "Changui" Caceres. The following are a few statements showing their way of thinking and making it possible to feed the speculation on what the student front might be like in future years.

The university cannot be the vanguard of the popular movement. It and the students must accompany the popular movement in its struggles and support its best cadres, but to improve and develop it, not to become a vanguard.

One of the main tasks at present is to install the groundwork for the university, that is, to form the student community, to develop its consciousness, to carry out cultural activities and to defend the interests based on demands, but lending them a political essence.

Unrestricted admission is being developed at present, because the issue of the preparatory course is not under discussion; rather, the tendency is to open the university to the people. This has been achieved by the elimination of the restrictive quotas.

The student movement cannot play the same role that it played in 1955, 1958 and 1966. Now, we must count on national unity and the country's liberation on all fronts.

Private Front

With regard to Franja Morada's intervention in the private universities, Osvaldo Rasines (chairman of the Franja Morada group at the Veterinary School)

was of the opinion that this was a topic for internal debate. He told SOMOS: "We are not opposed to private education, provided it fulfills its function, particularly filling gaps in the state universities. We are, indeed, opposed to the commercialization being carried out by certain private universities with regard to university courses." Delving into the matter, Rasines claimed: "There are certain private universities wherein one enters and, with the monthly fee, small portions of a degree are purchased; and there are schools which are much easier and much lighter, granting degrees that are exactly equivalent to those from the state. There are youngsters who have taken all possible examinations in the state universities without achieving admission, and who have been admitted to a private university through a monthly fee, simply because they can pay it." Nor does Rasines fail to note the matter of ideological orientation. "We would also have to embark on a discussion of the philosophy or ideology that a private university might offer, in comparison with a state-run university, wouldn't we?"

An opinion on this was also voiced by Javier Carrillo, head of the veterinary center and a member of Convergence: "We can compromise on several issues, except on the principles of the reform. The genuine reformist guidelines do not exist in the private universities. For this reason, Franja Morada is demanding joint government, for example; because in this way we shall be able to control somewhat the problem of subliminal indoctrination that the private universities could exercise over their students. (Let's not forget that the ideologies of the Process came out of the private universities.) And also, we would be able to rearrange enrollments and courses." According to Carrillo, "There are certain principles of the reform which overtly clash with the private universities; nevertheless, since we are reformists, we want the minimal guidelines to be fulfilled in it; just as we want the maximum guidelines fulfilled in that of the state. But let it be made clear that, from no standpoint do we deny the need for the private university."

There is no evading the fact that, if the private universities had not existed during the past 25 years, a high percentage of professionals would have been unable to procure that status. Nor does it evade anyone's good sense that, although Franja Morada does not deny the present need for the private university, it is pointing unequivocally toward state control of education. Its three internal lines agree on this completely. And it might even be claimed that this is part of the Radical thinking. Hipolito Orlandi was rather definite: "I believe that the goal is that education as a whole be in the hands of the state; which does not preclude the notion of a private activity, through cooperation with the state universities, as is the case in other countries."

Delich's Problems

The man who must implement the new Radical university plan is Francisco Delich, aged 46, married, with four children, and a Belgrano sympathizer. He was graduated, as a lawyer, in Cordoba, and was a well-known student leader of the FUA. With a grant from the French Government, he studied sociology and economics at the School of Advanced Studies in Paris. Noteworthy among his writings are "Crisis and Social Protest (dealing with the causes that brought about the

"Cordobazo" [Cordoba uprising] and "Criticism and Self-Criticism of Misguided Reasoning," in which he reflects on the history of Argentine sociology.

Actually, Delich is being pressured on two fronts: one, the outworn and inefficient structure of the university, which is becoming increasingly limited in responding to the needs of the country and the students; and the other, the action of the student front, with its demands for redress immediately, in three essential areas: unlimited admission, cancellation of the teaching competitions held by the military government and change in the study plans.

The rector realizes that he cannot disregard the promises made by the Alfonsinists during the campaign, and that he cannot help but "trip up" Franja Morada, the university representative of the government party either. So, the relations with his son, Andres, head of FUBA, are by no means easy, at least in the realm of political activity, because comment is made on the good personal father and son relationship.

Delich is a man for optimal dialog with Franja Morada, but he does not hesitate to say that it is impossible to agree to all the student body's proposals on a "single trip." The rector knows that there can be no "normalization" unless the university infrastructure is changed substantially, if research is not reinforced and if the quality of the education is not improved. Delich proposed to the 11 deans a 3-year plan which would include the development of the council, of scientific research and of educational reform. On the controversial topic of admissions, Delich asserted: "I am not in favor of unlimited admission. On the other hand, I do support free admission, something that is often confused with the former, but that is not the same thing."

According to Delich, educational reform includes two fundamental areas: the basic course that will be given to put a final end to the admission examination, and the retraining of the auxiliary instructors incorporated on a mass scale, without good training and selection. According to the government's aspirations, that 3-year plan will be approved on 15 June by the University Council; the day on which the anniversary of university reform is marked.

Those familiar with the situation claim that Delich and Minister Alconada Aramburu have a good relationship, although there are some matters of concern to both officials. One of them depicts somewhat the atmosphere being experienced at present in the old building on Pizzumo Street. On 18 April, the agency NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS [Argentine News] issued dispatch No 93 to its subscribers at 1630 hours. At 1654 hours, the publishers were requested to keep that cable "suspended" until a new announcement. At 1748 hours, the dispatch remained unused. That cable was published the next day by the Peronist morning paper LA VOZ, and stated:

"According to a story circulating today among sources associated with the national agency in question, an investigation is under way in the Ministry of Education and Justice of the existence of a virtual organization which is supplying daily information on internal affairs of that ministry and its relations

with the presidency, to former high-ranking officials of the military government. The information involved is based on the publications in all the newspapers on the subject of education, the summary of political information made by the presidency and even photocopies of messages from the Presidency of the Nation. (...) It was also learned that this material is not being sent through the ministry's teaching personnel, but rather those providing the information take it in person to an office in the downtown section occupied by the former officials."

Philosophizing

It is nothing new to say that the School of Philosophy and Letters has been and still is one of the most troublesome schools for any government, and that all types of ideologies coexist within its halls, even the most extreme, putting the political discipline of its deans to the test. The situation has not changed upon the arrival of democracy, and now that school is breeding one of the most wearing conflicts of concern to Rector Delich: the massive layoff of professors.

The student center was won by Franja Morada, which corresponds to the Coordinating Board (706 votes and three delegates), followed by the National Popular Front (668 votes and three delegates), a coalition of Peronists and Intransigents, and by the Movement for University Change (511 votes and two delegates). Included on the scoreboard for this school was the Trotskyite movement (the Movement to Socialism and the Labor Party were combined on the Unified Ticket), which managed to obtain one delegate.

This aggressive internal political mosaic was the one which served as a framework for the loud student petitions for unlimited admission and the expulsion of the "dictatorship's teachers," as the slogans stated.

On 12 January, the rector's office was taken over by the non-university, intermediate school teacher, Norberto Rodriguez Bustamante, replacing Antonio Serrano Redonnet, who was serving as dean of that school for the fourth time. Those in the know claim that the situation became explosive when the dean began his task of notifying over 500 interim instructors that they had been dismissed by a resolution of the Provisional University Council (No 110 of 21 March 1984). The issue gained significance because there appeared on the list professors with famous academic credentials or great prominence in the teaching field. The uneasiness became acute when many of those affected gave a reminder that, when Rector Delich assumed his position in UBA, he had held a meeting of all the active deans and notified them of two important matters:

1. He asked them to continue in their positions until the minister appointed their replacements.

2. That, on 21 December, he sent a note to the deans themselves, confirming this decision. He also announced that the Academic Councils would continue with their mission, because they were elected by the vote of the professors, until the executive body decided on the new University Law.

That list of those "separated" includes the following names: Angel Battistessa (Institute of Philology); Juan Vellar, a French anthropologist (Ethnographic Museum); Berta Vidal de Battini (Folklore); Antonio Pages Larraya (Institute of Argentine Literature); Arturo Cambours Ocampo (Theater); Claudio Sanchez Albornoz (History of Spain), who was reinstated as a result of the pressure brought to bear (according to reliable sources) by the Spanish Embassy in Buenos Aires; and Arturo Berenguer Carisomo.

Alejandro Cassini, press secretary for the Philosophy and Letters Student Center, told the reporter: "We are calling for a change in study programs, the cancellation of the 1982 and 1983 competitions and a change in the department heads. We think that at least 75 percent of the teaching faculty must be replaced."

The new authorities say that a last-minute decision by the military government confirmed all the instructors and assistants in their positions, a method that they describe as "unfair," and hence now open to review. An authorized spokesman from Philosophy and Letters remarked: "In any event, the records are being studied, case by case, and the contract has not been renewed for only about 15 percent of the instructors."

Anyone walking through the inner corridors of the school will notice that activism has erupted fully among its various ideological movements. Posters and signs posted by the political youth groups are vying with one another to gain the small available space, announcing their proposals to put an end to the study plans, the instructors and the authorities of the military government. According to the comments, the dean himself is attempting to act as mediator between the students' intransigent requests and the moderate line coming from the highest level of authority. A Franja Morada militant commented: "We may have a majority voice in the student center, but we do not control the school. The student body has several movements, and every delegate speaks for his own."

Cordoban Touch

However, Buenos Aires is not the only valid site for considering the university situation during the first autumn of democracy. Cordoba (by action and tradition) is still an undeniable reference point, considering the aggressive nature of its students and the intellectual solvency of the university councils.

In the 10 schools and the technical center comprising the National University of Cordoba, Franja Morada has a considerable majority, in the context of a province with a long Radical tradition. Of the 11 student centers, Franja controls eight, because it failed to impose itself in the one for medicine (controlled by independents), Chemistry (MAS [Social Affirmation Movement] and JUI), Agronomy (Peronists and other smaller leftist groups, including a sector of the PC [Communist Party]).

The last elections at the student centers were held between June and October of last year (with the military government), and some 17,000 students voted,

8,000 of whom cast in the ballot box the ballot for Franja, which in Cordoba corresponds totally to the National Coordination Board. The Alfonsinist control at the university is so marked that emphasizing just one item of information would suffice: Of the 15 members comprising the executive board of the Cordoban University Federation (FUC), seven belong to Franja Morada. The executive board (which is important, because it stipulates the line that is later raised and proposed on the national level) is made up as follows, since the last elections: Franja Morada, seven delegates; Intransigent University Youth, two; Popular Socialist Party (Estevez Boero), two; National University Front (orthodox Peronists), one; Independents, two; Communist Party, one.

However, it is not entirely correct to say that the university leadership belongs completely to Franja Morada; rather, there are major differences between the rector's office and the student movement's representative. On Tuesday night, a spokesman for Franja remarked that the relations with the rector "are somewhat difficult and do not always run smoothly, because there are differences of views."

From what has been learned, there are at least two critical points which reduce Franja's relations with the rector's office: One is that of the competitions; and the other, the change in the administrative and academic structure inherited from the military regime. The students recently requested intervention in the National University's legal entities, because they consider them to be "serving the interests of the dictatorship."

When a reporter asked a prominent Franja member what the main problem of the Cordoban university is at present, he replied with a categorical political definition: "Without doubt, shaking off the oligarchical, scientific and academic interconnection that has made the house of studies elitist."

The action of the student movement led by Franja is not confined exclusively to the university, but also has projections in the trade union, political and judicial areas. An example of this is the fact that Franja devised a joint action with the leading trade unions and the political youth groups, calling for the arrest and trial of Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, former chief of the Third Army Corps.

Generally speaking, it is estimated that authorities and students agree on the professional profile that the university graduate should have; although it is commented privately that the best dialog is being held by the Franja militants with the deans of the schools, and the abrasive encounters are taking place with Rector Mario Piantoni. The fact is that, on the provincial level, the National University authorities also have to serve as a buffer between the pressure from the students, the promises made during the election campaign and the need to continue keeping effective control over the councils, to avoid excesses and monopolization. Also succumbing to this unpleasant dilemma are many of the Franja Morada activists who do not want to go so far as to radicalize positions that would end up splitting the government party's university front.

Admission Requirements Poll

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 10-12

[Text] The issue of university admission returns to the forefront recurrently. Its reappearance coincides exactly with every institutional change, as if it were a problem still unresolved, which is restated upon each change of government. This is unquestionably an Argentine idiosyncrasy, because it would be difficult to find a similar debate in other climes, whether East or West. There, the universities have been accepted with their present features, and the evaluation methods do not meet with any great opposition. When some disputes concerning admission, particularly at the National University of Buenos Aires, have just ended, it is fitting to sound out the public's thinking on an issue that has been overly politicized and perhaps little analyzed. SOMOS assigned the agency A & C Business Analysts and Management Consultants to take a poll on admission to the universities.

The opinion survey was taken on the basis of a representative sample of 400 cases in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires, abiding by the population parameters shown by the latest census. The resulting material was processed electronically, and the margin of error considered for this sample is approximately 5 percent. Two questions were the focus of the first part of the research: Should there be a quota? Would an entrance examination be necessary? The correlation between the two answers made it possible to discern some interesting situations.

Quota Yes, Quota No

With regard to the quota, while 48 percent of those consulted thought that this restrictive mechanism should not exist, 36 percent came out in favor of it, and the remaining 16 percent said that they did "not know." On the other hand, when the admission examination was involved, 57 percent agreed that it was a valid method of evaluation, as opposed to 36 percent who had the opposite view and 7 percent who had no opinion. Esther Kaplan, A & C's public opinion director, established the following conclusion based on the poll results: "It is desired that all those intellectually capacitated for schooling on the third level be admitted without other reasons, such as lack of space, small available budgets or the little present or future need for professionals in the country, interfering with admission to the university."

Another interesting item of information is the fact that the admission examination is gradually being accepted, to the extent that a majority think that some academically suitable selection method should be established. According to Kaplan, "The Argentine population seems to be demanding a less permissive university than what the university authorities are proposing"; while the discussion on unlimited admission "revolves around whether it is possible to train professionals who will have to emigrate for lack of job opportunities in the country, on the one hand, and the right of everyone to pursue their ambitions vocationally." For the present, no means of reconciling both demands, one as valid as the other, has been found.

This greater acceptance of the admission examination is confirmed in the second part of the project, when those polled were asked how many chances for evaluation those entering would have to be offered: 33 percent claimed that once a year was sufficient, but another 17 percent opted for a second chance, as compared with 6 percent willing to grant another third occasion.

It is worthwhile noting, as Kaplan has done, that, "The majority of those interviewed want a demanding university, and not so much of a smoother of paths. It is also true that, actually, an educational institution, whatever it may be, cannot cover a very broad spectrum of capacities; sooner or later there must be a leveling (whether upward or downward), because a certain amount of human homogeneity must be counted on."

A university strongly linked to reality, or an island broken off from the environment that it should serve? This is another unknown that as yet has not been resolved, the subject of a debate that has often been stormy, with high political voltage. But in this respect also, there is a surprising change in the thinking of those polled: 18 percent claimed that the level of the university should be that of its students, but the majority thought that this level would have to correspond to the country's present (23 percent) or future (44 percent) needs.

Timid and Romantic

Kaplan remarks: "If one were to wonder who those backing unlimited admission are, the answer might be that it was partly those who are timid, and also partly those who are romantic. They would be the ones who are seeking a university without an examination, perhaps, wherein the evaluation is constant and continuous, and not the result of an instant. But its implementation would be disputable, and its usefulness in a society which requires instant decisions even more so." A more detached analysis of the reasons which prompted opinions in one direction or the other makes it possible to establish that the positive response regarding the admission examination is based on the fact that it would afford the determination of a good choice of career (14 percent), it requires a greater commitment of the student (30 percent), it levels the candidates equally (22 percent) or the most capable have to enter (31 percent). But if the quota is involved, the predominant argument was the lack of space (65 percent), together with the surplus of professionals (23 percent).

Among those who said "no" to the quota, the bulk (75 percent) expressed the view that everyone is entitled to be admitted, in contrast to 21 percent who thought that professionals were needed. The answer on the reasons explaining the opposition to the admission examination is also suggestive: 67 percent claimed that everyone should be admitted, while 11 percent thought that an examination was not enough. Another 15 percent stated that, in such an event, those who make mistakes must leave. Kaplan concluded by saying: "If the 36 percent who say 'no' to the admission examination changes to 25 percent when several annual opportunities to perform are given, and when queried about the university level, only 18 percent claim that the level of the students should be considered, this would indicate that fear plays a major role in the demand for unlimited admission."

Men, Women

The male or female status is associated with the opinion regarding quotas. Women are divided almost equally in their positions on this question. In comparison with the men, they showed a greater predisposition toward accepting that restrictive mechanism. Among the men those most in favor of the presence of the quota were between the ages of 35 and 44; but among the women those who most defended the quota were between 45 and 54 years old, presumably mothers of the young people applying at the universities. Prominent among the conclusions reached by Kaplan is the stiffer requirements desired of the university by the women, in contrast to what would be a greater permissiveness or openness among the men.

Inclusion in the productive system also imposed its nuances on the answers relating to the quota and admission. While the professionals divide their opinions equally between positive and negative, and skilled workers have a similar position, white collar workers came out in the majority opposing that device. Those working on their own were the ones most critical of the restrictive system and, strangely enough, business owners were also very critical, since 54 percent of those polled gave a negative response.

Educational level lent the poll its individual mark, and it was the university graduates (49 percent) who most favored the establishment of quotas; although the "no" predominated over the "yes" in all the segments queried (university, graduates, those with complete secondary schooling, incomplete secondary schooling, primary schooling and those without schooling).

The trend is definite. The A & C opinion director claimed: "The more education, the greater support for the quota; and the less education, the more claiming that they 'don't know'." As for the level that the university should have, the young people upheld an individualist position, claiming that it should have the students' level; in contrast to the older people, who cited the need for institutions of higher learning to meet the needs of the present. Those of intermediate ages maintained that the university should have the level of the country's future needs. One thing is clear: "The level on the educational scale marks the differences of opinion; those with more education look to the future, while those with less training look at here and now."

The majority of university graduates thought that the university should look toward the future, to meet the needs that are approaching; while those interviewed with secondary level schooling were inclined to take the present needs into consideration over and above any other.

Obviously, when those polled had a low level of schooling the proportion of those claiming that they "don't know" increases; but the other opinions do not differ substantially from the statements from those queried who had complete secondary schooling.

Should There Be a Quota?

Yes: 36%
No: 48%
Don't know: 16%

Should There Be an Admission Examination?

Yes: 57%
No: 36%
Don't know: 7%

Other Opportunities for an Admission Examination

Just once a year: 33%
Twice: 17%
Three times: 6%
There should not be an examination: 25%
Don't know: 18%

What Level Should the University Have?

That of the students: 18%
That of the country's current needs: 23%
That of the country's future needs: 44%
Other: 6%
Don't know: 9%

Why 'Yes' to the Quota?

Lack of space: 65%
Too many professionals: 23%
Other: 8%
Don't know: 4%

Why 'No' to the Quota?

Everyone is entitled to admission: 73%
Professionals are needed: 21%
Other: 4%
Don't know: 2%

Why 'Yes' to the Admission Examination?

It determines a good choice of career: 14%
It requires greater commitment of the student: 30%
It levels the candidates equally: 22%
The most capable must enter: 31%
Other: 2%
Don't know: 1%

Why 'No' to the Admission Examination?

Because an examination is not enough: 11%

Because everyone should be admitted: 67%

Because those who make mistakes are excluded: 15%

Other: 3%

Don't know: 4%

Men and Women Regarding the Quota

	Men	Women
Yes	29%	42%
No	56%	41%
Don't know	15%	17%

CRUP Fears State Control

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 13-14

[Text] The "war" began in December 1983, a few days after Raul Alfonsin had taken office as president of the country. At that time, the university students from non-governmental establishments, summoned by Franja Morada, released a statement which startled the members of the Council of Private University Rectors (CRUP). The word "state control" began to be murmured among huddled groups. By February, the coals had already been ignited: For example, in Moron, the students repudiated the increase in rates and requested the ouster of the authorities without further ado. Meanwhile, in Concepcion del Uruguay (Entre Rios), Franja Morada was calling for state control of the local private university, and the issue was circulating in the provincial congress, where it was discussed and is still under debate. At the same time, in Mendoza, a group of students from Aconcagua University held a hunger strike on behalf of deprivatization. The Chamber of Deputies in that province discussed the problem in a special session and, in the view of the CRUP authorities, on that occasion some "very serious notions" were expressed against private education. Finally, in Tucuman, the intention of cancelling the agreement that existed between the National University of Tucuman and the Catholic Santo Tomas de Aquino University was announced at a press conference. That press conference (according to a CRUP spokesman) was attended by a high-ranking official from the Ministry of Education and Justice. Although it was not stated who this person was, the reference appears obvious: At that time, the national director of university affairs, Dr Hugo Storani, was in Tucuman.

In March, matters did not improve: On the one hand, there was an incident at John F. Kennedy University; and, on the other, the authorities of three other private educational institutions (El Salvador, Belgrano and the Argentine Business University) had the progress of their records hampered in the Ministry of Education and Justice. The authorization for the operation of the courses for the academic year of 1984, therefore, remained unresolved. In its issue of 4 March, CLARIN carried the headline: "There will be worry among

rectors of the private universities"; and, on 7 March, TIEMPO ARGENTINO predicted "serious fears regarding the future progress of the private university."

On 16 March, CRUP met in an emergency session at the headquarters of the Notarial Business University. The conclave was chaired by the head of the organization and rector of the Argentine Catholic University, Msgr Guillermo Blanco, and the agenda included nine points. All of them related to the incidents that have just been described, evaluating "the participation of the student group Franja Morada in the events listed." At that emergency session, it was decided to start a clarification campaign through ads in the country's leading newspapers and a request for a meeting with the president of the nation, which was handled through the Pizzumo Palace.

CRUP's ad appeared in the 28 March newspapers, under the heading "the private universities to public opinion." Its most significant portions read as follows:

"Only 25 years ago, an innovative national vocational entity, made up of groups of individuals called to complement the generous effort expended by the Argentine state in the area of higher education, covered the nation's territory, giving rise to the present 23 institutions on this level.

"The testimonial outcome of its action is so tangible throughout the length and breadth of the Argentine geography that, after a quarter of a century, its results may be summarized as: 88,000 students in 23 universities in nine provinces; number of professors: 15,000, with 3,000 employees and 92,000 graduates.

"The purpose of this information provided by the private universities is (...) to underscore the deep concern that exists among the Argentine private universities over the reappearance of certain political and ideological movements attempting to distort the activity that they are carrying out by means of undeserved insults. These groups, some of which are visible, have tried to repeat a violence which we considered to have been eliminated from the country, acting with daily incidents which are aimed at jeopardizing the historical continuity of these institutions and the exercise of the constitutional freedom to teach and learn."

At this point, the private rectors were fully aware of the proposal made by delegates from Franja Morada to the rectors of the Concepcion del Uruguay University, Miguel Gonella; Mendoza University, Hector Corvalan Lima; and the Catholic University of La Plata, Nicolas Argentato. This proposal was regarded as unacceptable, with the understanding that it entailed a gradual state takeover of private education. Franja Morada had demanded joint government by teachers and students, with interference in the administrative control of accounts: in other words, the conversion of the private universities into cooperatives.

The retort from the Franja Morada Private Universities Front was not long in coming. On 4 April, it issued a communique describing the notions put forth

by CRUP in its ad as "insidious terms." Franja Morada reclaimed for itself a "fully democratic and peaceful intention," and stated that "the lack of participation in the private universities has been fostered by the military dictatorship, through Circular Letter 234 of May 1976, which has, until now, precluded the reorganization of the student centers."

At the time, Carlos Jose Elizalde (head of the Franja Morada's Private Universities Front) proposed a new requirement to CLARIN: the creation of a federation of private universities, to achieve the students' participation in the discussion of a university plan that would include private education among the national goals.

The fact is that, 8 days later, Raul Alfonsin received the head of CRUP in an audience. Msgr Guillermo Blanco commented, upon leaving, that, "The president listened to us, and told us that we should be completely calm, because the state would guarantee the operation of the private universities."

Although the issue seems to have had a respite since that meeting, in essence the discussions are still going on. Without going further, on 23 April CRUP's ironclad leadership bloc appeared to be divided into two factions: those willing to continue responding to the provocations, and those desiring to soothe spirits. Prominent among the former is Dr Hector Corvalan Lima who, very angrily, went so far as to say: "If they touch one, they will touch all." The assertion was shared by another of those "touched": Hector Sauret, of the University of Concepcion del Uruguay. Coming precisely to their aid would be several members of CRUP, to represent, on the spot, the spirit of struggle that had prevailed at the unruly plenary session held on Monday, the 23rd, in Buenos Aires. In fact, a handful of rectors will go to Concepcion del Uruguay during the second week of May in a solidary act which (on the same date) is to be supplemented by a note of appreciation to the National Bishops owing to the heated defense of the non-state education that the Church hierarchy made in its latest document. But, beyond this, the fact is that, this plenary session was attended by Monsignor Blanco himself, who emphasized his opposing view: in his opinion, the acquiescing strategy for responding to Franja Morada is the best one possible.

Miguel Herrera Figueroa, secretary of CRUP and rector of the John F. Kennedy University, for his part, told SOMOS, with regard to Franja Morada, that, "That particular entity is of no interest to us, nor shall we give it the status for a discussion with it." The dialog continued thusly:

"Then you don't recognize Franja Morada?"

"Of course not. It has no business here. One attends the university to study, not to engage in politics."

"Then you question the tripartite government of the state universities?"

"I don't know the purpose of such a tripartite arrangement. It seems absurd to me."

"Shouldn't the student be included in the university's leadership?"

"Absolutely not; that is insanity."

"Has any problem regarding tariffs and fees arisen for you?"

"Not here. At this university, the salaries are indexed every month, and the students' fees are every 3 months, with the cost of living indexes."

"The principles of the reform mention education free of charge."

"There are no such free universities. That is one of the many falsehoods being brought up. Every student costs the Argentine taxpayer a fortune. A doctor graduating from a state university costs the Argentine people, all the workers, over a million dollars."

"Do you consider the private university to be cheap?"

"In fact, it is. Everyone has access, because there are a great many scholarships. About 25 percent are on scholarship. There are even grants for payment once the student has been graduated. I also think it is important that higher education be paid for. It is important to know that no worker had to sacrifice his hours of labor to pay for your studies."

There are at present 420 university institutions, with 416,571 students and 33,450 professors. Of that total, 256 are on the national level, with 334,359 students and 21,101 professors. There are six on the provincial level, with 1,136 students and 299 instructors; and on the private level there are 158, with 81,076 students and 12,050 teachers. The data are official, and the reality is worth its weight.

2909

CSO: 3348/401

OPPOSITION PLP FACES DIFFICULT TASK IN BY-ELECTION

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party's central committee was due to meet last night to adopt a candidate for next month's Pembroke West by-election.

An announcement naming the candidate may be made today and certainly no later than Wednesday, party chairman Mr. Alex Scott said.

He revealed that a PLP poll of Pembroke West voters indicated that the Opposition faced a tough task in the district.

"It also shows that UBP primary candidate Dr. Clarence Terceira is way ahead of Dr. David Dyer," Mr. Scott added.

Dr. Dyer and Dr. Terceira were doing some last-minute canvassing yesterday on the eve of today's primary election at the Pembroke Community Club.

Both were confident of scoring a success.

Dr. Terceira commented: "I hope the people of Pembroke West will come out and give me their help and support."

Dr. Dyer said: "Judging by all the expressions of support, I am confident that things should come to fruition."

The two were due to address Pembroke West UBP members last night at the club.

Voters in the primary have to be UBP members and a Party spokesman confirmed yesterday there had been a flood of membership applications to meet the deadline which expired on Sunday.

Voting today takes place at the club between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and a result is expected around the 10.30-11 p.m. mark, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the PLP is on the verge of announcing its candidate in the May 19 by-election for the seat made vacant by former Finance Minister Mr. David Gibbons.

Mr. Scott said a PLP telephone poll at the weekend had sought the views of several hundred of those 1,800 registered voters in the district.

Midway indications in the poll, which was carried out by advertising firm Scott Crafts Ltd., showed that the PLP candidate faced a difficult task in the by-election.

It also showed, Mr. Scott added, that Mr. Terceira was "way ahead" of Dr. Dyer in the UBP primary campaign.

On the PLP candidate's selection, Mr. Scott said it had been narrowed down to one recommendation from the candidates' committee and that was due to be forwarded to the central committee for approval last night.

He said if that were approved, a press conference and announcement might be scheduled for today.

"It would certainly be no later than Wednesday. We have so far tried to let the UBP establish their candidate before any announcement," Mr. Scott said.

"The telephone poll confirmed that the PLP will have to work extremely hard in Pembroke West area.

"There is, however, a large set of folks there who subscribe to neither party.

"Also, previous support in the area for the PLP is unaltered. It is not going to be easy but with the right candidate, we could effect a swing out there," Mr. Scott said.

He said the party could make gains through protest votes — that is, UBP supporters voting against their candidates because of dissatisfaction with Government efforts.

The PLP would also be aiming to harvest some of those previously undecided voters, Mr. Scott added.

BIU ORGAN REVIEWS DISAGREEMENT WITH MINISTER GIBBONS

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Editorial Comment: "A Matter of Principle! A WORKERS VOICE Reply to the Minister of Finance's Breach of Confidence House Speech"]

[Text] On Saturday, March 17, 1984, Mr David Gibbons was reported in the daily paper as having stated in the House of Parliament that "\$ $\frac{1}{4}$ million had vanished from the Credit Union." In making this statement, Mr Gibbons not only implied that the money had been stolen, but that the funds of depositors were in jeopardy.

Not only were these statements untrue, but in making them, the Minister of Finance violated several principles of good government. In fact, these violations are so serious that, if recent experiences in the United States can be taken as a guide, a resignation would certainly be in order. Yet, the fact is that the Minister has so far not been criticised except by the injured party--the BIU. This is therefore proof positive that these violations of deep-rooted principles of a democratic society need to be examined.

Misuse of Power

Under the Credit Union Act, 1982, the Minister of Finance has the responsibility for regulating the operations of credit unions with a view to safeguarding the funds of depositors who, in this case, are the members of the BIU. These powers were exercised properly in February when the Minister placed the Credit Union under the intensive scrutiny of the Bermuda Monetary Authority. Bermudians can rest assured that as a result of this scrutiny, the Minister was assured that the Credit Union was rapidly rectifying its past errors. Firstly, the Credit Union was incorporated in May or June, 1983. Secondly, the Credit Union was registered August 31, 1984. Neither event could have occurred unless, in his view (the Minister's), the Credit Union was making satisfactory progress towards compliance under the Act. Why then the statement in a House debate that was totally unrelated to credit unions?

Abuse of Powers

Whether it is expressly stated in the Credit Union Act or not, it is certainly understood countries with democratic governments that information collected by a government agency for one purpose cannot be used for another purpose except

in the case of a national emergency. The information revealed by the Minister on the floor of the House of Assembly broke all rules of propriety.

The information was provided to officials of the Ministry of Finance in strictest confidence to enable them to carry out their role as supervisors of financial institutions. Yet this information came to be displayed as evidence in a debate that had absolutely nothing to do with credit unions. All financial institutions survive on trust. No financial institution at any point in time has all the funds available that have been deposited. If financial institutions were required to have all deposited funds available at any given time, then these institutions, as we have come to know them, could not exist!

Financial institutions whose resource base is deposits, owe their existence to the probability that members will not withdraw their funds all at once. In fact, not only are they betting that depositors will not all withdraw their funds at once, they expect that new deposits and loan repayments will more than cover what is paid out in withdrawals.

The reserves of a financial institution can become inadequate either because of mismanagement or because there is a loss of confidence in the ability of the institution to maintain its credibility. Losses of confidence occur whenever a person or institution of repute does something to discredit the concern.

There can be no more serious disruption to the credibility of a financial institution than the condemnation by the manager of a country's financial institutions--in Bermuda's case the Minister of Finance. When such condemnation is made without justification, it can only be regarded as irresponsibility of the highest order.

Misusing Confidential Information

When financial institutions provide information to government departments, it is done with the understanding that this information will not be released to third parties except under prescribed conditions. In the case of the Credit Union, the prescribed conditions do not include a discussion of the debt structure of the Credit Union in a debate which was not considering credit unions.

Even if the Credit Union had been the topic of discussion, as it was during its incorporation bill, it would not have been in the best interests of the community in general or the Credit Union in particular to speculate on the probability that certain debts would or would not be realised.

Once the Minister states that certain debts are not recoverable, he makes a self-fulfilling prophecy. He ensures that depositors will panic and withdraw their deposits, this in turn will cause a reduction in the ability of the Credit Union to make loans, which in turn will reduce our cash flow. This will influence our ability to honour withdrawals, which will cause further pressure from withdrawals and so on, until we are bankrupt!

If this cycle of events do not occur after a big push by the Minister of Finance, it will be a credit to the loyalty of the members of the Bermuda Industrial Union.

The Minister is guilty of breach of confidence. It is axiomatic in a free society that government is carried out by agreement between the citizens and their government. A basic ingredient in this relationship is trust. Citizens grow to confide in their government because they know that such confidences will not be used against them. Without the continual nurturing of this confidence, the safeguarding of law and order is impossible since the cooperation of the citizenry, so necessary in a democracy, is not forthcoming.

The Minister of Finance has assured Bermudians that they can have no faith that information provided to their government will not be used to frustrate their best interests. Yet he purports to act in the best interests of all the citizens. If this is an example of acting in the best interests of all the citizens, God help us if he decides to act against our best interests!

All of which makes us wonder about the future promised by John W. Swan. Is this to be a future dominated by big business interests who are protected by a government devoted entirely to the realisation of their selfish ends? Or will it be a future whereby social justice and a fair share of the economic pie is a guaranteed right of all citizens? Bermuda needs to know!

CSO: 3298/775

BUILDING WORKERS END STRIKE; EMPLOYERS RESPOND TO PLP

Wage Hike in Settlement

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Unionised construction workers yesterday ratified at new two-year wage agreement that is believed to call for an 18-plus percent wage increase over the life of the contract.

Bermuda Industrial Union President Mr Ottiwell Simmons said the new contract was ratified at a meeting held yesterday for construction workers.

The 500 unionised construction workers are expected to go back to work starting Monday. Several hundred other non-union workers will also return to work.

"The unionised construction workers have decided that all workers should receive the minimum pay rates and the fringe benefits contained in the newly ratified agreement," said Mr Simmons.

"All contractors are being urged to sign this new collective agreement."

Both Mr Simmons and chief negotiator for the construction employers, Mr Don Hunt, declined to comment on details of the agreement yesterday.

But THE ROYAL GAZETTE understands that the new wage pact calls for a 9 percent wage increase in the first year followed by a similar increase the second.

The breakthrough in negotiations to end the nearly month-long strike by construction workers came late Wednesday night.

Negotiations resumed on Thursday and by that afternoon tentative agreement had been reached.

Earlier reports indicated that the union had been asking for a 16 percent wage increase followed by a 15 percent increase. The employees were offering 7 and 6 percent wage hikes.

There are still four other sets of negotiations going on for collective agreements covering workers who are now working under expired contracts. They include workers at the Telephone Company. Bermuda Broadcasting Company, garage workers, and red caps at the Civil Air Terminal.

There is growing optimism that the labour situation will be resolved now that the construction industry--considered to be the key element in setting the pattern for wage contracts in 1984--has reached agreement.

The Port Workers Division of the BIU yesterday withdrew its ban on the unloading of cars. Longshoremen, who had imposed the ban in a sympathy action the day before, returned to work to discharge 95 cars from the Wild Cosmos.

General manager of Stevedoring Services, Mr Michael Lohan, said yesterday that the ban was lifted following a meeting by port workers yesterday morning.

"As a result of that meeting the Port Workers Division of the BIU moderated its policy, thereby allowing for the discharge and subsequent sailing of the Wild Cosmos," said Mr Lohan.

"The ban on the delivery of cargo for the construction is no longer in effect."

Mr Lohan said that longshoremen would work the weekend cargo vessels as normal.

--There was still no progress reported in negotiations between garage workers and their employers. Unionised garage workers were holding a general membership meeting at BIU headquarters yesterday afternoon. Negotiations are set to continue next week.

Employers' Council Stand

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 13 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

The Employers' Council responded last night to calls by Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. Frederick Wade that it was time for employers to share their profits with workers.

The Council, in a Press release, pointed out that profits were essential to provide future employment.

"Not all businesses are in the position of earning a profit," the Council said. "However, they have not asked their employees

to share their losses.

"It is true to say some construction companies have been profitable. On the other hand, it is equally true to say that, over the years, many construction firms have incurred large losses and gone out of business."

The statement said 1982 statistics showed that since a 1974/75 survey, the average weekly household income had outstripped the Retail Price Index.

CSO: 3298/775

BRIEFS

IMPORTS BILL--Bermuda's annual import bill last year registered one of its smallest increases since 1976. Latest figures, released by Government's statistical department, estimate that the Island spent \$365.2 million on imports last year--up almost 5 percent on 1982's \$347.9 million. Apart from an exceptionally small gain in 1981, the total dollar value of imports has grown at an annual rate of at least 11 percent since 1976 when Bermuda's imports stood at \$165 million. The slower growth rate reflects the strength of the dollar and lower levels of inflation in the United States which, the figures show, remains the Island's biggest trading partner. Excluding oil imports, the United Kingdom and Canada were the second and third largest suppliers last year. Food, beverages and tobacco products were the largest single category in 1983 with quarterly imports averaging \$19 million. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Apr 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/775

REPORTAGE ON 22ND CNBB GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITAICI

Agenda Analyzed

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Apr 84 p 18

[Text] Brasilia--Three basic subjects will be discussed beginning Wednesday by the Brazilian bishops participating in the 22nd General Assembly of CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] in Itaici. They are: the situation in the Northeast and possible ways in which the church could act to diminish the problems encountered in the region; the training of priests in the Brazilian church, given the new pastoral reality; and discussion of legislation to supplement canonical law such as to establish specific norms for the activity of the church in Brazil.

The document supplementing the Code of Canonical Law was drafted by the CNBB and deals with a series of questions which need definition by the episcopal conference. They include the question of retirement for bishops and priests, the use of the cassock, the issue of group or individual confession, transfer of ecclesiastic assets and the question of marriage. In connection with the marriage ceremony, the CNBB wants to draft a proposed marriage ritual suited to Brazil, through the liturgical sector, which would be consistent with the customs of the people. The draft would be presented at the next assembly.

Concerning the use of the cassock or clergyman's costume recommended by Pope John Paul II and set forth in the new Code of Canonical Law, the CNBB, in the document to be discussed in Itaici, defends a more open practice. "The cassock, the clergyman's costume, and in some cases the traditional lapel cross are recognized as ecclesiastical garb." However, it stresses that the bishop may make the final decisions, consistent with local custom and pastoral requirements, having heard the recommendations of the presbyterian council. The CNBB recognizes the need for visual identification of clergymen, but it stresses that "greater uniformity would be more difficult in view of the widely varying situations as to climate and local custom."

In connection with the remuneration of bishops, the CNBB urges that during his pastoral work, the diocese should provide the bishop with remuneration certain to provide him "not only with honest compensation, but also his contribution to the INPS [National Institute of Social Security]." And, under special conditions, if retirement pensions are inadequate, the bishops of the dioceses served should see to providing supplements. The same

instructions are given for the priests receiving compensation from their parishes.

The document also deals with confessions, establishing limitations on group confession without however prohibiting them in special cases, presuming preparation by the community for that action. "Diocesan bishops who grant authorization for collective sacramental absolution," the documents says, "should do so in the knowledge that this is a special reconciliation procedure and not a replacement, pure and simple, for the usual method, which is complete individual confession and individual sacramental absolution."

x Training of Priests

x The document concerning the training of priests revises the basic guidelines for priestly training, and deals among other things with the situation of the higher and lower seminaries, the intellectual training of priests and the perfecting of post-seminary training. The document stresses that the church in Brazil has changed in recent years, with the multiplication of the base communities, the emergence of new ministries and the call issued to new pastoral agents, the intensification of the catechism, etc.

"These changes," the CNBB explains, "although ideally they work toward the same end, cannot prevent polarization and conflict, mainly among those who take up in unilateral and radical fashion only one aspect of pastoral activities or the concerns of the church." According to the CNBB, there are also different views of ecclesiastic doctrine which give rise to differences.

"Other tensions are caused by the accentuation of inequalities and the dramatic nature of the crisis society is experiencing," the CNBB continues.

"The pastoral agents find themselves faced with opposing requirements on the part of different Christian groups. Some demand an effective 'option for the poor' and an effort, political included, to benefit the interests of the majority of the population, while others demand a 'spiritual' church seeking to alleviate or mitigate social tensions through charity and religion."

The situation in the Northeast is another subject on the agenda of the 22nd Assembly of Bishops in Itaipi, and the discussions will be based on several documents drafted by regional CNBB groups and recently discussed by the regional bishops. The central document entitled "The Northeast--A Challenge to the Evangelical Mission of the Church in Brazil" urges the need for greater collaboration on the church level with the dioceses in the Northeast.

The CNBB further asserts that "building society on the basis of the ethic of communion and participation is the special duty of our era," and it summons all Christians to this task. "The entire Northeast policy," the document stresses, "is imposed in such a way as to favor and guarantee ever-increasingly the reproduction and maintenance of the local power structure. This structure is maintained by electoral fraud, police repression and private violence."

Three Hundred Bishops To Attend

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 84 p 21

[Text] Campinas--"The problem of the Northeast is not the drought as such, but the structure of the system, and it has to do above all with the land ownership question. We are living to some extent with the old colonial system. This must be reviewed, as a point of departure for the solutions for that region." This statement was made in Itaici yesterday by the Archbishop of Fortaleza, Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider, who headed the drafting of the document entitled "The Northeast--A Challenge to the Evangelical Mission of the Church in Brazil." The text will be discussed by the 300 Brazilian bishops who will participate in the 22nd General Assembly of the CNBB at the Vila Kostka monastery in Itaici beginning tomorrow.

Dom Aloisio, who was the first prelate to arrive in Itaici, said he hopes that "the church in Brazil will gain a real awareness of the problem of the Northeast here." He further commented that "discussion will be pursued from the point of view of the Gospel, but it will certainly have repercussions in nonecclesiastical sectors, because what is under discussion is a serious social problem which will have to have political effects." Although he stressed that the discussion concerning the Northeast is mainly designed to improve the work the church has been pursuing through the CEBs [Ecclesiastic Base Communities], jointly with the community, the cardinal noted that the suggestions could be utilized by the government.

In analyzing the work the church is doing with the Northeastern community, Dom Aloisio said that "we assign great importance to the political education of the people, which seems to us to be one of the most important elements, since it is the people who must take responsibility for their history, and not simply wait for it to be handed down from above." In the view of the Archbishop of Fortaleza, there are "two negative elements" in the Northeast which he says heavily influence the popular culture. They are "fatalism and paternalism." The first, the cardinal says, is reflected in the fact that the people accept everything as the "will of God," and believe that some individuals are superior to others, accepting inequality as if it were something in God's plan. The latter characteristic leads them "to be always holding out their hands in the hope of receiving something from others."

Dom Aloisio Lorscheider criticized the distribution of resources in the Northeast, "which are channeled to a few individuals and to the infrastructure in certain cities, neglecting the interior, where there is no health or educational aid." Again focusing on the land ownership issue as one of the basic factors in the Northeast, Dom Aloisio commented that "even if it is outdated in time the actual implementation of the Land Statute would be a beginning in the solution of the problems of land distribution in the region."

Message From the Pope

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 84 p 21

[Text] Campinas--The first day of sessions at the 22nd General Assembly of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops was inaugurated yesterday with a report on a message from Pope John Paul II, which was sent to the bishops of Brazil through the president of the CNBB, Dom Ivo Lorscheiter. According to Dom Ivo's account, the pope said that "the bishops of Brazil must remember that they must liberate the people from social injustices, which I know are serious, taking up the role of liberators of the people using wise paths and methods." John Paul II further informed Dom Ivo that he sees "the church in Brazil as a truly dynamic church, and I hope it will continue thus." In his greeting to the Brazilian episcopate, the apostolic nuncio, Carlos Furno, said that "throughout the area one senses a living and vibrant church, in which there is great love for the humble and poor people and an intense devotion to the ministry itself, full of sacrifice and altruism."

The General Assembly of the CNBB was inaugurated in the morning with a solemn mass, during which Dom Ivo delivered a homily on the importance of the main matters scheduled for discussion at the meeting, attended by 243 bishops. They include "Legislation to Supplement the New Code of Canon Law," "Directives for the Training of the Clergy in Brazil" and "Problems of the Northeast as a Challenge to the Church in Brazil." Subsequently, in the first plenary session, 13 proposals were submitted for inclusion in the general agenda of the assembly. The Archbishop of Fortaleza, Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider, asked that time be allowed for a clarification of the doctrinary or theological situation of Latin America. Dom Clemente Isnard, vice president of the Latin American Bishops Conference (CELAM) and Bishop of Nova Friburgo, suggested that on 1 May the assembly send a message to the workers of the country on the subject of wage and unemployment problems.

A proposal which won applause was that asking for a statement by the assembly on the Ministry of Health's overall health plan for women and children, put forth by Dom Jose Gomes, Bishop of Chapeco. Dom Jose said that "it is not only a health plan, but an evil mass contraception program, involving the distribution of pills and IUDs and the tying of tubes." Maintaining that "any mass contraception oriented toward ethnic and other groups is called genocide," the bishop said that "we cannot ignore the fact that genocide is being pursued where the majority of the Brazilian nation is concerned, whether it be called "Northeast," "the unemployed" or "slum dwellers." He went on to say that "this is a crime against the nation, against mankind," and he concluded by saying that "inactivity by the bishops of this assembly would be a crime against the church itself and the nation, and an omission for which we would have to pay in the eyes of God and the Brazilian nation."

The president of the CELAM, Dom Antonio Quaracino, an Argentine bishop, arrived in Itaici yesterday to attend the assembly. Nine new bishops were also presented yesterday: Dom Edgar Caricio de Gouvea, of Irece, Bahia; Dom Lucio Ignacio Baumgaertner, of Toledo, Parana; Dom Thadeu Gomes Canellas, of Porto Alegre; Dom Itamar Vian, of Barra, Minas Gerais; Dom Fernando Antonio

Figueiredo, of Teofilo Otoni, Minas Gerais; Dom Walter Bini, of Lins, Sao Paulo; Dom Geraldo Lyrio Rocha, of Vitoria, Espiritu Santo; Dom Tarcisio Sebastiao Batista Lopes, of Sao Jose do Grajau; and Dom Francisco Barroso Filho, of Oliveira, Minas Gerais.

Avoidance of Marxism Urged

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Apr 84 p 12

[Text] Campinas--Dom Antonio Quarracino, the Argentine bishop who is president of the CELAM, spoke yesterday in Itaici of the Vatican's concern about "certain presentations of the theology of liberation," stating that "the Holy See has a very special concern about everything pertaining to theological thinking, which is not mere serious study for its own sake or a scientific luxury, but deals with the truths of the Christian faith. If these truths are not presented correctly, the church cannot remain indifferent." Dom Antonio suggested that the advocates of the theology of liberation "think more deeply, see to the explanation of basic issues with greater clarity, avoid giving the impression of making of theology a tool of a social-political-economic nature, and dissociate themselves from all ideological contributions of a Marxist sort."

Dom Antonio, who was elected last year, is the first foreign president of the CELAM to attend a CNBB assembly. He is in addition scheduled to speak to the 280 bishops meeting in Itaici today, and to return to his home country tonight. Yesterday he analyzed the theology of liberation, saying that "it is multiple," and that all of the efforts to clarify its ramifications to date have been frustrated. "Within this variety, there are some trends and some individuals who have gone so far as to accept the use of Marxist analysis in its integrity. In some sectors of the theology of liberation movement, politics takes on greater importance than theology itself and the pastoral task. I believe that some of its authors have had an influence on the emergence of the people's church."

Dom Antonio Quarracino also commented on the difficulty of describing the people's church, because it is not official, has no structural form "and one may fall into the trap of calling a church which lives closer to the people popular." But he defended the premise that "if a heretical position is found, then the church must intervene," noting, however, that the church in our day is very cautious when it comes to condemnation. "We are not living in a time of intervention, but of concern about this reality." He said further that there is knowledge of the existence of the people's church in Central America, mainly in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

During the second day of CNBB Assembly sessions yesterday, the bishops discussed the supplements to the new Code of Canonical Law.

5157

CSO: 3342/96

NATIONAL WORKERS COMMAND FAVORS STRIKE WITHIN 90 DAYS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Apr 84 p C-2

[Text] The holding of a national strike within a maximum period of 90 days, the date of which will be decided soon, was one of the conclusions reached by the expanded session of workers called by CNT [National Workers Command], which took place yesterday, behind closed doors, at the Carlos Cariola Auditorium, with 1,000 leaders of 600 unions from all over the country participating.

The agreement on a work stoppage was announced at a press conference following the meeting, by the head of the National Workers Command, Rodolfo Seguel, and by its leaders, Manuel Bustos, Federico Mujica, Hernol Flores and Humberto Soto.

It should be noted that the executive body of the Command is comprised of the Copper Workers Confederation, the Democratic Union of Workers, the National Trade Union Coordinating Board, the Confederation of Private Employees and the Unified Workers Front.

Bustos remarked that the only way in which the workers would cancel the summons to the national strike is if the president of the republic, Gen Augusto Pinochet, "leaves the government" and a step is taken toward democracy.

No Immediate Stoppage

In this connection, the head of the Unified Trade Union Movement (MSU), Emilio Torres, emphasized: "We declare that we do not favor the immediate stoppage of work. First, the workers must be identified 100 percent with this initiative."

He added: "Although the workers' petitions have not really been met by the government for 11 years, MSU believes that a sudden end to the regime should not be considered, but rather that this should be achieved by well thought-out action, attempting to prevent the triggering of violence."

Meanwhile, Rodolfo Seguel commented that the date of the work stoppage would be announced by CNT after consultations had been held with the Council of National Federations, Confederations and Unions of Workers. He added that, on this occasion, it will be decided whether it will be indefinite in nature.

The expanded national session also decided to hold a public ceremony in every city and in O'Higgins Park in Santiago, at 1000 hours on May Day.

In addition, the summons for the protest on 11 May was confirmed, and the formation of courts-martial during peacetime was repudiated.

2909

CSO: 3348/412

DAILY EXAMINES CLAIMS TO ANTARCTIC NATURAL RESOURCES

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Apr 84 p A-3

[Text] It is a well known fact that, if Chile wants to take advantage of the mineral resources that may exist in its Antarctic territory, it will have to become associated with nations possessing highly advanced technology and large amounts of capital in order to engage in oil prospecting on that continent.

The profitable extraction of hydrocarbons is not anticipated before the year 2000. In the 16 years remaining of this century, it would be necessary to carry out prospecting, exploration drilling, the installation of bases and human settlements, as well as the establishment of communications and everything else required to start up a project of this scope.

There is a great geological similarity between the Antarctic peninsula and the extreme southern part of Chile. It is assumed that minerals such as coal, iron, copper and even gold and silver are present, but under conditions that would make access to them and their exploitation so difficult that a long time would elapse before this became possible.

When mention is made of oil, it is because (as a result of recent exploration) this fuel is presumed to exist on the continental shelf of Ross, Weddell and Bellingshausen Seas; because an American ship has already detected gas on the Ross Sea shelf.

But there is an Antarctic treaty and system in existence, which regulate all the activities on that continent, and a group of 16 countries, including the great powers, are in charge of the administration of Antarctica. Since 1972, these countries have been engaged in a study of a legal system that would allow for the exploration and development of the Antarctic mineral resources for commercial purposes. In May, another meeting will be held in Tokyo for this purpose. One of the most difficult issues to be resolved is the status of the countries, such as Chile, which have claims to sovereignty and which are demanding respect for their rights in the future system.

Similarly, the prospects of commercial development of the Antarctic mineral resources have whetted the appetite of Third World countries, which took the initiative, during the last United Nations General Assembly, of requesting

of the secretary general a study of those resources and participation in the development and profits thereof by the other nations which are not contracting parties to the Antarctic Treaty.

The Third World countries have created too many illusions about the wealth that Antarctica may hold, and its potential for utilization. There are very few spots on the continent that are free from an enormous ice cap, which is from 6,000 to 8,000 meters thick in some places. However, the political pressure that they bringing to bear should be considered carefully by countries such as Chile, which have claims to sovereignty in Antarctica.

2909

CSO: 3348/412

PAPER CRITICAL OF EXPROPRIATION AS MEANS TO LAND REFORM

More Organized Approach Urged

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 4 Apr 84 p 14A

[Editorial: "Revolts in Agriculture"]

[Text] It is simply difficult to understand, in the first 2 years of an administration that made the motto "Let us return to the land" its leitmotif, the cornerstone of its platform, how the problem of land has failed to be posed in accurate, realistic terms with studies of each region, of the human and socioeconomic factors involved, and of the structure of the distribution of the agricultural sector. This would have made it possible to prevent some of the many land invasions and to take a coherent, clear line of action in each case.

The recent denunciations made by Monsignor Hector Morera, the bishop of Tilaran, of the policies and organization of the Agrarian Development Institute (IDA) are heard frequently in the discussions of the agrarian problem that have been taking place in various public circles. However, Monsignor Morera's statements contain a new element, which is the basic ethical and legal objection to the procedure of expropriation because it lends legitimacy to a created, which is to say de facto, situation.

Monsignor Morera has touched a sore spot. In fact, the tendency to expropriate occupied farms, along with the violence or coercion involved, reveals that the institution responsible for the problem does not have a previously formulated, comprehensive program based on serious studies of the real agrarian situation of the country. The invitation to "return to the land" presupposes an official plan to make it possible for Costa Ricans to return to agriculture. It seems that since the Agrarian Development Institute does not have such a plan, or has not been able to complete it, does not even have basic information, resources or backing--whatever the reason--instead of directing or implementing a well-structured agrarian program, it hurries to somehow solve the problems created on the farms that organized squatters decide to occupy here or there.

Expropriation should be the exception, and the purchase or peaceful, legal acquisition of lands the rule. But this is only possible if a program has already been formulated which takes into account all aspects--human, technical, transportation, assistance, financial--of the agrarian problem in our country and the rest of Latin America, where it takes on different hues, depending on the latitude.

The problem is more advanced than the possible solutions and the organization and intervention of the state; hence, the anarchic, dangerous character it has exhibited in recent months. The squatters of Rio Claro, Golfito, have threatened not only to block the Pan American highway, but also to occupy buildings if the government or the IDA does not meet their deadline for resolving the trouble at the Henry Dubon farm. The Mixed Institute for Social Aid (IMAS), another institution mixed up in this affair, says it is the owner of that farm and that, as such, has designated it a refugee camp.

All of this lack of institutional coordination, counteracting interference and confusion, in which the state institutions themselves get entangled and neutralize each other with different concepts and objectives in regard to the same problem, is the fruit of a notorious lack of planning. The problem could be approached through a more dynamic simplification of the institutions and more technical, mature, centralized plans.

The agrarian problem is taking on explosive dimensions in the very foundations of our rural democracy. There must be institutional reorganization and a better definition of agrarian policies which outlines clear short- and medium-term objectives, provides for sufficient resources and means and prevents land invasions instigated by leftist leaders or demagogues.

IDA Responds

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 16A

[Commentary by Jose Manuel Salazar Navarrete, executive president of the IDA]

[Text] In yesterday's editorial LA NACION attributes to the Agrarian Development Institute (IDA) a tendency to provoke agrarian problems and resolve them through expropriation. The editor says that this "tendency to expropriate occupied farms...reveals that the institution responsible for the problem does not have a previously formulated, comprehensive program." He adds that "expropriation should be the exception, and the purchase or peaceful, legal acquisition of land the rule," and he asserts that the IDA's actions have deviated from this path.

These assertions are mistaken. The correct information, and we have a table illustrating this, shows that most of the acquisitions have not been made through expropriations.

There are, in fact, in Costa Rica two procedures for the acquisition of land by the state for the purposes of agrarian policy: one consists of the authority granted to this institute by the Land and Settlements Law, which governs the IDA, to purchase lands as part of the ordinary business of the institution, as long as the owners of the farms give their consent and there is a simple purchase-sale transaction. The other procedure is expropriation, which occurs when there is opposition from the owner and necessity obliges the executive branch to adopt a firm policy with a view to purchasing a particular farm.

As far as the current administration is concerned, in reality, from the beginning of 1983 to date (in other words, since this institution began to be financed) IDA has acquired 90 farms, only 1 of which was expropriated. In terms of area the 90 farms represent 37,398 hectares. Furthermore, the institute has in its hands options for sale for about 20,000 additional hectares. With this total of more than 50,000 hectares acquired or being processed, the IDA has benefitted and given land to about 5,000 families over the last 15 months.

The intensity of this work becomes evident if consideration is given to the proportion that this figure represents of the total of 22,500 families who have been given land by the IDA, formerly ITCO [Institute of Lands and Settlement], over the last 22 years since its establishment in 1962. Moreover, this demonstrates that, both in number and area, the cases of expropriation are the exception and not the rule, as is erroneously asserted in the editorial.

Only about 50 percent of the lands acquired in the last year were farms occupied by squatters. Thus it may be seen that there are numerous purchases of farms that are free of any problems, and that they are purchased in order to head off any threat of invasions or squatters. Surveying work (laying of roads in the settlement, division of lands, etc.) is being done rapidly on these free farms, as is other planning work (soil studies, determination of the man-land coefficient, etc.) that is indispensable for settling the families receiving assistance. In some cases this work has already borne fruit and it has been possible to turn the land over to the beneficiaries. I wish to reiterate that this is in regard to numerous purchases of farms which were neither invaded nor occupied by squatters.

It should be said that in most of the cases of negotiated land acquisitions in which I have participated in the past (such as the lands and ranches of Wilson, Coyolar, Bataan, Cariari, Rio Frio, Paso Hondo and others, which add up to many thousands of hectares and are the majority of the lands distributed in the past), there was no prior occupation by squatters. It has not been true, as it is now, that Costa Rican agrarian policy has lagged behind invasions and occupations of farms.

The IDA has stated (and has acted in accordance with this statement of policy) that it does not support land occupations. A great injustice is done by this unnecessary and clearly unjustified attack on the IDA, which has been accused of having neither programs nor an orientation, and falsely accused of provoking invasions and then turning to expropriation as a norm.

The decision to expropriate is not made by the IDA but rather by the executive branch, and it is implemented by the promulgation of a decree by the president of the republic. It is resorted to only in cases of clear necessity. At present this procedure is under way in regard to 2,000 of the 10,000 hectares of Las Alturas de Coton, S.A., and also in regard to 7,021 hectares of the so-called Gesling Ranch. The circumstances of these cases are well known to the public. The magnitude in hectares alone (9,000 hectares expropriated versus 50,000 that are processed through purchases, a figure that will increase during the rest of this administration) reveals the unfairness of the editorial accusation attributing to the IDA a "tendency to expropriate" which "reveals that the responsible institution does not have a comprehensive program." The truth is that for the IDA the purchase of lands or their peaceful, legal acquisition is the rule and expropriation is the exception.

NEW MINISTERS IN ECONOMIC SECTOR NAMED

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Apr 84 p 4A

[Excerpt] Yesterday President of the Republic Luis Alberto Monge appointed Porfirio Morera Batres as treasurer, Odalier Villalobos as minister of economics and commerce and Dr Federico Vargas Peralta as finance and foreign debt counselor.

These appointments are the culmination of a series of changes in the government economic team which began on 1 January 1984 and which have even brought on the resignation of some of its most important members.

Morera Batres will replace Dr Vargas Peralta, who resigned Monday. The latter will take over the post left vacant last February by Rodolfo Silva Vargas.

Meanwhile Villalobos will take the place left vacant by Marco Antonio Lopez Agüero, who was appointed executive president of the Central Bank after the resignation of Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo, who is running for nomination as president of the National Liberation Party [PLN].

In January, Claudio Volio Guardia resigned as minister of planning and was replaced by Juan Manuel Villasuso.

In March, Dr Mario Carvajal Herrera resigned as minister of exports and was replaced by Jorge Manuel Dengo Obregon, who at his own request will not have the rank of minister.

Finally, last Tuesday, Vice President of the Republic Alberto Fajit Lizano sent to the Legislative Assembly his resignation which is effective 10 May 1984.

At present, Fajit is coordinator of the Economic Council, a body created by the present administration. Of the former members of that council, the only ones who remain on it are the ministers Fernando Berrocal Soto and Calixto Chaves, the latter ministry of industry, energy and mines.

During yesterday's session of the Council of Government, President Monge administered the oath of office to Odalier Villalobos and to Lopez Agüero. Morera Batres and Vargas Peralta will take office on 16 April 1984.

BRIEFS

BAUXITE PROCESSING PLANT PLANNED--President of the Republic Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez and the Sociedad Promotora enterprise, which has been organized with capital provided by the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) and area entrepreneurs, will sign an agreement today for the exploitation of bauxite to make aluminum sulfate in Perez Zeledon. The agreement provides for the installation of an aluminum sulfate processing plant which will go into operation next year at a cost of U.S. \$10 million. This is the first large scale project to be established in the industrial area to be created in the southern region. Ricardo Morales, vice president of the Costa Rican Development Corporation (CODESA), reported that CODESA will have a 20 percent share in the enterprise by contributing the raw material, without having to contribute funds. The exploitation will continue for 20 years and will use only 2 percent of the 30 million tons of the bauxite in the region. Other investors in the company are Engineers Rodolfo Luma and Guillermo Lozano, as well as textile industrialists of several of the Isthmus nations. They explained that aluminum sulfate is of fundamental importance because it is used in water purification. It is also used for coloring paper, as well as in textiles and pharmaceutical products. Morales explained that the aluminum sulfate will be sold primarily in the other Central American countries and about 30 percent of the production will be exported to South America. He said it will be primarily an exporting enterprise which will bring in foreign exchange and will offset imports. He also said that it will employ a large work force and that the BCIE, besides promoting the project, is also its main financial backer. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 6A] 9204

MEAT, COFFEE TAXES REPEALED--Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Raising Francisco Morales Hernandez reported that the government's decision not to extend the tax on the exchange differential, which up to December was paid on the traditional exports, also benefits cattle raisers. Previously he had specifically mentioned the case of coffee growers. He explained, however, that under this arrangement the cattle raisers will no longer pay 68.8 million colones and the coffee growers 700 million colones. Regarding the coffee growers, Morales explained that President of the Republic Luis Alberto Monge's decision not to extend the tax is a means of helping the coffee planters in their battle against coffee rust. The elimination of the tax represents the receipt of an additional 225 colones per fanega of coffee. For the cattle raisers the minister said that the elimination of the tax represents an

additional 1,000 colones per young bull. Representatives of the National Coffee Growers' Association expressed their satisfaction at the president's decision because, they said, "At present there is imminent danger of the spread of coffee rust, increasing the cost of production, which will harm the producers directly." Alberto J. Amador, president of the Federation of Costa Rican Cattle Raisers' Organizations, said that under present conditions, the renewal of the tax would be equivalent to hastening the liquidation of the country's ranches. [Excerpt] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 12A] 9204

CSO: 3248/562

LIBYAN THREAT DEBUNKED, INSTABILITY OF SUDAN ANALYZED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 15,12 Apr 84 p 18

[Text] As on previous occasions, the Western propaganda machine is reiterating the conceited bombast from the Sudanese president, Gaafar Numeiri, regarding the alleged "Libyan threat."

An attempt is being made to blame Tripoli for a strange bombing of the city of Ondurman, north of Khartoum, carried out by an "unidentified" aircraft. Nevertheless, some observers claim that a self-inflicted attack was involved, for the purpose of increasing the military aid from the United States and Egypt to cope with the rebellion in the south, as well as to divert attention from the real reasons that have brought about the catastrophic situation in the country.

From the outset (mid-March), the United States sent two AWAC electronic reconnaissance planes to Egypt, accompanied by a "certain number of backup pursuit planes." An airlift was established between Cairo and Khartoum, whereby (according to the WASHINGTON POST) "United States Air Force planes have been carrying large arms shipments to the Sudanese capital."

The Pentagon has taken advantage of the incidents in Sudan to expand its military presence in Northwest Africa, a geographical region considered to be of "strategic importance" to the U.S.

American troops from the "rapid deployment forces" have held joint maneuvers with the armies of Sudan, Egypt, Somalia and Oman, as part of the "Bright Star" maneuvers, which have been described as the largest show of force in that area since World War II.

There has also been an increase in the military financing for Sudan, which has risen sharply from \$5 million in 1979 to \$100 million in 1982 and \$165.5 million during the current fiscal year; although the Reagan team wants to increase that figure to \$190.7 million by 1985.

Egypt, for its part, revitalized a bilateral defense treaty signed in 1976, sending troops to Khartoum which immediately occupied strategic positions in the neighboring country. The British weekly publication THE OBSERVER, estimates at over 12,000 the number of Egyptian troops sent to the upper section

of the Nile River, where a French company responsible for building a canal has withdrawn its technicians and specialists owing to the instability and increasing guerrilla activity against the Sudanese regime.

In fact, for several months the news media have been commenting on the military situation in the North African country; and some, like the WASHINGTON POST, have gone so far as to say that "the smell of rebellion is in the air in nearly all the cities of Sudan."

The resurgence of the guerrillas in the south is a reflection of the unrest and the dissatisfaction with the Numeiri regime.

The central government's arbitrary actions have evoked rivalry between the south (with a black, Christian or animist population) and the Islamic north. This has existed since the last century, and was encouraged by the British colonial occupation to keep the country under control. It was also the cause of a civil war which lasted for 17 years, starting in 1955. Many of the former fighters who joined the regular army after the 1972 peace agreement have deserted and have rejoined the armed groups operating in the southern plateaus.

Another element to be included is the economic crisis which, together with the politico-military situation, completes the clinical picture of the Sudanese society.

Sudan, a country with an area of over 2 million square kilometers (the largest in Africa), is incapable of producing the food necessary for its 21 million inhabitants whereas it could, potentially, become the granary of the Arab world.

The methods of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development have not succeeded in extricating the sick Sudanese economy from permanent crisis.

It is little or no use to devalue the currency, raise prices of items of prime necessity and become indebted with new loans from the West. Sudan's foreign debt rose from \$5.2 billion to \$8.3 billion between 1982 and 1983, and the inflation rate has not dropped from 50 percent per year.

As a result of the foregoing, every day the strikes and dissatisfaction among the population have been increasing. Just a few days ago, Numeiri dissolved the Sudanese Physicians Association, which he accused of participating in a plot against his government, ordering the doctors on strike to return to work immediately and intimidating them with the threat of trying them judicially. Work stoppage is considered illegal and, according to the penal code in effect, it may be punished by death or life imprisonment.

The economic bankruptcy is such that the magazine AFRICA ECONOMIC DIGEST considered the remedies and advice from the IMF and other international agencies to be unworkable. The skepticism is explained with the rationale

that the population has exceeded the limits of tolerance that it can withstand with the need for food.

Illiteracy amounting to 85 percent of the Sudanese, and social problems such as the lack of medical care and hospitals, epidemic diseases, 14.1 percent infant mortality and a life expectancy of only 46 years are some of the consequences of the misrule of Numeiri, during the 15 years that he has held power.

These reasons, to which we must add the establishment of the "Islamic order," with the intention of attracting the Muslim opposition but, at the same time, causing dissatisfaction among the millions of Christians and animists residing in the south, the growing dependence on foreign capital and the unconditional pro-American policy are the real causes of the Sudanese syndrome.

In them, and not in the neighboring territories, Numeiri's dictatorial regime must seek the origins of the instability and rebellion in Sudan.

2909

CSO: 3248/599

CULTURAL GROWTH NOTED IN MORE CENTERS, INCREASED PARTICIPATION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] Art, literature and cultural activity are becoming increasingly present in the daily life of the contemporary Cuban. The growing access to and participation in the most diverse expressions of culture by the most extensive sectors of the population, in all sections of the country, including the most remote, are associated with the creation of hundreds of cultural institutions in recent years. The statistics released recently during the course of the Ministry of Culture's Work Evaluation Assembly during 1983 reveal this phenomenon, which might be described as a cultural explosion. For example, let us observe the following table:

Cultural facilities in service:

1980.....	998
1983.....	1,404

During the course of the 3-year interval 1980-83, 406 new cultural facilities were created; in other words, a 41 percent increase. They include: 35 mm movie theaters, libraries, houses of culture, museums, art galleries, theaters, theater halls and circuses. Mention should be made of the considerable increase in museums, upon the enactment of Law 23 of the Council of Ministers, which stipulates that every municipality in the country is to have a museum. Similarly, in the heat of the movement giving an impetus to the creation of the 10 basic cultural institutions, there has been a significant increase in the number of houses of culture, libraries and art galleries.

Added to this is the fact that these institutions have been provided with the most variegated technical facilities, for example, sound and lighting equipment and musical instruments, among others. This noteworthy effort in the material realm, although still insufficient, has been combined with the formation of cadres responsible for cultural encouragement, such as art instructors, and cultural specialists and technicians, who have become incorporated into these institutions as a whole. They have intensified the cultural movement in the provinces and municipalities, and their endeavor has been given preference. It would suffice to note that, between 1982 and 1983 alone, the number of these cadres devoted to artistical and cultural work increased by over 5,000.

At the present time, all the provinces are working for the purpose of providing all their municipalities with the cultural model in honor of the party's Third Congress.

We should add to all this the increment in the supply of culture that we shall note in the table which we offer below, including 35 and 16 mm movie theaters, music, theater, dance, circus, performances and variety shows, activities for amateur artists and professional exhibitions.

Cultural Supply

1980.....	1,357,718	events or exhibitions
1983.....	1,615,969	" " "

In other words, there was an increase of 258,251 events or exhibitions during the 3-year period 1981-83, which is equivalent to a 19 percent increment.

While the sharp rise in the creation of facilities and in the cultural supply has been noteworthy, the public's massive attendance has responded to this. Let us observe:

Public attendance at cultural facilities and activities:

1980.....	151,246,900	persons
1983.....	215,439,500	"

As may be noted, there were 64.2 million more attendees in 1983 than in 1980, indicating a 42 percent increase. This is reflected in the fact that, if we consider the total population in the years covered, we find that, during 1980, every citizen attended the cultural facilities or activities as a whole more than 15 times, on the average, while in 1983 every citizen attended 22 times, as an average.

This increase has occurred in all the facilities, events or activities, and in all the provinces. It is the most concise indicator of the population's response to the community's effort to create its cultural institutions and, at the same time, to provide numerous offerings. It also reveals the people's increasing cultural level and interest in art and culture, and how the cultural option has become increasingly important to the population's enjoyment of spare time.

2909

CSO: 3248/600

BRIEFS

BRITISH MP AGAINST BLOCKADE--Hugh Dykes, a member of the ruling Conservative Party and head of the delegation of British members of Parliament visiting us, as guests of the People's Government National Assembly, described his stay in Cuba as successful. He remarked that, first of all, there has been success in establishing contacts with the National Assembly, which he hopes will increase; and, on the other hand, they were able to examine the different areas in which trade could be carried out, something that has been very limited thus far; and he expressed his interest in the development and expansion of friendly trade relations. The British member of Parliament cited Great Britain's willingness to trade with all the nations of the world, including Cuba, and not to accept the philosophy of the unjustified blockade imposed by the United States 25 years ago. Mr Dykes considers it very important to develop trade in the sugar area and other sectors, adding that his group would propose to their government an increase in the ECGD loans to the underdeveloped countries, including Cuba. He also mentioned that it would be highly significant if the European Economic Community were also to agree to offer its assistance to them. Before concluding his brief remarks to TRABAJADORES, he reiterated his desire that the excellent relations which exist between Cuba and Great Britain will become intensified and closer in other areas, not merely in the realm of friendship. [Text] [Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 6 Apr 84 p 4] 2909

CSO: 3248/600

PCD DISSIDENT GROUP ISSUES STATEMENT

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 10 Apr 84 pp 1, 13

[Article by Saul Pimentel: "Incident in PCD Examined"]

[Text] An incident occurred yesterday morning at the main office of the PCD [Dominican Communist Party]. There were shots in the air and shoving. A group of people who identified themselves as members of that organization forced their way in to hold a press conference.

At least two of the members of that group were armed with revolvers and others had knives and picks, according to Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the PCD, yesterday afternoon.

He stated that the group included Braulio Torres, Luis Salce and other "former members" of the party who have recently opposed its present leadership and carried out "subversive" work in violation of the statutes of the organization.

He said that the incident occurred around 10 am when the group unexpectedly showed up at the office. He added that when members of the party tried to prevent their entrance, two of the group took out revolvers and one shot in the air.

Isa Conde said they came in and handed out a public document to some journalists.

There have been problems in the PCD for some time since some members oppose Isa Conde, Jose Israel Cuello and other leaders alleging that they hold anti-Soviet positions, they manage the party like "a club of friends" and they maintain open collusion with the government and the Dominican Revolutionary Party.

Although those problems were reflected in the pages of the newspaper HABLAN LOS COMUNISTAS, they seemed to become more intense after the Third PCD Congress. At that time, leaders Rafael Pimentel and Miguel Aponte publicly denounced that the Gregorio Luperon Committee (one of the most important party committees in the capital) had been taken over. They also made a number of public accusations against the leaders elected by the Third PCD Congress but did not present any official opposition before, during or after that event.

The next day the PCD Executive Committee reported that Rafael Pimentel had been expelled along with Aristides Arroyo for allegedly doing subversive work

within the party. This is prohibited by its statutes. As to Miguel Aponte, it was indicated that he was not a member of the party since he had recently turned in his card.

Although on that occasion it challenged Braulio Torres and Luis Salce to publicly disassociate themselves from the attempts to reactivate subversive tasks in which Pimentel and Arroyo implicated them, they did not make any response.

For that reason, the Executive Committee of the party reported last Friday that they both were expelled from that organization.

Call for Separation

In the document it issued yesterday morning, the group that opposes the PCD leadership said that it has decided not to recognize its political leadership. For that reason, it disputes the results of the Third PCD Congress and rejects the "wave of expulsions" that has occurred.

It indicated that "the present leadership, taking control of the resources and organizational machinery of the party, converted the Third Congress into a political void. It attempted to legitimize all the deviationism and opportunism of the leadership."

It added: "The situation created overwhelms our forces. It is not possible to tolerate it any longer. To see a person in the party leadership who no longer believes in the revolution, who remains in it by using every type of scheme, is impossible for us to tolerate without making an important decision."

After making a detailed explanation of the internal problems of the party and a series of accusations against the present leadership, the group appealed to all members, candidates for membership and party sympathizers to close "our many ranks" and separate from the persons who took over the Central Committee.

The signers of the document included Raul Cuevas, Braulio Torres, Luis Salce, Fidencio Reyes, Manuel Cuevas, Ruben Corona, Cornelio Ciprian, Rafael Mateo, Domingo Rodriguez, Juan del Milagro Acosta, Augusto Beltre, Marcelo Figuereo, Tomas Alberto Beltre and Dario Gonzalez.

They said they represent: the zone committees of the sectors of Herrera, Cristo Rey, La Fe and Mauricio Baez; the provincial committees of Azua, Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana and Bani; and the municipal committees of San Juan, Villa Jaragua and Bani.

They said that "more than 70 base organizations" also support them.

Minimize Group

The PCD Political Committee condemned the incident that occurred yesterday morning, indicating: "It is a provocation unprecedented in the history of the party. It shows the degree of political degeneration reached by a small group of former members who created a schism."

It indicated in a press note that "this act evidently has the encouragement of the government security services that are pledged to obstruct the work of our party and the left at a time when the economic crisis worsens and social protest is becoming revitalized."

It noted that "the provocations orchestrated during the rally held last Saturday under the initiative of the five union central organizations" can be added to that incident.

It stated that two of the individuals who participated Saturday were in the group that entered the PCD office yesterday.

It said: "This group of former members of the PCD that, at most, has three or four dozen former members throughout the country has presented a document only signed by 13 people, allegedly endorsed by a number of party organizations. They used the names of these organizations without authorization to falsely exaggerate the magnitude of the crisis."

7717

CSO: 3248/593

PENA GOMEZ ON NEED FOR FISCAL REFORM

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Article by R. Rodriguez Gomez: "Pena Gomez Declares Fiscal Reform Necessary"]

[Text] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez attributed the economic crisis of the country, among other factors, to the lack of a fiscal reform to give the government the necessary resources to undertake national development.

The secretary general (on leave) of the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] and mayor of the National District stated that it is necessary to establish fair taxes and it is also necessary to collect them.

He complained that the opposition--especially the Reformist Party and the Dominican Liberation Party--often blames the PRD for all the economic problems that our country has suffered in recent years.

Pena Gomez added that it is alleged "that the PRD and the governments of Presidents Antonio Guzman and Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco are the only ones responsible for our country's foreign debt."

He added: "It is also argued that President Antonio Guzman was responsible for the crisis because the number of public employees and wages increased during his government."

He explained, however, that "the national crisis cannot be explained by the alleged errors our enemies attribute to us."

He maintained that the crisis can be explained as follows:

It is caused by the existence of a distorted model of development and the lack of a fiscal reform to give the government the necessary resources to undertake national development.

It is caused by the privileges and excessive and unjustified tax exceptions and exemptions that have deprived the state of hundreds of millions of pesos in unpaid taxes.

It is caused by the neglect of agricultural-livestock activities, the currency exchange penalization that our agricultural products suffer which favors

unproductive sectors of the city and other sectors that are part of the industrial sector and are too protected and privileged. Inexplicably, the prices of the products from their enterprises are not competitive on the international markets.

It is caused by the deflection of profits from agricultural production toward intermediaries, both those that move agricultural resources from the countryside to the city as well as those that move them from the country abroad.

It is caused by undervaluation of our imports and underbilling of our exports if the objective is tax evasion or lower taxes and overvaluation of the same if the objective is to achieve currency exchange incentives.

It is caused by lack of flexibility in the system in order to adapt to the changes in the international economy.

It is caused by exogenous factors that directly affect our economy over which we have no control like, for example, the rise in U.S. interest rates.

It is caused by the unjust system of land ownership and lack of productivity, not only attributable to the obsolescence of the equipment and production methods but poor labor efficiency, many times due to lack of incentive.

Speaking to the country by television last night, Pena Gomez stated that this PRD government with President Jorge Blanco at the head has the responsibility for changing this model of development to another that insures real productivity, adequate profitability and an equitable redistribution of income. Those measures that only affect the poor must be rejected. The burden must be divided between the rich and the poor "making the major weight fall on those who can pay but have paid less."

The politician revealed that the secret of the enormous financial resources that the industrialized nations have lies in the adaptation of their tax legislation and the fiscal discipline of their citizens who religiously pay their taxes to the treasury. This permits the state to finance social programs and make effective public investments.

Pena Gomez stated: "It is necessary to establish fair taxes but it is also necessary to collect them. The truth is that, in the Dominican Republic, it is the people who pay mainly through indirect taxes. The contribution of the more privileged classes through direct taxes is lower."

7717

CSO: 3248/593

ISA CONDE DISCUSSES EFFECTS OF EXPULSIONS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 8A

[Speech by Narciso Isa Conde, PCD secretary general: "Isa Conde Says PCD Is Not Pro-Soviet"; date and place not given]

[Text] The secretary general of the PCD [Dominican Communist Party], Narciso Isa Conde, stated that this party is eminently Dominican and does not have any pro-Soviet or anti-Soviet creed.

Isa Conde denied statements by leaders of the group who were expelled who called the current leadership anti-Soviet.

The PCD leader maintained that this organization thinks for itself although he recognized that it is friends with the Soviet Union.

Isa Conde gave a speech at a function defending the organization. Below is the text of the speech.

Dear comrades:

Esteemed delegates of the Leftist Front:

Let us remember today that when Orlando Martinez perceived the first flutterings of the unity process in June 1974, he noted the following:

"Possibly much time will pass before those agreements bear fruit. It is very possible that small groups representing the past will have to remain behind--as the result of new divisions--in order to reach the desired point."

That is exactly what is happening with the small group that has tried to divide the party. It has only been able to leave our ranks, disinforming, slandering, attacking, creating confusion and affecting our public image. It has been objectively providing a valuable service for the reactionaries, the right, the security corps and the CIA.

It is a group that has remained behind.

It is a small group from the past made up mostly by members with an extremely sectarian attitude inside and outside the party. They are dogmatic followers, incapable of creating and innovating, incapable of solving the serious problems that affect our society. They are friends of diatribe. Some of them are aggressive and agitators, a type of lumpen-members whom we improperly tolerated in our party too long.

The hatred they express in their attacks against us is similar to the hatred of the U.S. Embassy, the magnates of the National Council of Businessmen, the far right and the chiefs of the repression toward us. It is an unfortunate coincidence, the result of the political degeneration of those individuals, united exclusively by a spirit of destruction. This is partly subconscious, partly stimulated and encouraged.

While the right calls us pro-Soviet, they give us the label of anti-Soviet. Both consciously distort reality.

We current leaders of the PCD have a great feeling of friendship and solidarity with the USSR and the socialist countries. Assuming all the risks involved, we were the only Dominican political organization that cultivated and developed those relations, defending the achievements and basic values of socialism. We repudiate every form of anti-Sovietism. However, let no one be mistaken: within the international communist movement, we do not act motivated by pros or cons in individual cases. We are not pro-Soviet or anti-Soviet; we are not for or against anyone. In defining our behavior toward other communist parties, /we are Dominican communists/ [in boldface] who think for ourselves and have enough independence of opinions to agree or disagree with different positions adopted by the leaders of a fraternal party or a socialist country.

Preserving our independence, we place ourselves at the side of the forces of socialism and the international revolution. We place ourselves against imperialism, capitalism, the reactionaries and the bourgeoisie in all countries.

We wholeheartedly support the struggle of the Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Cuban and Soviet people. However, we do not do this unconditionally or to act as consuls for one of the socialist states. We have a feeling of Dominicanism in a world where national differences and conflicts have not disappeared, where it is necessary to combine internationalism and patriotism or the international revolutionary brotherhood and independence within it.

Our position has been greatly respected by our Soviet, Cuban, Nicaraguan, Vietnamese, Korean, Salvadoran, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Palestinian comrades and all who have dealt with us.

After these statements, we feel it is necessary to respond to what seems to us to be a widespread concern.

What is the real magnitude of that group?

What party organizations did the members of the mentioned group belong to and what effects--on the party structure--has their departure or expulsion had?

The truth is always revolutionary. This situation must be confronted by telling things like they are, without concealment, without subterfuge.

The members of the party and the Dominican people deserve the most precise information possible.

That group has been able to attract some 46 members of the PCD who belonged to organizations in the National District and the Southern Region.

They could not enlist anyone in the Northern Region, in the Eastern Region and in the United States in their divisionist plan.

In the capital they attracted 20 members, 6 of them from the northern zone led by the Gregorio Luperon Committee, 6 from Cristo Rey led by the Orlando Martinez Committee and 4 from the Regional Committee of the National District which has 11 members.

Of the 10 zone committees under the Regional Committee of the National District, only 2 went with the faction (Gregorio Luperon and Orlando Martinez). In those two zones, more than half of the base membership remained in the party.

In the Southern Region, the situation is as follows:

In San Cristobal Province (which includes San Cristobal and Haina), no one has made common cause with the faction.

In Peravia Province, four members who were on the Bani Municipal Committee joined.

In Ocoa everyone remained with the party.

In Azua three members of the Provincial Committee who were on the Regional Committee went with the faction. The reaction of the bases is still not clear. One member was expelled.

In San Juan de la Maguana only six members, three of them from the Provincial Committee, went with that group. The overwhelming majority of the bases remained with the party.

In Barahona four members of the eight-member Provincial Committee joined the faction. All the peasant members remained within the party and, in general, most of the members have not followed those who promoted the subversive work in that province. In the city only eight base members have endorsed it.

Not even in the Southern Region which was considered its bastion has the factional group received significant endorsement. The balance shows about 26 members from there in spite of having majority control in the Regional Committee. This represents a small part of the PCD membership in that region.

In reality, of the 52 intermediate committees in our party now, that faction only achieved a majority in 5 committees for its divisionist purposes. Its

situation is much more precarious in the bases in spite of its desire to present itself as representatives of the bases via the commercial mass media.

We are not facing a party division but the departure of a small group that has regressed to the more reproachable past of the Dominican left.

All this is still a frustrated divisionist attempt in a party made up by many hundreds of members and a broad periphery.

The party structure in general has not been affected by this divisionist work. The limited organizational harm can be quickly repaired. Without the handicap that this faction represents, we have the possibility of achieving a greater rate of growth.

Given the characteristics of that faction, its separation from the party is to a good degree a purification since its components had become a foreign body within the real PCD ranks.

The greatest temporary harm they have caused the party involves its public image, especially because they received good aid and stimulus from the right for that.

The anti-PCD campaign has collected renewed vigor, taking advantage of the attacks and aggression by those men.

It is a fact that it also affects the entire left with a desire for unity, especially the forces of the FID [Dominican Leftist Front].

However, that circumstantial harm can be repaired. It all depends on our efforts, our political action and our ability to overcome current limitations and problems.

It is necessary to respond to the departure of some 46 members with the prompt recruitment of 100, 200 or 300 new comrades.

It is necessary to respond to the damage to our public image caused by that campaign and provocation by demonstrating with facts (with greater political ability, greater concrete efforts in the countryside and the cities, with greater dynamism, with greater participation in the popular struggles) that the PCD represented here remains unshakable and ready to strengthen its determination to fight the imperialist bourgeoisie, the native bourgeoisie, the current government and the policy of hunger and betrayal planned by the IMF.

It is necessary to respond to the divisionist position with more efforts toward unity. A few withdraw and many others approach, little by little creating the conditions for new processes of merger and integration with our closer allies of the left in spite of those disturbances. While we are further from those former members of our party, we are closer to the Socialist Bloc, the PTD [expansion unknown], the UPA [Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Union], the MIU [United Leftist Movement] the Unitary-MPS [Movement for Socialism] and all the members of the FID. With all the prudence and seriousness it merits, we must develop

and deepen the basic conditions between us until making the integration of the majority of the Dominican Marxist-Leninists into one great party possible!

We confront this provocation with firmness, calmness and great political sense, avoiding being trapped in that type of competition.

That small factional group and the efforts it will surely make to hinder our work are only one obstacle to be overcome within a struggle that must be aimed especially at the dominant social bloc and the regime that represents it today.

Let us take care not to swerve from that great objective.

Let us take care not to waste our time on buzzards.

Let us scare off these buzzards and prepare ourselves to defeat the coyotes of imperialism and the bourgeoisie.

Let us dedicate ourselves basically to improving our ties with the popular masses and forging ourselves as a revolutionary vanguard with the most progressive left.

This party has a popular membership and an intellectual capacity that make it possible to achieve superior presence and leadership in the mass organizations and in the developing popular struggles.

May all this serve to shake off lethargy where it persists, achieve more organizational efficiency, tie ourselves closer to the workers and the poor masses and contribute to their unity and coordination!

If those here present (and the other comrades who could not attend this event today) are willing, nothing or no one can impede our advance toward converting a strong and integrated party into a powerful revolutionary and popular unity.

Political banditry will not succeed!

Get the IMF out of the country!

Long live the unity of the left and popular unity!

Never backwards, always forward!

For the revolution, more unity, more struggle, more organization!!!

7717

CSO: 3248/592

BRIEFS

FIRST QUARTER EXPORTS UP--In the first quarter of this year, exports showed an increase of some \$20 million compared to the same period in 1983, according to unofficial calculations which are not final. According to the reports, between January and March 1983 products worth \$189 million were exported while in the same period this year exports totaled \$218 million. As a significant fact, the sources indicated continuation of a growth in nontraditional exports equaling \$12 million for this period. Between January and March 1983, nontraditional exports totaled \$18 million. This year they rose to \$30 million in round numbers--that is, a 66-percent increase. For sugar and other cane by-products, exports totaled about \$79 million. Other exports were as follows: coffee, \$24 million; cocoa, \$13 million; tobacco, \$10 million; minerals, \$56 million; and other products, \$30 million. The revenue in foreign currency totals about \$151 million. Raw sugar was sold in the first quarter of this year at an average price of 15.17 centavos per pound in January, 12.50 centavos in February and 13.32 centavos in March. According to these figures, coffee sales in January were at the unit price of \$127 per quintal, \$129 in February and \$132 in March. Cocoa was sold at \$95 per quintal in January, \$98 in February and \$77 in March. Branch tobacco was sold at \$75 per quintal in January, \$51.40 in February and \$83.59 in March. Bauxite was not exported. Ferronickel was sold at \$75, \$73 and \$69 per 100 pounds, respectively. An ounce of gold was sold at \$372 in January, \$387 in February and \$392 in March. [Text] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 4C] 7717

CSO: 3248/593

POLICE FORCE MAKING PROGRESS; MARIJUANA FIELD UPROOTED

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 12 Apr 84 p 15

[Article by Gerry Harewood]

[Text]

AN enlarged Grenada Police Force, under the direction of newly appointed Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mervyn Holder, recently uprooted what the commissioner described as "the equivalent of a plantation" of marijuana trees in the Hermitage area of the island.

Mr. Holder, a senior superintendent of police in Barbados before taking up his Grenada assignment, pointed out that the 4 000 trees in one location and others in some other outlying districts, seemed to have been allowed to grow and flourish without let or hindrance before his advent on the Grenada scene in December.

Now things are improving in the Royal Grenada Police Force, and efficient and proper policing is gradually returning to the troubled Spice Isle.

The commissioner has reopened police stations once closed in Grand Roy, Union Station, Birch Grove and Hermitage, in what he terms as his effort to "take back the police to the public".

The manpower of the force has been increased from 291 in December to 347, Mr. Holder explained, mainly by the re-hiring of ex-policemen who left the ranks during the regime of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). They had quit either because of frustration or had been jailed because they were thought to be persons of counter-revolutionary tendencies. Mr.

Holder said.

With an emphasis on training, Commissioner Holder has set up a training centre at the Melville Street barracks, where 30 policemen will be trained along lines similar to those used at the Regional Police Training Centre in Barbados.

The first batch began their training stint on Monday of this week. Assisting in the training will be a former assistant superintendent Joseph Robinson, while Holder will also assist in lecturing.

Some 20 senior police officers were given refresher courses in Barbados in January and another five in March. Some officers also received advanced training in Jamaica.

Holder said a British training officer is expected in Grenada shortly to assist in training the local force.

The 84 police members of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force now in Grenada, also come directly under the jurisdiction of the new Police Commissioner. Eighteen of these are from Barbados and are changed on a revolving basis.

Some members of the Criminal Investigation Department of the local force are also in Grenada, carrying out investigations into incidents surrounding the October disturbances there.

Some of the detainees and prisoners charged as a result of the murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and

seven colleagues on October 19 last, and their attorneys, have been making allegations of police brutality, illegal interrogations and other unconstitutional practices, against the police.

I asked Commissioner Holder about these allegations.

His reply: "There has been no such thing as illegal interrogation or any other irregularities on the part of the police. All interrogations have been done in strict conformity with the judges' rules."

What about torture and beatings as alleged?

"To the best of my knowledge, and this is good knowledge, there have been no beatings, no torture.

"As a matter of fact," he added, "when some of those detained were complaining of being beaten, they had not yet been interviewed."

Commissioner Holder is being assisted in his administrative duties by Deputy Commissioner George Rock, another Barbadian.

Mr. Rock can be described as a Barbadian policeman who has never served in the Barbados Police Force. Born at Haggatt Hall in St. Michael, he was recruited into the St. Lucia Police Force 32 years ago and now holds the post of assistant commissioner of police in that island, serving in the Vieux Fort area.

AGRICULTURAL OFFICIAL DISCUSSES BANANA SITUATION

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Apr 84 p 7

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Grenada's interim government member responsible for agriculture, Mr. Arnold Cruickshank, has called on farmers here to produce more bananas to help the Windward Islands meet its quota on the British market.

Addressing growers at a meeting in the rural area of St. Andrew's, Mr. Cruickshank stated that the British market can take up to 160 000 tonnes of bananas annually from the Windward Islands but was presently receiving only 117 000 tonnes.

Banana production has been on the decline in the Windward Islands — Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent — in recent years because of low prices fetched by the fruit, a decline in the value of the British pound Sterling, which is the currency used for trading in the fruit, as

well as the feeling of insecurity among farmers because of the state of the industry. Production nosedived in 1979/80 after hurricanes devastated some of the islands.

According to Mr. Cruickshank, the interim government is willing to help in the fight to produce more bananas. It wanted to take the country's production, which is around 8 500 tonnes annually, to the 1977 figure of 14 000 tonnes, he added.

He said the interim government wanted to see another 500 acres brought under banana production.

The Government, he said, had been able to obtain funds from certain international agencies to re-activate the important farm road development programme which ousted People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), had halted because of a lack of finance.

Mr. Cruickshank, who was seconded by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to serve on the interim government, stated that work had already begun on several feeder road and farm road projects in the rural areas of the

country.

He also called on farmers to focus their attention of producing most of their fruits for exports to the British market between April and October in order to ride over the winter months, when there is usually a decline in imports.

He noted that despite the shortfall in production from the Windward Islands between November 25 and December 30, last year, over 2 000 tonnes of fruits had to be left back because of seasonal over-production, resulting in a loss of \$3.5 million in earnings.

"There is a problem of untimely supply, that is over-supply during the winter months and under-supply during the summer, and one of the strategies which would have to be adopted is that of focussing attention on producing most of our fruits between April and October, peaking around June to August," he remarked.

Additionally, he said, during the winter months, bananas from the Windward Islands were forced to compete with what he referred to as temperate soft fruits such as apples, pears and peaches from other countries. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/777

NEW FEDERAL DISTRICT PRI LEADER COSIO VIDAURRI ASSUMES POST

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Apr 84 pp 4-A, 31-A

[Test] The unity of the revolutionaries within the party and the capacity for becoming renewed to continue fostering social change in Mexico are the two assets that have marked PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] 55 years of existence, was the comment made last night by the PRI national leader, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, upon the conclusion of the work of the assembly at which new leaders of the tricolor party in the Federal District were elected.

In the presence of the PRI members gathered in the FSTSE [Trade Unions Federation of Government Workers] auditorium, Lugo Verduzco, as the final speaker at the function at which Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri and Alejandro Posadas took office as the new president and secretary general of PRI in the capital, urged them to confirm these two assets.

He stressed that this is the party which is heading toward its 12th National Assembly, at which "our political organization will have to propose the changes that must also typify the party's course of action from now on," noting that it would continue to accompany the system of the revolution with solidarity.

He remarked that, in 1929, the revolutionaries made the historic decision to found a single great political party, a great political organization: the National Revolutionary Party, the Party of the Mexican Revolution, which has always had that great capacity for renewing itself to promote social change; the party of Plutarco Elias Calles, and of Lazaro Cardenas, which is now accompanying the loyal, patriotic, steadfast, honest, revolutionary action of Maguel de la Madrid.

Swearing-In of Cosio Vidaurri

Upon taking office as the new PRI leader in the capital, Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri stated that politics should not be an enterprise marked by despicable trickery or an unethical search for wealth. He announced that the nominations would be won from the rank and file, and not with the fictitious merits of the lobbies, and that it will be proven to the opposition that PRI's strength is not a myth, and that fraud will not be required to win the elections.

Cosio, until yesterday the director of the Metro, spoke in a packed FSTSE auditorium, in the rear of which a group from the MNJR [National Movement of Revolutionary Youth] shouted during the entire time against the police roundups. He aroused hope among hundreds of PRI members who had been relegated to oblivion by announcing that he would call upon the former leaders and previous militants to combine their experience with the strength of the younger generations.

The new leader of the majority in the Federal District arrived at the FSTSE auditorium at 1950 hours, accompanied by the national leader, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, and the capital regent, Ramon Aguirre Velezquez.

The politician, whose career was reviewed by the speakers who nominated him as the new leader, defined politics as "a worthy profession in the service of ideas and programs, devoid of commercialism, corruption and prevarication."

He said that PRI must be dynamic in the Federal District, with open doors through which all those identified with the tricolor ideology and ambitious to serve the people and to engage in politics in the loftiest sense of this term will be able to enter; wherein there will be no room for demagogues, opportunists or pretenders.

The PRI-DF assembly opened shortly after 1900 hours. There were about 3,000 persons inside the auditorium, and 1,000 outside and on the street. The heat caused shines on the faces of the members of the presidium, headed by Hector Hugo Olivares, secretary of organization for the CEN [National Executive Committee]; Manuel Garza Gonzalez, assistant secretary general; Juan Jose Osorio, from CTM; Jose Parcerro, from CNOP; the deputies; and many more, numbering approximately 80 persons.

After Alejandro Posadas Espinosa, confirmed as secretary general, had read the report on the Federal District PRI committee's activities, the speakers marched to the platform and proposed the Cosio-Posadas ticket for heading the new committee. One of them, the representative from the 24th District, Ernesto Aguilar, after a very lengthy speech, declared emotionally: "The fact is that... I don't want to come down from the platform!"

And the MNJR members were constantly interrupting: "Work yes, roundups no!"

At that point, Hector Hugo Olivares requested silence to appoint those assigned to accompany the new PRI-DF leader to the hall, including one who had been mentioned as a candidate: Juan Jose Osorio Palacios.

Alluding to the hard work that awaits him in 1985, Cosio Vidaurri commented: "It should be clear that, in the electoral contests, we neither want nor need fraud; we can prove to the opposition as many times as necessary that our strength is not a myth."

He described PRI as a triumphant party, which would promote and consolidate the best and would change what is useless.

At the end of the ceremony, the regent, Aguirre Velazquez, was approached by reporters, who asked his opinion of the protests over the police roundups that had occurred all day long and during that PRI function itself. Quite calmly, Aguirre remarked: "We have never conducted roundups; the police act upon the express request of the citizens who are troubled by gangs of delinquents upsetting order."

And in response to the question as to whether such police action would continue, the regent stated flatly: "We shall continue to heed the requests, because it is our obligation to protect the citizens; we cannot avoid meeting the population's demands." And, surrounded by aides, he hastened his walk toward his car.

2909

CSO: 3248/602

METROPOLITAN AREA COST OF LIVING RAW DATA

Various Cuts of Meat

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 2 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 9

[Text] A series of increases in meat prices will take place in May, according to an announcement made to housewives by the butchers in the markets of the NZT (Naucalpan-Zaragoza-Tlalneplantla) zone, where the product will be sold for 800 pesos. At present, meat is priced at 600 pesos for roasts and steak, while filets (choice cuts) cost 1,000 pesos.

Meanwhile, the retailers themselves admit that, during the past few days, beef prices have risen, but note that their sales have declined from 40 to 60 percent in the shops and butcher establishments in the surrounding area.

During a tour made of public markets, it became evident that filets are being sold for 1,000 pesos; steak and roasts, for 600 pesos; and stew meat with bone (the food with the greatest popular consumption), for 300 pesos; while organs sell for between 250 and 300 pesos, and cooked tongue is priced at 650 pesos per kilogram.

The butchers in markets on the outskirts agreed in stating that meat prices will rise to 800 pesos in May, and to 1,000 during the final months of this year.

They said that if a kilogram of dressed meat rises in price to 400 pesos, it will have to be sold for 800 pesos.

Tortillas for 22 Pesos

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 9

[Text] Naucalpan, Mexico, 13 March--Dozens of tortilla establishments and authorized shops in the Valle de Mexico towns are selling the product for 22 pesos per kilogram, while others have joined together and been summoned by the National Union of Mills and Tortilla Producers.

This announcement was made by the leaders Ernesto Roa Cortes, of CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants]; Jesus Alvarado Bonilla, of

COR [Revolutionary Labor Confederation]; Leonel Dominguez Rivero, of CTC [Workers and Peasants Confederation]; Eduardo Roman Robles, of CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]; Jesus Moreno Jimenez, of COCEM; Jose Luis Moreno Velez, of FTEM; and Raul Primitivo Tobon Camacho, of CROM.

In overt rebellion against the authorities in the industry, our informants, millers and tortilla makers, said that they have been holding "strikes" in the metropolitan municipalities; noting that, where the product can even be found, it is being sold for 22.00 pesos, and is met with the protests from housewives and the annoyance of consumers in general.

The housewives have been purchasing a kilogram of tortillas for 22.00 pesos, instead of the 15.50, which is the official price.

Many shops and tortilla stores have closed their doors since Friday of last week, the labor leaders stated in conclusion.

Tortillas, Milk

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 2

[Excerpt] The sale of tortillas, after the closing announced by SECOFIN [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development] as a penalty for sellers who violate the official price, has been restored to its normal status in the Federal District, where only a few closed business establishments, angry consumers and a restored price remained.

There were some sections, for example, the Ocoyoacac and El Imparcial developments in the Miguel Hidalgo and Azcapotzalco localities, respectively, in which, according to the residents, the price was changed in a few stores; because as a rule the sales price was 15 pesos and 50 centavos.

The opposite held true in the Viaducto Piedad and Santa Anita developments, in Iztacalco, where there were more tortilla shops in which prices were raised.

"Metropoli" interviewed several tenants and purchasers of the product, and both groups gave reasons for requesting the hike, or cited abuses they had suffered, in each instance.

The owner of the tortilla shop operating in the Ocoyoacac development market, Pedro Gutierrez, for example, expressed opposition to the pressure on SECOFIN to change the current price; however, he complained that they had closed his shop because of a 30-gram shortage on the old scale on which he was weighing the tortillas. The proprietor did not think that the shortage deserved a penalty of that kind, besides which, he argued, he did not know that the weight was 30 grams short.

Camilo Vazquez, proprietor of a tortilla store located in the Santa Anita development, for his part, showed receipts from the various payments that he

has to make in order to keep his establishment operating, to back his claim that the staple item must have a higher price.

For example, he showed a gas bill for 2,484 pesos, another for rent amounting to 13,000 pesos, plus the VAT, making a total of 14,950 pesos, to which he added the price of the spare parts for the tortilla making machine, and other input that requires extra expense.

Despite his statement to the contrary, the owner of the tortilla store was apparently one of those who raised the price to 22 pesos, according to claims from a customer; in addition to which the paper on which the price to the public is shown, contained a highly visible overlay that concealed the change.

Milk Also

Housewives, for their part, have complained of the abuses, not only involving the excessive rise in tortilla prices, but also in that of milk, which is being sold to them for from 75 to 100 pesos per liter in some shops; while in others, wherein stables are apparently still in operation, it is being offered to them at low cost.

Among those who reported excessive hikes in milk prices, Mrs Angela G. de Plata disclosed that there is an establishment in the El Imparcial development that is offering milk for 78 pesos during the week, whereas on Sundays it is sold to them for as much as 100 pesos.

Sweet, White Breads

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 9

[Text] Like white bread (rolls and buns), sweet bread will have to remain subject to strict government control, because the greed of the bakers has increased the price of it by 80 percent within the past year.

The preceding statement was made by the CTM leader Angel Trejo, who claimed that the price hikes in the shops and bakeries of Naucalplan, Tlalnepantla and Atizapan (NZT zone), as well as in the other suburban municipalities adjoining Mexico City, have been increasingly brazen.

The union representative proposed that the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development enact "emergency measures" to control not only the price of sweet bread (there are portions that cost as much as 32 pesos in bakeries, shops or pastry establishments), but also the weight.

The labor leader added that sweet bread has, in fact, become a luxury item. He added that, as things stand, the price of pastry is rising in geometric progression.

He claimed that the federal government is giving the bakers subsidized flour to make white bread, but they are using it to make pastries or cakes, while reducing the preparation of rolls and buns.

He commented that the pieces of sweet bread selling for 10 pesos weigh up to 50 grams.

In any shop or baker in Valle de Mexico, the average price of pieces of sweet bread is between 15 and 20 pesos; although there are establishments, such as El Globo, Elizondo, El Molino, etc., in which a piece costs between 25 and 32 pesos.

He concluded by saying that, with the same amount used to make a 70-gram roll or bun, and at a price of 2 pesos (although the quoted price is actually 4 pesos), it is possible to make two pastries for 10 pesos apiece; and therefore the bakers accrue profits of up to 600 percent.

Stew Meat

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 9

[Text] Naucalpan, Mexico, 18 March--Stew meat with bone, the product with the greatest popular demand, underwent a price increase of 400 pesos in the butcher shops of the public markets in the NZT zone, while a kilogram of beef (steak and roasts) was increased in price to 600 pesos in the entire surrounding area.

In view of this situation, the State Confederation of Low Income Developments, according to a report from Gumersindo Ruiz Moreno, will request of the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Consumers that it serve as the channel to the Secretariat of Commerce, to have the latter appoint a group of inspectors in the surrounding areas, particularly in the low-income zones, in which the most abuses are committed with meat sales.

Several housewives interviewed at random told the reporter that the butchers are refusing to sell the saddle, filet and round by the kilogram.

They complained that the butchers sell the "choice cuts" only by the piece, and one has to pay for "what it weighs."

The housewives noted that these varieties of meat have less demand in the low-income developments.

Ruiz Moreno remarked that the Confederation of Low-Income Developments would cooperate closely with the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Consumers, reporting all violations of the official prices posted for beef, so that once they are turned over to SECOFIN, the dealers will be forcefully penalized.

Dressed Meats

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 2

[Text] While the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development has not yet set an official price for the sale of meat, the latter is being sold in the markets at prices amounting to as much as 1,000 pesos per kilogram.

The Federal Prosecutor's Office for Consumers, the National Consumer Institute and SECOFIN itself have noted that, for the present, only the price of meat in supermarkets is being controlled; that is, 350 pesos for stew meat with bone, 520 for roast beef and 660 pesos for pork roast.

When the butchers at various markets were questioned, they said that the disorder in prices of dressed meat is the same as it was last week, and that it is quite likely that the situation will continue for several more days. Gilberto Rueda, of the Portales market, commented: "If a kilogram of dressed meat is sold to us for up to 400 pesos, we cannot help but increase the price to the customers."

The butchers remarked that, since there is no control over the prices imposed by the livestock raisers, there cannot be any on sales to the consuming public. They added: "Besides, the meat that we buy is often bad, and the authorities do nothing to monitor this problem, much less to solve it."

The housewives, for their part, pointed out that they have no more funds with which to purchase meat at the price that is looming; but that, in any case, meat ceased to be a food within the reach of the population with lesser economic means a long time ago.

In this regard, the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Consumers claimed that very few complaints have been received of abuses involving meat prices.

Eggs: 150 Pesos

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 30 Mar 84 'Metropoli' Supplement p 4

[Text] A kilogram of eggs is being sold for as much as 135 and 150 pesos in the markets of the Federal District, whereas the official price of this product authorized by the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development is 100 pesos.

Meanwhile, in the markets located in the Ecatepec and Naucalpan area, dealers have been concealing eggs, and the housewives in those localities are complaining that they have been unable to obtain the product for the past 3 days.

Victor Perez Villegas, secretary general of the Federation of Small Business and Industry of the Federal District, commented: "Concealment is a logical protective measure among dealers who are completely unprotected against the middlemen."

Perez Villegas added that the only possibility of protection against the abuses to which both dealers and retailers are subjected is to report the irregularities and the existence of middlemen and hoarders; but that when SECOFIN and the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Consumers are notified of them, they do nothing to solve the problem.

The FCIP secretary stressed: "We have reported that the distributors do not give consumption statements to tenants and retailers; besides, they go around with double statements; one is the one that they show to the inspectors, and the other is the one that they show us."

In commenting on the price at which eggs are currently being sold in the DF's markets, the tenants said that they have only increased the price to make the minimal authorized profit; because the price at which a crate of eggs is sold to them is higher than that allowed by SECOFIN.

Agustin Gomez Ramos, from the Plutarco Elias Calles market in the San Miguel Chapultepec development, remarks: "Although the authorities claim that the price of brown eggs is the same as that of white eggs, that is not really so, because brown eggs are being sold for 10 or 15 pesos more than white eggs are. Understandably, we have to sell them for a higher price."

In most of the markets and grocery stands that were visited, egg prices were from 110 pesos to 150, and brown eggs were more expensive; although we also noticed that, even in the DF markets, eggs were concealed and sold only with the purchase of another product, to known customers, and not more than 1 kilogram per customer.

Now then, the retailers point out that the situation which currently prevails regarding eggs, and which held true of edible oil a few days ago, is the same one that has always occurred in the area of staple products. The grocers at the Martinez de la Torre market in the Guerrero development commented: "There is disorder, both in setting prices and overseeing compliance with them."

Perez Villegas, for his part, adds that the sale of staple products is a lure for the retailers, and although they purchase them at a high price, they have to do so because they are products which would be sold anyway; just as in the case of the oil, the official price of which had already been set at 170 pesos.

According to the statements made by the market dealers, oil is being sold for 175 pesos; which means that the authorities' regulation is not being upheld.

The housewives claimed that they were no longer interested in complaining at the abuse in prices, because no one pays any attention to them anyway. In this connection, the PFC noted that, as of yesterday, they had started receiving complains about the price and concealment of eggs, and that steps would be taken to investigate them. However, it said that few complaints are received each day regarding staple products.

On the other hand, Perez Villegas emphasized that the problem of the middlemen and the hoarders is one of the most serious ones affecting the supply to the DF; and he remarked that, at present, his federation is working jointly with COABASTO on the preparation of a plan for marketing staple products, which is expected to prove effective; although, he noted, several months will have to elapse before it become possible to start up the plan.

2909

CSO: 3248/601

GUARANTEED GRAIN PRICES INCREASED, EGGS SET AT 140 PESOS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Apr 84 pp 1-A, 23-A

[Text] Since yesterday, the guaranteed prices of corn, wheat, beans, sorghum and safflower have increased by percentages ranging between 20 and 40 percent. In addition, a 40 percent increase in the price of a kilogram of eggs has been authorized. From now on, it will cost 140 pesos.

The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources made the foregoing announcement yesterday and, at the same time, gave notice that, even though there has been an increase in the prices to the farmer for corn and wheat crops, neither the price of bread nor that of tortillas will increase.

Corn will be worth 25,000 pesos per ton; wheat, 25,000; beans, 40,000; sorghum, 19,000; and safflower, 35,000. It was said that the new harvest guarantee prices are in the process.

Tortillas will retain a 33-peso subsidy per kilogram, and bread a subsidy of 3 per piece. In the case of eggs, despite the increase, the 12-peso subsidy per kilogram will continue.

The new guarantee prices for crops from the 1983-84 fall-winter season are a contribution to the production effort, with the desire to provide staple foods in a timely, sufficient manner. An attempt is being made to restore to the farmers their purchasing power, as well as to contribute to the national goal of attaining independence in food and of reducing imports of staples.

It was commented that food is not the responsibility of a single sector, but rather of the society as a whole; in the production and distribution of food, and in the services in which agricultural and livestock producers, industrialists, distributors and dealers participate, with their combined efforts directed, in this instance, toward meeting the population's basic needs.

Finally, it was noted that the federal government considers any abuse or speculation involving food intolerable, and an appeal was made to consumers to report any unlawful activities that they detect.

2909

CSO: 3248/601

PRI REVIEW COMMISSIONS; AZCAPOTZALCO PEMEX CORRUPTION

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Apr 84 pp 4-A, 23-A, 27-A

[From 'Political Fronts' column by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Excerpts] Lugo Verduzco Heads Reviewers

The head of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] himself, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, will head the basic documents review commission, in addition to which three working subcommissions will be formed, in which distinguished PRI members of all movements, ages and levels of militancy will participate. They will review and analyze position papers that the PRI members submit for the work in preparation for the 12th National Assembly which, if need be, will bring about reforms in the basic documents submitted to the assembly for its study, and approval or rejection.

On this review commission, headed by Lugo Verduzco, there will be representatives from the three sectors: CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], Blas Chumacero; CNC [National Peasant Confederation], Efraim Zuniga Galena; and CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations], Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez.

The First Review Commission for the Declaration of Principles is headed by Socorro Diaz, as vice chairwoman; and Arturo Nunez Jimenez, as secretary; also including: Horacio Labastida Ochoa, Enrique Soto Izquierdo, Antonio Riva Palacio, Mariano Palacios, Miguel Osorio Marban, Carlos Ortiz Tejeda, Maria Lavallo Urbina, Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, Juan Jose Bremer, Carlos Almada and Luis Danton Rodriguez.

Second Review Commission for the Action Program: vice chairman, Genaro Borrego Estrada; and secretary, Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras; also including: Angel Aceves Saucedo, Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, Fernando Zertuche, Sami David, Mariano Acoltzin, Dulce Maria Sauri, Martha Andrade, Angel Cesar Mendoza Aramburo and Rene Villarreal.

Third Review Commission for Statutes: vice chairman, Francisco Luna Kan; and secretary, Hector Hugo Olivares; also including: Jose Antonio Alvarez Lima, Renato Sales Gasque, Juan Saldana Orsell, Jose Luis Lamadrid, Salvador Neme, Irma Cue de Duarte, Pedro Zorrilla, Manuel Osante, Margarita Garcia Flores, Eduardo Robledo and Miguel Covian Perez.

This will be the heterogeneous group with which Adolfo Lugo Verduzco will be providing a channel for the demands of the PRI members.

Equal Cleanup at Azcapotzalco

The PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] management reacted immediately to the charge published in this space on the first Sunday in April, containing a detailed account of how the daily thefts are being committed to the detriment of that company. A team of auditors was sent to Azcapotzalco and, on Wednesday, 4 April, three persons were arrested, as well as the businessman from the firm who had been supplying altered invoices; although these events were not officially reported until yesterday, 10 April.

What is important is that the cleanup action at the 18 March Refinery not be confined to the arrest of those who represent the thinnest part of the cord; that it not be confined to the capture of "small fish," while the sharks remain in hiding until the storm passes.

Similarly, the fact cannot be overlooked that the refinery's purchases should be authorized by the general superintendent, Ariel Diaz Barriga, and the construction and maintenance superintendent, Jorge Bracamontes Diaz. There is also Sonia Rodriguez Fernandez, who, as materials consultant, has connections with the suppliers; and she is the very one who approves the purchases.

These three individuals are loyal friends of Armando Melo Gonzalez, former superintendent at Azcapotzalco, and now the brand-new refining manager for PEMEX, with an office in the luxurious National Navy Tower; who has in fact been issuing threats to the workers whom he considers his enemies, accusing them of providing information.

Regarding Melo Gonzalez, it is also public knowledge that he has, through his influence, reinstated officials who had been dismissed in the recent past when their poor management was proven. Moreover, in the Azcapotzalco shop, where there are too many personnel, there is relaxed discipline, the schedules are not adhered to, people leave the departments at any time, and the chiefs report absent people as working, as well as others who are not even known to be shop workers; which would require a painstaking review of the payrolls.

Payments are being made for work not performed, or else the technicians are used for jobs on the private residences of the chief engineers, using the refinery's materials. And, according to the reports that have been received, the battle against nepotism has not yet reached that refinery.

2909

CSO: 3248/602

FRENCH JOURNALIST REVIEWS PROBLEMS FACING SANDINISTS

Paris LE MONDE in French 3, 4 May 84

[Article by Marcel Niedergang]

[3 May 84 pp 1, 5]

[Text] Hope for a peaceful settlement of the Central American conflicts has been further reduced after the failure on 1 May of a new meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the countries of the "Contadora Group" (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama) and the ministers of foreign affairs of the five countries of Central America: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

The heart of the question is evidently Nicaragua, whose revolutionary political line strongly contrasts with the prudent—even conservative or reactionary—attitude of neighboring governments. Marcel Niedergang, our special correspondent in Managua, explains the stakes of the game in which the Sandinists are involved.

Nicaragua: Blood and Tears

I - Everything for the War

Managua—Twice a week the Sandinist leaders "face the people." Most often this takes place in Managua, but it also takes place in the provinces, in Leon, Granada, or Matagalpa. Daniel Ortega, other "comanderos," members of the group of nine supreme leaders, members of the Junta like Sergio Ramirez, come to the speaker's platform to explain the situation and reply to the eventual questions from the assembled throng. As seen from the speaker's platform, "facing the people" is a perfect "exercise in direct democracy," as one of the commanders says. Seen from the audience, things are a little more complicated.

Well before the arrival of the leaders, groups of Sandinist militants try to increase the enthusiasm of the crowd. With megaphones, the young Sandinists call on the crowd to repeat the revolutionary slogans "even louder," so that they will be heard "as far as the Pentagon." One of these slogans proclaims: "Oh National Leaders, Tell Us What We Must Do." Other rhythmic slogans praise the

turbas--these Sandinist commandos specialized in rough and tough operations against "dissidents" and "counterrevolutionaries." The turbas have already sacked the homes of certain opposition figures and removed the trousers of Monsignor Bismarck Carvalho, the spokesman of the Catholic bishops, who was caught visiting a Catholic woman who was a member of his parish.

In the crowd you see good will, interest, and a desire to be told about the difficulties of daily life and the situation on the border. After a speech by one of the commanders the meeting continues with speeches from the "side of the people." All of these speeches affirm support for the revolution and understand the need for sacrifices. However, at times mothers of families ask, in a timid voice, why "there is no oil for the kitchen" or why "there hasn't been any fish in the market for weeks." And the leaders on the platform answer that the authorities will study the problem.

Since April of this year this kind of question is no longer raised at the "face the people" meetings. Daniel Ortega, accompanied by Sergio Ramirez, members of the general staff of the Sandinist People's Army, and ministers and leaders of the Front [Sandinist National Liberation Front], has energetically denounced all those who "campaign against the mobilization of the nation" and against "patriotic military service." He said, addressing himself more specifically to a group of mothers of young soldiers who had recently been mobilized: "We're not going to permit that." And he denounced "the families which show counterrevolutionary behavior." He repeated: "We are not going to let them play with the blood that has been spilled. That is treason to the people and to the fatherland."

The tone has clearly hardened in Managua, where the leaders are faced with a wave of protests so broad that even the official publications, BARRICADA and NUEVO DIARIO, have reported them. Fathers of families complain that their boys have been sent to combat areas, whereas the authorities pretend that they are still in the rear areas. A meeting of mothers of soldiers was quietly dispersed before the Human Rights Commission in Managua.

Speaking to representatives of fathers of families from about 15 residential areas in Managua, Commander Roberto Calderon justified the "errors" that had been committed by "the scale of the counterrevolutionary offensive." He said: "We are fighting against the same criminal National Guardsmen whom we chased out of the country on 19 July 1979. The young men doing their patriotic military service are not alone. They stand by the side of the thousands of farmers and workers who are defending the achievements of the revolution." This kind of "explanation" is being made throughout the country. At Esteli, in the North, the leaders of the Sandinist Front have met with "concerned families." The government press has also published statements by "mothers of martyrs," whose sons have been killed and who ask those who criticize the government to "show evidence of energy and understanding."

Daniel Ortega admitted on 3 May in Managua that there had been "difficulties" and that "communications" needed to be improved. However, Tomas Borge, minister of the interior, was much more uncompromising a few days later. He said: "Everything is for the war. Because it is the whole country which is at war. And it is a brutal war which the all-powerful lord of the White House has launched against us." The minister said that 219 Sandinist combatants had been killed "in the

course of the last few weeks"--that is, almost as many as were killed during all of 1983. Borge stated: "The socialization of the defense of the fatherland is unavoidable." The minister of the interior, who was not in favor of having general elections (they are scheduled to take place on 4 November.) but who fell into line when ordered to do so by the leaders, stated that the entire production and resources of the country "should be provided, as a matter of priority, to those who are risking their lives on the front line." And he justified the restrictions affecting basic needs by mentioning "defense requirements."

By blood, sweat, and tears: it is a Churchillian tone that the Sandinist leaders are using to galvanize a people who are tired, irritated by restrictions, worried about their sons, and who have been told of "new privations" and "new sacrifices" that must be made. And it is true that the military situation has rapidly worsened over the past few weeks. Armed clashes are now taking place daily in the North, in the departments of Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, Madriz, and Matagalpa; in the East, along the Caribbean coast; and in the South, near the Costa Rican border. The armed groups of "contras" have infiltrated and installed themselves on a permanent basis throughout the whole region North and East of Matagalpa.

The men of Eden Pastora--whose equipment and arms have notably improved over the past 6 months--have taken and then lost San Juan del Norte, at the mouth of the river which forms the border with Costa Rica. However, they remain solidly in place on Nicaraguan territory, North of the San Juan River. They control this river from El Castillo to the Caribbean Sea. They send commando teams as far as Nueva Guinea, more than 100 kilometers North of the Costa Rican border. A large part of the broad tropical plains on the Caribbean side of the country is in the course of coming under the control of Miskito Indian units: those under Brooklin Rivera, in the South, and those of Steadman Fagoth, in the North.

El Bluff, the port of entry for Bluefields, has been mined, and the land access through Puerto Cabezas is now blocked off by permanently established units, as well as by landmines. The road under construction from Matagalpa to Siuna and Puerto Cabezas is regularly harassed by commandos from the bands of contras who have come down from the North. The people's army only moves in convoys on the roads and on the narrow tracks North of Jinotega and from Ocotal to Jalapa. The ambushes set for them are murderous, even though the sides of certain tracks have been largely cleared of forests.

Militarily, a "Salvadoran" type situation is in the course of being created, but this time in reverse. The army will be more and more involved in operations that are costly in men and materiel, against a guerrilla force--counterrevolutionary in outlook and strongly helped by the United States--with no end in sight.

Nicaragua already is devoting one-fourth of its budget to defense. The economic situation is not yet too serious: the coffee harvest, in particular, has been excellent, and the cotton harvest could be exported if the CIA really stops mining the ports. However, the reserves of foreign exchange have been used up, Gross Domestic Product has been reduced to the 1973 level, and per capita income is falling steadily. Insecurity, the emphasis placed on the war effort, the intensive mobilization for the army, the militia--these are all factors which do not encourage production.

In Managua the supermarkets have smaller and smaller amounts of merchandise for sale, and waiting lines on the sidewalks are getting longer, at the very time when the unusual heat in April was wearing down people's energy. The official distribution networks, controlled by the CDS (Sandinist Defense Committees), provide everyone with a basic ration of rice, sugar, black beans, corn, and soap at subsidized prices and by means of a coupon system. Chicken, eggs, and dairy products are often unavailable, as are certain medicines. On the other hand, on the black market you can find imported wine, whisky, or even gasoline, which is normally rationed. ("Do you have any honey?" taxi drivers ask filling station attendants when they want to get gasoline on the "black market.")

Complaints are widespread among the people, and housewives at the Mercado Oriental [Eastern Market] do not hesitate in denouncing the government.

The same attitude is to be found in the collective taxis and in the overloaded buses. As soon as they stop, they are immediately jammed with people who have been waiting for hours. The roads in the countryside are almost deserted, and the shortage of spare parts is steadily and inexorably reducing the number of automobiles in operation. "We lived better under Somoza." This sacrilegious comment has become widespread. A taxi driver (these people, as a whole, now reflect an anti-Sandinist attitude.) sneered: "Those idiots think they're going to fight the Americans."

The leaders are trying to strengthen the nation's military potential. Several hundred thousand men and women are in the armed militia, and the people's army has about 35,000 soldiers. This is the best-quality and the best-trained army in Central America. It has a few old Soviet T-54 and T-55 tanks and a few coast guard cutters. However, the Air Force is negligible, and the communications system in operation is very weak. Two new military airports are under construction at Puerto Cabezas and at Huete, North of Managua. However, the Nicaraguan pilots trained on MiG fighter aircraft (in Bulgaria) are nowhere near touching their aircraft which, according to a reliable source, are reportedly waiting for them in Cuba. The Sandinist regime cannot allow itself to take this risk in the face of a very "combative" Reagan administration.

According to the experts, the Soviet Union reportedly provided \$100 million in economic aid in 1983 (\$150 million in economic aid is reportedly planned for 1984.) The value of Soviet military aid, which moves through third countries, is not known. Moscow reportedly has also promised to help in the reconstruction of the port installations destroyed in Puerto Sandino and Puerto Corinto. Iran, for its part, reportedly intends to provide petroleum tankers to Nicaragua. However, the results of the trip by Commandant Humberto Ortega to Moscow, in search of additional military assistance, are not known, and diplomats doubt that the Soviets wish to go very far in this area. "One Cuba in the region is enough for them."

Rectifications

The Cuban "advisers" are there, though they are discreet--as well as other experts, East German, Bulgarian, Libyan, or Algerian. Their total number is a subject of controversy. One thing is certain: the Cuban teachers who have returned to Cuba have been partially replaced by younger and more "muscular" teachers. However, they have been withdrawn from the war zones.

The general view is that the real advantage of the Sandinist regime is the youth of the country. A majority of the young people are on the side of the Sandinist leaders, "out of idealism or by conviction." And the decision of the authorities to give the right to vote to young people of 16 is not an innocent one. It is in the population age group from 16 to 25 that support for the regime is clearest. Military personnel will also vote on 4 November, and their votes will be very valuable to the Sandinists.

Aware of the mounting tide of dangers and resentment, the regime is making a gesture of self-criticism and is denouncing excesses and abuses of authority committed by both military or civilian members of Sandinist organizations. The "lesser leaders" of the CDS, charged with overseeing the distribution of basic requirements and with ensuring "revolutionary vigilance," are not all animated by unfailing idealism. "Commander" Leticia Herrera, secretary general of the CDS organization, has herself attacked "little dictators" who make decisions "without respecting the directions given them by higher authorities." She mentioned specific cases: CDS coordinators who have threatened to take away people's ration cards if they do not participate in "revolutionary vigilance" activities; speculators who supply the black market; illegal permits to open cafes; improper allocations of housing, etc. She says: "Working as the leader of a team or of a residence area requires a certain amount of conscience."

Another form of "rectification" engaged in by the leaders concerns crimes committed by militiamen or by soldiers. A trial in Matagalpa has revealed the extent and the seriousness of the incidents (theft, rape, murder) taking place in isolated areas where the "contras" are active. Carlos Barquero, of Pantasma, in Jinotega Department, one of the accused, has been sentenced to 43 years in prison. And Commander Tomas Borge has admitted that 500 members of the People's Army have been arrested for more or less serious crimes.

The difficulties, the threats, and the shadows have not undermined the resolve of the Sandinist leaders, who are pursuing the same objective: strengthening the revolutionary government. From this point of view there is no disagreement between supporters and opponents of the November elections. A diplomat said: "Believing that the moderates who forced the elections to be held are not more Leninist than the others is an illusion. There is no social-democratic way in Nicaragua."

When you listen to the "commanders," you feel, in effect, that they are absolutely determined to go on to the very end. Some of them seem persuaded that "Latin America will explode if the United States invades Nicaragua." They cherish a dream--or nightmare--of Vietnam. "We will suffer 300,000 dead, but all of Central America will be in flames."

[4 May 85 p 5]

[Text] The war which the Sandinist regime is carrying on against the guerrillas supported by the United States involves more and more sacrifices and privations for the people (LE MONDE of 3 May) [above].

Managua--Each evening the proofs of the articles censored in LA PRENSA by the authorities are photocopied by the editors of the opposition newspaper and sent by

special messenger to well-known persons and to political, trade union, or religious organizations opposed to the Sandinist government. This distribution is made without taking any particular precautions. However, in theory it is illegal. It illustrates rather well the ambiguity of the Nicaraguan situation.

The Sandinist leaders, who violently denounce all "counterrevolutionary activities," and the "internal subversion front financed by American imperialism," accept certain forms of behavior which are totally prohibited or in any case more severely dealt with in most communist countries. For example, those Nicaraguans who have the means can travel abroad, and the richest families of the bourgeoisie--whose sons at times hold important positions in the government--profit by going regularly to "shop" in Miami and thus avoid the annoyances resulting from the shortages of goods and various restrictions. Mothers of families go to spend a few days in Honduras or Costa Rica where they meet their sons, who are officially "refugees" and are quite often members of the "contra" organization.

Persons who are less well-known but who are still generally identified with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN, based in Honduras) or the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE, based in Costa Rica) until recently came regularly to Managua to visit their families.

The leaders or the spokesmen of the anti-Sandinist organizations--businessmen, trade union figures independent of the government, priests and bishops, political opposition parties--do not hide the fact that they receive foreign journalists and express their points of view in all serenity. This particular situation, where the evident strengthening of the "revolutionary government" coexists with "areas of liberty," at times tolerated, at times pried loose from the authorities against their will, has become more clearly marked since the beginning of the campaign--or, more precisely, the debate--over the general elections. These elections are to take place, unless some change occurs, on 4 November 1984.

The Nicaraguans will then have to select a president, a vice president, and the 90 members of the new National Assembly. It is an open secret that the Sandinist candidate for the presidency will be Daniel Ortega, presently the coordinator of the government junta. The official candidate for the vice presidency will be Sergio Ramirez, a member of the junta and a brilliant intellectual who belonged to the "Group of 12" who took refuge in Costa Rica during the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship.

Mrs Martha P Baltodano stated: "It's true. There is a truce." She is the courageous national coordinator of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Commission. This is the organization that counts, for the government human rights commission, already quite discredited, has lost all of its dynamism since the death of Hedencia, its president and a former Somoza ambassador. Mrs Baltodano said: "He tried to help us within the limits of what he could do." She stated specifically: "Many people are presently being released from jail, particularly Miskito Indians. But there are still others in prison." And in a calm voice she listed the "missteps" and "irregularities" of the government. She said: "About 800 'contras' have been found guilty and sentenced to prison out of the 2,500 'contras' arrested in 1979 after the fall of the dictatorship. The others are being held in secret. About 100 of those still detained are in the former Somoza bunker, and it is assumed that they are being tortured. The state of urgency, proclaimed in 1982, resulted

in the suspension of constitutional guarantees. In 1983 the Human Rights Commission made a list of 209 persons who have 'disappeared.' About 15 persons were killed and nearly 1,000 other persons were arrested. Each day we are informed of cases of torture, disappearance, and mistreatment." A farmer on the Caribbean coast, suspected of "involvement with the 'contras,'" had his ears cut off and was left for dead. He recovered and came to Managua to denounce the violence of which he was the victim. (The Human Rights Commission sent him to Costa Rica.)

'Milk Is Here!'

Mrs Baltodano said: "The people's tribunals, established in 1982, operate in secret. A lawyer represents the accused, who is not present at the proceedings. Only the president of the court is a judge. The other members are named by the government and the Sandinist organizations. The people's tribunal tried 385 cases in 1983. There were 16 acquittals."

She freely admitted that the human rights situation in Nicaragua is not comparable to the dramatic conditions prevailing in El Salvador or Guatemala, for example. However, she considered "that the objective of the government is totalitarian in nature, and the Sandinists are trying progressively to take control of all activities." She did not believe in the elections in November. She said: "It is as if a prison warden said to the inmates: 'you have the right to designate those among you who will be able to participate in the control of the details of the organization of communal life in the prison.'"

The "special subscribers" to the uncensored version of LA PRENSA are informed of the activities of the "turbas" (Sandinist strike commandos), of the joy which breaks out in the supermarkets "when the milk comes," of the critical documents issued by the independent trade unions who are calling for "free elections." All of these reports are considered "negative" by the censors. Curiously, a photographic report on the debris of an American airplane which crashed in Costa Rica when it was on a military supply mission to the 'contras' was also censored. Whatever happens, the "subscribers" distribute copies to their friends. And there is very little that people don't know about in Managua.

Third Way

Cuadra, the editor of LA PRENSA, said humorously: "We could easily put out two issues each day. However, I ask myself why they are organizing elections. Tomas Borge told me: 'You shouldn't take our flexibility for weakness.'"

Sergio Ramirez, who was returning from a trip to Iran and Libya, told me: "The elections will be held in any case." He had been "impressed by the fanaticism and the popular support for Khomeyni," and he found that "Colonel Qadhdhafi was poorly informed about the realities in Central America." Ramirez said: "He did not understand the need for elections in Nicaragua," and he added: "Even if the war gets worse, we will hold the elections. And I consider that our electoral law is a good one."

In the face of this promise--and this challenge--the internal opposition is at least perplexed. It hesitates between denunciation of an electoral process "which makes no sense," since the Sandinists "are going to win in any case," and the hope

of winning, or of at least keeping a certain amount of political room to maneuver, making it possible to stop the consolidation of the revolutionary, Sandinist government.

The government has promised to lift the state of urgency before the elections but has not given any date. However, all of the opposition—from the conservatives in the PCD (the Democratic Conservative Party, the much weakened heirs of the old Conservative Party, which was opposed to Somoza) to the members of the Democratic Coordination Group (which includes three small opposition parties, two independent trade unions, and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP)—is demanding much more: the elimination of press censorship, a complete and real amnesty, and the separation of the Sandinist party from the state apparatus. The Catholic hierarchy, which in fact is the only true political opposition to the regime, has gone much further. Monsignor Obando, archbishop of Managua, has squarely recommended a dialogue with the leaders of the 'contras,' who are increasing their armed activity against the country. This was a "report" which LA PRENSA was not permitted to publish.

The Catholic bishops unanimously stated: "A citizen, a Christian, cannot vote against his faith. An election must involve a real choice. You cannot vote against the principles of liberty demanded by the faith." Monsignor Vega, the new president of the conference of bishops, is more "flexible" than Monsignor Obando. However, it is clear that the weight of the official Church—which is substantial in as Catholic a country as Nicaragua—is a factor which cannot be ignored in the pre-electoral calculations.

The leaders of the opposition group are taking stock, observing the situation, demanding guarantees, threatening to boycott the elections, and even, at times, arguing among themselves and attacking each other. Splits and expulsions are further weakening these political groups which harsher critics call "rump parties" or "mummies." The Social Democratic Party, which already was very weak, was further affected by the departure into exile (in Costa Rica) of Robelo, its principal leader. In Costa Rica he is the leader of ARDE. The Social Christian Party, which is also a member of the Democratic Coordination Group and is more active, hopes to obtain the official support of the Catholic hierarchy. The Independent Liberal Party (PLI), which formerly was part of the government, resigned from it. The PLI continues to call itself "Sandinist" and is also presenting its demands. Its leader is Virgilio Godoy, who was formerly minister of labor in the Sandinist government for 4 years and who was placed "in the reserves" in April 1984.

He said: "We are the third way, between the Sandinist Liberation Front and the opposition. The monopoly of power exercised by the Sandinists has created a certain malaise. Confusion between the state and the party is harmful. We want the elections to be more than a simple formality. And the electoral law is not completely satisfactory. Freedom of political activity must be respected. If not, I am afraid that the Sandinists will be the only party in the elections." The Independent Liberal Party has a hero: Rigoberto Lopez Perez, who killed Somoza senior. His picture is in the office of Godoy, alongside those of Cesar Sandino and of Fonseca, founders of the Sandinist Front.

His criticism of the regime resembles that of the spokesmen of COSEP, who state that "the electoral law is the government's law" and that indirect, psychological

pressure may destroy the usefulness of the vote on 4 November." The Sandinists also have to deal with grumbling from the "extreme Left." The Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN--in fact, a pro-Soviet communist party) and the Nicaraguan Communist Party (which has Trotskyist tendencies) consider that "the revolution was not made in Nicaragua." These two parties want elections for a constituent assembly, and not the election of a president and of a parliament. The same kind of tune is played by the People's Action Movement and by certain of the members of the "People's Church," which are completely involved in Sandinist organizations. However, this grumbling from the ultra-Left is negligible.

We Will Not Lose

All of these groups, from the conservatives to the Trotskyists, go through the statements by Sandinist leaders with a fine tooth comb, to strengthen their suspicions or their hopes. Daniel Ortega has said: "For us, democracy is first of all a fight against ignorance, for public health, and for the rights of the workers." And he added: "He who does not understand that the revolutionary government is a single government does not understand anything."

Tomas Borge, the toughest and the most fascinating of the Sandinist commanders, has been invited by a group of Spanish theologians to speak to them on the theology of liberation. He couldn't be prouder of the invitation.

Government power is not something to be shared. That is in fact the principal idea which subtends the public explanations and declarations of the Sandinist commanders. They state: "There is no question of our losing the elections. We seized power at the point of a rifle. We are not going to lose power in elections."

Daniel Ortega said once again: "The power of the people can never be defeated, either by bullets or by ballots." And he added: "The only fruitful criticism is constructive criticism." The conservatives of the PCD concluded a tactical alliance with the Democratic Coordination Group in April 1984. However, first of all this "united" opposition lacks leaders. Those who could serve as leaders now live abroad, like Cruz, who rejects Sandinist invitations, or Cesar, who has made a "reconnaissance" trip to Managua but who, it seems, has not found conditions "satisfactory." Eden Pastora has maintained a certain, real popularity, but it is evidently out of the question for him to participate in the elections. Moreover, he is not a "politician."

A rank and file Sandinist member said: "In a revolutionary country which is at war, no neutrality is possible."

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DAILY QUESTIONS PINOCHET'S CALL FOR DIALOGUE

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Apr 84 p 10

[Editorial: "What Kind of Dialogue Does General Pinochet Want?"]

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet, chief of the Military Junta that governs Chile de facto, has stated that he will not open a dialogue with opposition sectors asking for his removal. In answer to the request for a dialogue--between the junta and the people--made by the Chilean ecclesiastical authorities, the general answered that he will negotiate only with those who recognize his authority. That is, with those sectors that are reconciled to the extension of his regime until 1990, in accordance with the constitution that he promulgated himself.

Months ago, as the wave of protest expanded and the governing junta was being destabilized, Pinochet sought to provide a certain opening that would encompass not only lesser restrictions of liberties, but also expectations of dialogue and negotiations with the opposition. The inclusion of certain civilian personalities--other than the economic technicians--into the council of ministers seemed to be a prelude to such an opening.

However, now that the protests have subsided and the destabilization of the regime has ceased to be a pressing danger, Pinochet prefers to shift into reverse.

The conditions for the dialogue proposed by Pinochet are nothing more than fantasy. He will have a dialogue with those who support his decision to prolong the military government for 5 more years. That is, he will have a dialogue with everybody except the opposition.

As a result, General Pinochet has gone as far as stating that the dialogue could become a tool of Marxism, referring to the demand that he give up power made by the Christian democrats, the traditional and most important political party of Chile.

The truth of the matter is that the political opening is still as remote as it was 6 months ago. There is no inclination on the part of the junta to proceed to the immediate restoration of constitutionality and the state of legality. The Southern Cone of Latin America will not soon see Chile as the next country to return to the normal fold of democracy.

In such a situation, it is next to impossible to determine what will be the reaction of the southern country, and what will be the consequences of General Pinochet's obstinacy.

DRAFT LAW FOR REGULATING ECONOMIC REPORTING CRITICIZED

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Apr 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Economic Terrorism and Freedom of Expression"]

[Text] At the initiative of Senator Javier Alva Orlandini, the majority of the Upper Chamber has just enacted posthaste the bill seeking to suppress so-called economic terrorism.

For that purpose, it seeks to modify the Penal Code in order to punish the person who, taking advantage of the mass media, will spread false information and induce the public to withdraw their deposits from banking and financial institutions.

With displays of scandalous headlines, yellow journalism lately sought to destroy the foreign currency certificate system even if it entailed the economic collapse of the country--precisely--to provoke this.

There is evidently a temptation to confront disproportionate and irresponsible campaigns of that nature. To that end, there is recourse--Senator Alva resorts--to stopgap legislation which for that reason is immediate, turns out flawed and implies a threat to the exercise of the freedom of expression.

In the specific case of the foreign currency certificates, there was nevertheless a memorandum of similar document written by Mr Richard Webb in which, as a matter of fact, the possibility of the state seizing dollar savings was contemplated, though only to be discarded.

If only for that reason, or because he allowed the document containing such preposterous idea to leak out, Mr Webb should resign the presidency of the Central Reserve Bank. If he does not, the Senate could constitutionally dismiss him from office.

As Dr Francisco Chirinos Soto, president of the Journalists Federation, pointed out, the bill sponsored by Senator Alva suffers from very serious imprecision. When can it be adduced that a certain newspaper information induces the public to withdraw their savings? Hence, the bill in question violates the principle of unequivocal definition, which the science of criminal law requires ever since the time of Cesar Beccaria in order to establish the crime. That principle is, of course, incorporated into the present constitution.

The yellow press furnishes its own punishment. When it is reported that the United States is getting ready to sell nuclear weapons to Chile and the government in Washington is legally forbidden to do so; when hair-raising details are given about the assassination of someone who, months later, shows up alive and unhurt; when the government is accused of planning to steal the dollar certificates, which is false, then the people end up realizing that they are being duped every day.

It is very well for any citizen to seek to become again the czar of the Peruvian economy. But that aspiration, perhaps legitimate, should not be promoted at the expense of the country's welfare and the tranquility of Peruvians. On the other hand, it is not necessary for Senator Alva Orlandini to destroy the principle of freedom of expression in order to restrain such ambitions. We trust that the Chamber of Deputies will not pass the hasty bill that occupies us. Should they enact it, we trust that the president of the republic will observe it [sic]. Fernando Belaunde cannot destroy his best credential in the face of history, or allow his supporters to do so.

8414

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USSR DELEGATION DISCUSSES TRADE RELATIONS

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] The excellent state of the bilateral relations between Peru and the Soviet Union was underscored during a protocol visit made by a trade delegation from this European country to Engineer Manuel Benavides Munoz, minister of economy, finance and trade.

The meeting took place yesterday in the office of the head of the MEFC [Ministry of Economy, Finance and Trade]. The group of distinguished visitors was led by A. N. Manzhulo, deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR, who at the head of his delegation is participating in the third meeting of the Joint Peruvian-Soviet Commission currently under way.

Deputy Minister Manzhulo emphasized the excellent trade relations between the two countries, as well as the offer of commodities at acceptable and advantageous terms for Peru.

After noting the great acceptance that transport planes, motor vehicles, machines and tools have in Peru, the Soviet official talked about the possibility of his country installing a trolley bus system in Lima like the ones that already exist, for example, in Argentina and some European countries.

He added that they are also ready to sell chemical products, and at the same time reiterated the Soviet interest in participating in the Olmos irrigation project in Lambayeque. He is also interested in signing a maritime transportation agreement.

Minister Benavides Munoz renewed his warm friendship with the Soviet representatives and officials who are visiting and working in Peru. He recalled that he organized a Soviet Book Exposition when he headed the Ministry of Education.

He stressed the need to develop trade relations between the two countries despite the effects of the crisis affecting Latin America. But this state of affairs will not lessen the ties of cooperation for development, Benavides Munoz pointed out.

8414
CSO: 3348/409

BRIEFS

FRG HELPS MODERNIZE CUSTOMS--Through its Ministry of Finance, the FRG will donate 1 billion soles to computerize the customs of Callao and the airport. Jurgen Himstedt and Ewald Hlotmann, officials of the Ministry of Finance of that country, arrived in Lima just yesterday. They will evaluate the country's customs system and report which offices need to have their operations computerized. The German officials will remain in Peru for 12 days. During that stay, they will visit the various customs of the country and report on the need to computerize the system in order to facilitate customs procedures. The visit of these officials is taking place under the terms of an existing cooperation agreement between the German Government and the General Directorate of Customs. For some years now, a German mission consisting of Ewald Ilg and Thomas Rubastscher has been advising the General Directorate of Customs on personnel training. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Apr 84 p 7] 8414

CSO: 3348/409

OPPOSITION SENATOR BASDEO URGES NEW FOREIGN POLICY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 84 p 15

[Text]

THERE is need for a revision of the foreign policy of this country and it should be the product of consultation between Government and the Opposition and not tainted by partisan interest.

The point was made by Opposition Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo as he spoke at the seminar "Forging a New Democracy" held recently by the National Alliance.

Senator Basdeo spoke on the topic "Foreign Policy and Institution Making in the Post-Colonial Era: The New Thrust for Trinidad and Tobago."

The senator outlined the development of foreign policy in the country and said that from 1962 until his death, Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams dominated foreign policy making. His "academic background, scholarly achievements, domineering personality and knowledge of international affairs legitimised his role as spokesman for the government of foreign affairs," the senator said.

Senator Basdeo said that during those years Trinidad's foreign policy was based upon "the hard realities of economic existence", but the form and orientation of the policy fluctuated with the change in strategy for economic development.

He divided the past 22 years into three periods of foreign policy, separated by the economic policy of the time.

The first period, he said, spanned 1962 to 1970, the era of industrialisation by invitation during which metropolitan business was attracted to invest in the country and the shift made from British to American trade and investment.

During this time support was given to Carifta and attempts were made to establish ties with "navel-string" areas like East and West

Africa and India.

NOT PURSUED

Trinidad and Tobago joined the Organisation of American States (OAS) and extended diplomatic relations to some Latin American States.

Senator Basdeo felt that these initial moves were not seriously pursued following the February Revolution in 1970 when the Government became pressured by the domestic considerations. They then moved into the second period from 1970 to 1974, the era of meaningful participation in which they began the process of nationalisation of key sectors of the economy and partially or totally brought a number of areas under its control, including petroleum, sugar, and air transport.

The third period from 1974 to the present, the era of resource diplomacy, he said, saw the diversion of revenues into industrialisation programmes like Point Lisas and infrastructural development projects in the country.

It was during this era, he said, that the development of the manufacturing export sector suffered, foreign imports soared and the food import bill grew. Trade with Japan in 1982 for example stood at \$20 million in exports as compared to \$427 million in imports.

Senator Basdeo indicated a need to revert to some aspects of foreign policy pursued in 1960 in terms of relations with India and Africa and Latin America. He described these as the "sacrificial lambs" during the programmes of heavy industrialisation which Williams introduced — a programme which he said, finds us locked into the metropolitan economies of the world and overly dependent on their technology and expertise.

In the 1980's Senator Basdeo said,

there is the need for adjustments in the country's foreign policy which must be based on the considerations that we are a small Caribbean and cosmopolitan country, a policy which must have a direct relationship with domestic plans and policies.

This policy, he said, "must be the product of a consultative exercise based on discussion between government and Opposition...It must reflect the united will of a people. It must not be tainted by partisan interest and must have a strong semblance of continuity in the eyes of the outer world."

The role of Parliament in this, he said, must be widened to include some input in decision-making and for this reason the Joint Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs as provided for in the Standing Order of Parliament must be formed.

The committee would consist of members of all parties represented in Parliament who have knowledge of foreign affairs and who would be taken into the confidence of the minister in charge. They would be responsive to the views of pressure groups and would also serve to check on the workings of the ministry, a role which would allow them to insist on the employment of competent staff in the diplomatic service rather than "political hacks of the ruling party."

Speaking specifically on what direction the policy should take, the senator said that firstly it was vital to adhere to the principles of the United Nations and to show respect and support for the non-interference in the internal affairs of States, collective security against aggression, self-determination of peoples, anti-racism and anti-imperialism.

"Our policy of non-alignment must continue," he said. But beyond these he noted that there is a need for a total revision of our foreign policy which must "serve to inspire and generate growth"

RAMIFICATIONS OF COURT RULING ON TOBAGO ASSEMBLY REVIEWED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 84 p 10

[Article by Ernest Tracey]

[Text] A BIG day for Tobago came and went with hardly a murmur of concern from the Trinidad-based mass media. Newspaper coverage of the historic High Court ruling on the Tobago House of Assembly Act was relatively terse and insignificant. The High Court decision on the constitutional issue raised by the Tobago House of Assembly seemed to become lost in the shuffle of verbiage about the Prime Minister's Southern walkabout and about the plight of finance companies.

The loss of public confidence in the country's financial institutions is obviously a very serious matter with a potential for very serious negative consequences. A prolonged public outcry through the media is definitely warranted.

The highly publicised Southern walkabout, however, does not belong at this level of media concern. The fact that political leaders use walkabouts as distractive gimmicks is hardly newsworthy.

At any rate, the political meanderings of the Prime Minister seem of scant significance when placed beside the constitutional problems which still hamper the relationship between the two islands which comprise our nation.

IMPLICATIONS

Up to the time of writing this article, it appeared as if columnists who normally cover the Tobago scene had decided to let this one pass. Yet, the High Court decision on the Tobago House of Assembly Act will certainly have severe implications for national development.

The nation's Judiciary has rendered an opinion on the respective interpretations of specific sections of the Tobago House of Assembly Act. In this instance, the court has ruled in favour of the Central Government and against the opposing position taken by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

The High Court judgment has clarified the

Central Government's authority for financing, administering and auditing Tobago's development programme and projects, within the broad policy framework for national development.

This in effect sustains the controlling role of the Ministry of Finance.

The opportunity is now present for a major breakthrough on the administrative impasse between the Tobago House of Assembly and the Central Government over the matter of development projects.

As might be expected, the High Court decision is not without negative possibilities. From this perspective, the positive possibilities appear to greatly outweigh the negative.

There is always the possibility however that some junior bureaucrat of the Central Government could, in the name of cost-efficiency, stifle some initiatives of the Tobago House of Assembly. This is a real but manageable threat to development co-operation.

IMPACT

My bet would be, however, that the more likely impact of the High Court's decision will be

to break the joint political stranglehold that has been put on Tobago's development.

Both of the political parties represented in the Tobago House of Assembly, the DAC and the PNM, share the responsibility for the present impasse regarding development.

In the past, neither political party has been able to focus on development priorities. The major emphasis has been on gaining political advantage. On the rare occasions where developmental priorities have been directly addressed, it has always been in the form of political competition.

The political motive usually nullifies the developmental intent. The losers in all this are always the long suffering citizens, who assume significance only at election time.

Unscrupulous politicians find it impossible to resist the temptation to manipulate the democratic process in their self-interest. They seek selfish ends while pretending to act on behalf of the public.

Nothing that we can do or say is going to change this fact of human nature and experience. Some selfish, exploitative individuals

will always manage to be attracted to the easy pickings of the political arena.

CORRUPTION

If we accept the inevitability of some political graft, corruption and gross mismanagement, then the High Court's decision on the Tobago House of Assembly Act may represent a form of protection for the people of Tobago. A brief explanation is:

The PNM is a Trinidad political party. It presently has little political clout in Tobago. The DAC is a Tobago political party. It has political clout in Tobago but none in Trinidad.

The PNM as the major political party in Trinidad is at present the party in power in the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago.

As such, the PNM controls the revenues and resources needed for national development. The DAC controls the Tobago House of Assembly but is dependent on the PNM Cabinet for its development programme's approval and budgetary allocations. This situation represents a sort of Mexican stand off between the political forces of the DAC and those of the PNM, doing battle in the developmental arena of Tobago.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

The strengths and weaknesses of each political side cancel out one another. The result is an

almost unheard of apolitical developmental situation.

This condition could permit the technocratic central agencies of the nation to provide Tobago with the financial and administrative support required for development, without political interference from either side.

The removal of political constraints to national development is a major indirect accomplishment of the High Court decision.

The people of Tobago have voted to ensure that the Trinidad based — PNM does not forget the uniqueness of the developmental needs of the sister isle. The nation's Judiciary at the request of the Tobago House of Assembly, has acted to ensure that the Tobago-based DAC does not forget the requirement of central accountability in national development cooperation.

It may yet be possible to do in Tobago what we have failed so miserably to accomplish in Trinidad. The central agencies may be permitted to function as independently as their mandates suggest they should.

Tobago may yet provide the nation with an example of a developmental programme without all of the built-in political accommodation to graft, corruption, gross indifference and unimaginable.

In this respect, news of this High Court decision may be every bit as important to national development as is the news of problems in finance houses.

SECRECY SURROUNDING ISCOTT OPERATIONS CRITICIZED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

"TURBOMACHINERY International," a US publication, in its July/August issue of 1980, reported under "Recent Purchases" the sale of two W-501 Westinghouse gas turbine generators rated at 86.4 megawatts each to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. They were scheduled to go into service in 1981 and their overall cost was \$27 million (US). This works out at approximately \$13.5 million (US) each.

Yet the sale of one W-501 Westinghouse gas turbine of Gulf States Utilities Company with a higher rating of 96.5 megawatts, and also due to be put into service in 1981, was tagged at \$10 million (US). This works out a \$3.5 million (US) cheaper for a larger machine.

Perhaps there is a simple explanation somewhere, but shouldn't the public be told about these things? What is curious is that it is understood that the two Westinghouse generators bought by T&TEC were installed at Point Lisas, there to serve heavy industry and primarily the iron and steel mill of ISCOTT. Because of the continued secrecy surrounding transactions at ISCOTT and PLIPDECO, the conclusion is reinforced that if nothing else, Point Lisas is a wellspring of non-disclosure.

For instance, apparently by way of mollifying public outrage at the excessive burden on the taxpayer of ISCOTT — more than \$1 million a day — the Prime Minister announced recently that the Government will be looking around for a partner for the mill.

SINGLE PARTNER

Isn't it more than a bit curious that after so many years of planning, building and now actual operations not a single partner has been found for the hapless company? Or is it that partners have been reject-

ed? Surely when the project was first mooted it was planned that there would be Dutch and Japanese interests. But before the project even got under-way in the construction stage there was an unmistakable sound of Dutch and Japanese footsteps walking away from the project.

Precisely why did this take place? No one of the general public was ever told. Is it because they found the project no longer feasible? Or could it be that the Government did not like the idea of having to account to so many people? When it is considered that accounting for expenditure at ISCOTT has been steadfastly refused the public, then it is a well fuelled suspicion that not only the public's views of the accounts are not welcome, but also those of other companies.

And until clarification is provided — if it ever is — then yet another mystery deepens, and yet another secret becomes encased in refusal to deal with the very people who are paying for the project — the taxpayers.

A recent investigation by this column tends to support the feeling that deliberate attempts are being made to give the appearance that ISCOTT would like one or more partners but that in reality no partner is wanted. Take the specific case of Armco Steel Corporation of Middletown, Ohio, USA. Armco is not a small outfit. According to a statement of consolidated income for the year ended December 31, 1977, total revenues were \$3.6 billion (US), which compares favourably with the total revenue of Trinidad and Tobago.

In a letter dated March 5, 1979, to the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., Armco's Group Vice President, Mr. R.E. Boni, made these statements: "As

a result of informal conversations in 1978, Messrs. R.R. Boni and J.H. Giffen of Armco met with representatives of ISCOTT in Trinidad on January 5, 1979, to discuss the prospects for co-operation between Armco and ISCOTT."

COVERING PROPOSALS

The letter went on to state that a subsequent meeting between ISCOTT's representatives, headed by Dr. Ken Julien, and the two representatives of Armco in New York City on February 8 and 9, 1979, led to preparation of an aide-memoire covering proposals for the total programme of cooperation between ISCOTT and Armco.

"The proposed programme can be divided into five forms of co-operation as follows:

"1. Purchase by ISCOTT from Armco of a portion of the iron ore requirements of its planned direct reduction (DR) units.

"2. Purchase of Armco of an equity participation in the second DR unit planned by ISCOTT.

"3. Marketing assistance from, or purchase by Armco of certain quantities of DRI (direct reduced iron ore) produced by the second DR unit.

"4. Technical assistance by Armco to ISCOTT on steel making operations and technology.

"5. Marketing assistance from Armco for certain quantities of steel product.

"Armco would propose that, after ISCOTT has had the opportunity to examine the proposal, both parties meet to work out the details necessary for completion of a 'heads of agreement' in the latter half of March 1979.

"Armco welcomes the prospect of concluding co-operation agreements with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and its company, ISCOTT. Towards this end Armco wishes to assure the Government and Trinidad and Tobago that this project has and will continue to receive a high priority at Armco and that Armco will do everything possible to make the project successful."

Under the aide-memoire, Armco was supposed to purchase a minimum of 20 per cent equity interest and up to a maximum of 49 per cent in ISCOTT's second DR unit; and that Armco would purchase of its own account an average of 100,000 tons a year of DRI pellets for a ten-year period. Furthermore,

Armco "might agree" to take 150,000 tons a year of high quality rod and or billets.

Apart from the Armco conundrum, there is the matter of production. According to inside sources, ISCOTT's capacity is 50,000 tons a month, yet the giant new plant is currently turning out 30,000 tons a quarter of 10,000 tons a month. This works out at 20 per cent, of capacity. Forty per cent is considered a very good month.

As anyone knows, a plant operating at 20 per cent of capacity, and occasionally at 40 per cent, is in perilous waters, financially. But then, if one has the bottomless well of taxpayer money, then does it matter whether the plant runs at one per cent or 100 per cent?

Not far from the great blue contours of ISCOTT is a related project. Known as the "South Couva Housing Project," it features a number of housing units meant for workers, principally those attached to the Point Lisas development.

There are, for instance, 14 single family Weldfab units, each with three bedrooms. According to figures that have come to hand, building construction cost a unit is \$100,897, a not unreasonable price in today's escalating cost context. But then comes a series of figures which causes one to raise the eyebrows.

The infrastructure figure a house charged each house owner is \$30,647. There is a heading called "Other Infrastructure" tagged at \$500. As if that were not enough, the consultant fees and administrative cost borne by each of these less well-off citizens is \$12,192.

Landscaping is marked at \$885 and the fee of \$1,180 represents community and recreational facilities. The grand total comes up to \$146,301... before the addition of legal fees, application fees, mortgage fees, and premium.

Another Question

While no one expects housing to be a give-away, the figures raise yet another question surrounding Point Lisas: Aren't these prices a bit exorbitant for so-called "poorer people?" If these well-off folk

have to shell out so much money, is the housing really subsidised?

While the infrastructure construction cost is slightly less--\$24,503 in connection with the 60 two-bedroom town houses-- and the building costs is down to \$96,285, something called "site works" costed at \$25,457 per unit is included, bringing up the price of each town house to \$161,002 or a good deal more than the price paid for a single family, three-bedroom house.

This column again hastens to add that there may be very reasonable explanations, but as is now the norm at Point Lisas, explanations are never forthcoming or volunteered. The mantle of mystery hangs thick and heavy, and instead of hearing to ways and means of easing the enormous burden on the nation, we actually get sounds from top people that

now is the time to increase and expand ISCOTT.

Isn't it passing strange that while French President Francois Mitterrand is having a major row on his hands in trying to cut-back steel production and eliminate 25,000 jobs ("can we go on devoting subsidies to losing enterprises forever?") and the United States is only now emerging from the vale of a depressed industry, ISCOTT should find it propitious to pour yet more taxpayer funds into what is certainly the greatest burden and drag on this nation?

The just plain details as should be provided in regular and correct auditing are not there for the public to see. Nor are questions answered.

The question once again arises: Is the country running ISCOTT or is ISCOTT running the country?

CSO: 3298/780

INDUSTRY MINISTER DISCUSSES CARICOM TRADE IMBALANCE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 10 Apr 84 p 4

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad. Monday (CANA) -- After Industry Minister Desmond Cartey's latest speech to local manufacturers, Trinidad and Tobago probably has its Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partners guessing about its future role in intra-regional trading.

Cartey was highly critical of Trinidadian entrepreneurs who set up manufacturing plants in other CARICOM countries and then export the products back here.

Without naming countries he said too that with two of the main CARICOM markets, presumably Jamaica's and Guyana's, virtually closed because of severe economic problems, the viability of the 10-year-old CARICOM trading system was in question.

CARICOM partners, Cartey said were dumping nearly 80 per cent of their industrial output in the lucrative Trinidad and Tobago market and one result was that Port-of-Spain ended last year with a TT\$257 million dollar (one TT dollar equal 41 cents U.S) deficit on regional trade.

Addressing a meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association March 28, the minister declared: "Can we really visualise the common market system remaining viable where a single member of the group is regarded as virtually the sole recipient for 80 per cent of the export production of the member territories, for this is the reality of the picture we face today.

"The continuing imbalance of trade in the region is incapable of resolution in the short term and unless there is a resurgence in the purchasing power of the other territories, it is unlikely to be corrected in the medium term."

Problems

Cartey complained that at least five years of balance of payments problems in one CARICOM state—his description fitted Guyana—had in recent times prevented it from importing "practically anything at all from the region," while its export capability "appears not to have been affected at all."

"We have also watched with dismay the trauma that has overtaken another of the larger members (of CARICOM) within the past two years especially," the minister added in apparent reference to Jamaica.

Under the July 1973 treaty establishing CARICOM, member states trade among themselves on a duty free basis, provided the goods meet clearly established criteria for local content.

Within the last decade Trinidad and Tobago, thanks to its petro dollar boom and the resulting affluence among its 1.2 million population, has emerged as CARICOM's most valuable market.

But within the oil-based economy here faltering in the last two years government has been looking, without success so far, to the manufacturing sector to help pick up the slack.

While the boom years of the 1970s provided a domestic market for most of Trinidad's manufacturers, at the same time wages in the agricultural sector rose to the point where agricultural exports no longer became competitive.

"The reality of the 1980s therefore, is that as a country we are attempting to regain lost ground in the CARICOM markets in respect of our industrial manufacturing sector, and with virtually no export market for our

traditional agricultural export crops," Cartey said.

Cocoa and coffee production here has declined drastically and sugar exports have fallen from levels of over 250 000 tonnes to an anticipated 70 000 tonnes in 1984.

A similar pattern is evident in the light industry sector, with for example, the garment industry, once employing in excess of 15 000 people, mainly women, dwindling, and most of the larger factories either closed or severely endangered.

And all is not well with the mainstay of the economy, petroleum. Refinery throughput has declined from 227 000 barrels per day in 1979, to 74 461 barrels per day in 1983, while domestic oil output has fallen from 214 382 barrels per day to 159 848 barrels over the same period.

Drop in revenue

With the decline in the price of oil and the fall in throughput and exports, there has been a corresponding drop in government's revenue.

It was against this background, with the economy again recording an overall adverse trade balance, that Cartey has urged local manufacturers to turn their eyes towards extra regional markets in the interest of survival.

Recent successive currency devaluations in Jamaica and Guyana have "virtually eliminated" them as potential markets for local exports, according to Cartey.

This leaves Barbados, Belize and the seven small territories within CARICOM (the Bahamas, the newest member does not participate in the common market) which Cartey asserts cannot sustain the export thrust Trinidad will need to mount.

Said Cartey: "With all our largest CARICOM markets out of commission, Trinidad and Tobago exporters have had to review the search for opportunities in third country markets, as well as to share the markets of the smaller territories with third countries and every other CARICOM partner.

"Is it any wonder therefore that our own manufacturers have raised questions as to the future viability of the common market arrangement?

"What irks too, is that even

among our members there is evidence of bad faith.

"For example, despite solemn assurances given in May 1983, repeated in July and confirmed at the level of the heads of government, and subsequent reminders by way of an exchange of notes, discriminatory taxation on soft drinks in cans levied by one country, continues to the extent that a market which had been found and developed for such items some years ago, has been closed and remains closed.

"It is to be noted that this same country imposes a tax of five cents per bottle on beers in disposable bottles as compared with the fifty cents levied on canned soft drinks."

This was a reference to Barbados which says, disposable bottles and cans create an environmental problem.

Cartey continued: "When all of these developments are taken into account, there still remains a number of questions for which local industry must provide the answers.

"Why, for example, after 25 years of the most meaningful investment incentives programme in the English-speaking Caribbean, is local industry still limping along, bar a few exceptions?

"Can you explain why Trinidad and Tobago's exports to CARICOM have declined by TT\$121 million between January to December 1983 over that of 1982 figures for the same period, while our imports have risen by nearly TT\$7 million?

"The deterioration in our trading position can be presented even more starkly—for while in 1982, imports from CARICOM just about equalled the value of exports at TT\$372 million, in 1983, our import levels increased by TT\$6.6 million to TT\$378 million and exports to CARICOM slumped by TT\$121 million over the period January to December 1983.

"Where have the profits earned from sales in the highly protected Trinidad and Tobago market gone? The selling prices of locally produced items, because of the level of protection, far exceeded the cost of production and of comparable imported products from CARICOM or third countries despite being heavily subsidised—fuel, electricity, water, etc.

"To what extent have profits earned in Trinidad and Tobago

market, been used to finance investment in CARICOM countries, where the conditions under which such investment is encouraged appear more attractive than those offered in Trinidad and Tobago?

"And to what extent has the product of such investment been directed back to the Trinidad and Tobago market, owing to lack of markets in the producing countries? To what extent are these products direct substitutes for what is produced here?

"Has the large-scale transfer of capital for the building of plants been achieved at the expense of running down the local plant, so that your foreign plant represents the latest in technology while the local plant is no longer efficient and produces at higher cost? These are some of the questions for which local industry must provide the answers.

The consumer

"The Trinidad and Tobago Government and ultimately the Trinidad and Tobago consumer did not willingly forego import duties, income taxes, and suffer higher prices to boost the profits of any individual or groups so that they could be invested outside of Trinidad and Tobago.

"And now—and this is the worst part of the bargain—when the product of local investment abroad is directed to this market, the same hapless consumer is advised that he has lost his job because he is less efficient than the foreign person. Can the locally displaced person follow the capital investment abroad and ask a job in the country?

"What of the future, what does it hold for local industry? It would seem to me, as has perhaps been apparent to everyone in this room, that there is no point in pursuing our hopes for the revival of local industry on the CARICOM market.

"The solution as far as Trinidad and Tobago is concerned, lies in finding markets outside the region which would enable local producers to achieve viable export levels even, and where necessary, at the expense of production for the local market.

"The extent to which this approach is possible is one of the matters which would engage the attention of the newly-created Export Development Corporation.

BRIEFS

PNM CONVENTION IN TOBAGO--The ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is moving towards holding its first ever annual conference in Tobago. At last week's regular general council meeting of the party a committee headed by Labour Minister Errol Mahabir was appointed to "examine the feasibility" of holding the next annual conference--the 25th--in the sister island in September. Members of the team are: Ms Cynthia Alfred, Ms Agatha Beckles, Mr Morris Marshall, PNM Youth Officer (male); Ms Joycelyn McLeod-Smith, Mr Henry Nurse, Mr Rennie Matthews, Senator Daniel Reid and Mr Lloyd Thomas. The committee is to submit its report in time for the general council meeting to be held on the third Sunday in May. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 84 p 18]

ROAD-BUILDING SCHEME--Cabinet has given its nod to a novel plan to continue the momentum set in highways construction. The virtual construct-now-pay-later scheme as conceived by the Ministry of Works, Maintenance and Drainage, would involve the building of highways by the private sector, the contractors being paid in savings bonds. Works Minister Hugh Francis said yesterday that not only would the plan afford the continuation of highway construction but it would give the construction industry a much needed fillip. Contractors would be invited to tender for the designing, constructing and funding of various highway projects which would be evaluated by the Central Tenders Board. He added: "With respect to payment, this will be done by Government through arrangements over a period of five to seven years. They will be paid in bonds or similar financial agreements." Mr Francis said: "Although the scheme has not yet been officially launched, I am delighted with the response from several contractors to whom the Ministry has been explaining the programme." [By Clevon Raphael] [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 84 p 1]

METHANOL CONTRACT PROBE--Investigate why the contract for the construction of the \$720 million methanol plant was not open for tendering. This call has been made by a source in the construction industry who said the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee should extend its probe into alleged irregular business deals at Point Lisas. He added: "why should they bother with only \$25 million when the real thing is the scandalous way in which that contract was awarded. Nobody was invited to tender and the award was announced the same day as the contract for construction of the urea plant." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 84 p 1]

MALLET DISCUSSES EXPORT MARKETING, GOVERNMENT ROLE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 31 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] **MINISTER of Trade, Industry and Tourism Mr George Mallet has said that there is an urgent need for a concerted and aggressive approach to export development.**

He said: "If we are to generate the level of national income that is necessary for the sustained growth and development of our people we will have to face the colder and more competitive of and sometimes ruthless outside markets."

The Minister was addressing some 22 participants attending the Export Marketing Workshop which opened here on Monday. The workshop ended yesterday.

Mr. Mallet outlined the role exporters are expected to play, Government's responsibilities in export marketing and what Government is doing to facilitate the development of export marketing in Saint Lucia.

He said: "Government's role is to generate an awareness of the importance and necessity for exporting, to ensure that appropriate regulatory and administrative framework for the development of exports are in place, and to champion the interest of our exporters when international commercial trading rules are being formulated or amended."

The Minister outlined the many things Government

was doing to develop export marketing in Saint Lucia.

He said, "Government should also be a catalyst and a facilitator, analysing and disseminating market information, conducting or collaborating in market research, organising and assisting in sales or promotional activities such as fairs and exhibitions."

Legislation has been passed permitting the establishment of Customs Free Zones. So far a site has been identified within the Vieux Fort Industrial Estate.

Enterprises operating within the zone would enjoy duty free entry of all their requirements to include equipment, raw materials and other supplies with a minimum of customs documentation."

With Saint Lucia's designation as a beneficiary country under the United States Government trade, aid and investment package (CBI); most products of interest to Saint Lucia can en-

ter the US market duty free.

The various interested local business associations and manufacturers and exporters have been and are being advised on the procedures to be followed so as to benefit from the programme.

The Ministry of Trade has drawn up a list of some 48 items for which there appears to be substantial potential for export by Saint Lucia into the US Market.

The Ministry collaborated with the International Trade Centre and the Caribbean Development Bank in a project to identify the export potential for soft furnishings, perfumes and

cut-flowers. "We have since been pursuing with the manufacturers concerned, the findings of the survey with a view to appropriate follow up action," Mr. Mallet said.

He revealed that a study was also undertaken and completed by the Export Market Development Division of the Commonwealth

Secretariat for a product identification and implementation strategy in agricultural products. The report was most positive and the Ministry had initiated the necessary follow-up action, the Minister said.

NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR UNVEILS PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 7 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Text] The City of Castries is to receive a "brand new" sewer system with the aid of the new French Embassy here to replace the present overloaded system which was laid about 20 years ago.

French Ambassador Mr Gilbert Bochet said that the replacement of the sewer system was one of the main projects which will be undertaken by the French government through his Embassy.

Currently, the present system is being studied by experts from France, said the Ambassador. "We are ready to start the operation now, but first we have to study the system very closely. The problem with Castries is very complicated because the city is divided into so many parts and so the project will have to be done in different steps technically and geographically.

"It will take time, but we are ready to take emergency action such as pumping and repairing the present system to help it function before we begin the replacements."

Education and schools here, Mr Gilbert said was another area which the French would be concentrating, on a smaller scale to identify the needs and to present solutions to some of the problems experienced in that field.

The French Embassy which began operations here this month, will also serve the other Eastern Caribbean States.

Mr Bochet said that St. Lucia was chosen for the location of the Embassy because of its strategic position in the region. The local mission he added, was more convenient and would be more efficient in serving the region from St. Kitts to Grenada.

"It is a great advantage to us to have an embassy here. We already have such a department in Trinidad which serves Barbados and Guyana, but we needed an embassy in the northern region of the Caribbean. An embassy here is more convenient and efficient in covering the independent islands of the region."

He added that while the embassy in Trinidad would continue to operate the location was too remote for the inter-relations needed by the French Government between the islands and the French departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe. In addition to its diplomatic services the French embassy will provide consulate services to St. Lucians, providing them with the correct papers of admission required to enter any French state.

"The honorary consulate which we had here under the care of Mr Peter Bergasse, did a very good job, but a specialised department will be better able to cope with the problems experienced by St. Lucians wishing to travel to Martinique and Guadeloupe. So we will also deal with visas and so on."

Mr Bochet who comes to St. Lucia straight from Morocco where he served as the Consul General, previously spent 20 years as the French Colonial Advisor in Africa before he switched to the Diplomatic Corps.

He also worked with the French information service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France and the Consul General in New Orleans, United States.

"It was while I was in New Orleans serving the ports of Miami and Atlanta that I first had close relations with the Caribbean which induced me to become more acquainted with the area. I am very happy here, after being in St. Lucia for about two weeks and I must say that I do not feel foreign here. Probably because I have always had very good relations with the British after being a pilot in the RAF in World War II, but I feel no stranger here."

CSO: 3298/778

FRENCH MISSION EXPLAINS VISA PROBLEMS FOR MARTINIQUE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 7 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The old problem of St. Lucians seeking to gain entry into Martinique reared again this week with the authorities in Fort de France denying entry to some 17 St. Lucians who had gone there for shopping purposes.

According to Albert Fust, first secretary and vice consul in the new French mission here, the St. Lucians were turned back because their visas were not in order. This has been confirmed by the local Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Fust explained that under the existing arrangement, a person seeking to travel to Martinique must first obtain a visa and contact must be made on the visitor's behalf with the Prefect in Martinique who grants permission to travel.

He said that on Thursday, a number of St. Lucians travelled to the French island but there was no indication that they had received the approval of the Prefect, so they were turned back.

Admitted

Fust pointed out that on many occasions St. Lucians had been admitted into the island even when they had not received the Prefect's permission. But on those occasions they were warned by the immigration authorities that they were being allowed into the island in this manner for the very last time. Many had abused that facility.

"Thursday was the last time," Fust said.

Visiting Martinique has been a problem for St. Lucians for some time. In the entire Caribbean only St. Lucians, Haitians and Dominicans require visas to travel to the island. The visa system was introduced after disturbances in the island some years ago in which Dominicans were allegedly involved.

But Fust told THE VOICE yesterday that in situations of emergency, St. Lucians can gain entry into Martinique within hours. He pointed to a situation also on Thursday when a sick St. Lucian child was cleared for entry into Martinique within two hours, to seek medical treatment. Fust was confident however that the current visa problems would be overcome as soon as the new French mission here becomes fully operational. When this happens, probably around June this year, he said, St. Lucia would find it much easier visiting the neighboring island.

SQUATTERS DESTROYING FOREST RESERVES; RANGERS INCREASED

Castries THE VOICE in English 4 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Excerpts] St. Lucia's forests are being patrolled once more by Forest Rangers in an attempt to reduce indiscriminate destruction by squatters or illegal settlers of Crown Lands.

Forestry Division officials say that already one-third of the Castries/Water Works Reserve has been destroyed and they fear for the rest. The Forest Rangers was reintroduced after being out of action for almost two years.

Chief Forest Officer, Mr Gabriel Charles, said the problem with squatters was mostly concentrated in the northern range of Castries/Waterworks Reserve comprising Derniere Riviere, Olean, Forestiere, Des Chassin and Louvette.

He said that squatting in this area was an age-old problem with which his department had difficulty in dealing with in the past because of outdated laws concerning this offence.

"It was hard for us to exercise the law because the fines were so ridiculously low that offenders could pay them with ease and never learn a lesson. But after some pressure, the law was revised and subsequently amended last year."

Under the amended ordinance, he said, fines have been increased from a maximum of \$240 to \$2,000 for the first offence, \$3,000 for the second offence and one year's imprisonment without a fine for the third offence.

But, according to Mr Charles this has still not been very effective in stamping out the problem and squatting continues while the island's forest reserves slowly become nonexistent and the soil is being extensively damaged.

It was in answer to this problem that the authorities introduced the "Taungya" system in 1961 where farmers were given crown lands to cultivate under the direction of the Division.

"Landless farmers are invited to clear the land and grow crops on deforested land or secondary forest. What we do is we give each farmer one acre of land under a two-year contract. They plant their crops and between these, we plant trees.

"All he is required to do is maintain his garden and clean the trees. In that way food plants are growing as well as trees, and through this system, tons of food could be produced, while the forest is maintained."

Unfortunately, this system which seemed the ideal solution, was not as successful as the Division hoped, and although 500 acres were cultivated the Taungya way, Mr Charles expressed disappointment with the attitude of the farmers.

The Forest Chief blamed the failure of the system solely on the disinclination of the people to cooperate. He added that despite education programmes carried out by his department "people refuse to cooperate. It is not that they do not understand the damage which is caused. It is simply an attitude that is sweeping the island and unless this is changed, the entire forest will go and St. Lucia will be at a loss."

Mr Charles added that his department was particularly concerned with the state of the island's rivers particularly in the forest reserve, which he said, depends on the forest cover to thrive. "And the entire populace should be concerned too."

"The areas of forest reserve on the island were selected because of the nature of the rivers running through them and because they were potential areas of watershed which means that most of our water originates from these areas."

CSO: 3298/778

MEDIA WORKERS MEET TO ESTABLISH ASSOCIATION

Castries CRUSADER in English 7 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] The St Lucia Media-Workers Association (SLWA) held its third general meeting at the Venezuelan Cooperation Centre on Wednesday, at which members discussed plans for the launching of the Association, and a report on a recent meeting between the Association's Executive and Minister of Information, Romanus Lansiquot.

One of a continuing series, the meeting heard a special feature by St. Lucian writer, Robert Lee, who spoke on "Media Influences on St. Lucian Culture."

In his address, Lee made a historical examination of the various external cultural influences on the local media, and how the media in turn has failed to assume the historical responsibility of influencing local culture. He made a very serious case for the decision-makers in the local media to recognise the importance of "creole" in forging a national cultural identity, and to allow for our national language to have equal air-time on the radio as English.

Lee, also lashed out against the negative influences of cable television on the national culture of underdeveloped countries like ours, and said that those in charge of programming at the national TV stations should exercise more strict selectivity in what is broadcast over the TV screens here. He launched an attack against the American influences that come with the current TV programmes seen here, recalling that even in Europe, strong efforts continue to prevent the American cultural invasion by television.

He said that in order for the media to be properly utilised in the interest of the nation and the national culture, the media ought to be brought to the people much more. In his conclusion, Lee said that the local media association would have a great role to play, and many questions to answer if it is to be able to work towards the local media eventually exerting the correct influences on the national culture.

Lee, who is also a member of the Association, expressed optimism for the future of the association, which he said was made up of persons who had the necessary spirit and commitment to work towards better harmony between the public and the media in general.

The Association's next general meeting will be on April 18, and among other things, the members will be addressed by another special guest speaker.

BRIEFS

FAILED OPPOSITION UNITY--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Saturday (CANA)--Talks between two opposition parties on a joint approach to the next General Elections have broken down, one of the parties said. The New Democratic Party (NDP) of Opposition Leader James Mitchell said in the latest issue of its newsletter "New Times" that it was not prepared to go along with conditions set out by the two-year old St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement (SNM) led by Dr. Gideon Cordice. The New Times said the SNM wanted an allocation of seats in four constituencies--North Central Windward, South Windward, East St. George, West St. George, as well as an undertaking from the NDP that it would not field candidates against Opposition parliamentarians Randolph Russell and Calder Williams. Mitchell, Russell and Williams make up the elected Opposition in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Parliament dominated by Prime Minister Milton Cato's ruling St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) which holds the other 10 elected seats in the House of Assembly. The NDP said while it was prepared to allocate the East St. George, West St. George and East Kingstown seats to the SNM, it "found it impossible to support Calder Williams and Randolph Russell as candidates." The statement has drawn angry reaction from Russell and Williams, who in a joint statement released here called on Mitchell to resign as Leader of the Opposition. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 8 Apr 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/779

FINANCE MINISTER ON FOREIGN DEBT RENEGOTIATION, OTHER ISSUES

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p 1-12

[Text] The international banks are of the opinion that the economic measures recently carried out in the country are aimed in a proper direction for achieving the economic reactivation and the necessary atmosphere of confidence required by Venezuela.

This aspect was one of the main points in the report submitted yesterday by Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua Arreaza to the president of the republic, Jaime Lusinchi, on the occasion of the negotiations held this week by the creditor banks, the International Monetary Fund and high-ranking U.S. monetary and financial authorities.

The finance minister summarized for reporters much of his conversation with the president of the republic for several hours yesterday, at Miraflores Palace.

Azpurua remarked: "The international banks have observed and understand that Venezuela is taking steps in the right direction. They told us that during the various meetings that we held this week."

The finance minister also noted that the debt negotiator, Dr Carlos Guillermo Rangel, would travel to New York on 23 April in order to obtain another postponement of the debt payment for a period of 90 days.

Also scheduled is another contact with the international creditor banks during the first part May, to submit Venezuela's future economic projections up until 1989.

As Minister Azpurua remarked, the submission of the projections will serve as a starting point to begin formal talks and negotiations aimed at procuring the restructuring of the due dates for the short-term public foreign debt for the years 1983 and 1984, amounting to \$14.2 billion.

For this meeting, in addition to Dr Carlos Guillermo Rangel, other members of the debt negotiating commission and other officials of the Central Bank of Venezuela and CORDIPLAN [Office of Coordination and Planning] will be traveling as well.

The finance minister gave a summary of all the contacts made in the United States by the commission, which also included the president of the BCV, Benito Raul Losada and Dr Carlos Guillermo Rangel, the debt negotiator.

He gave a reminder that they had met with the U.S. secretary of the treasury, Donald Regan, as well as the president of the American Federal Reserve (Central Bank), Paul Volcker, and the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Jacques De Larosiere.

On this negotiating trip, the Venezuelan representatives abroad met with the chairmen or representatives of the following creditor banks: Mr Reaston, of Citibank; Mr Boucher, representing Chase Manhattan Bank; the chairman of the Chemical Bank, Walter Shifrey; and the president of Morgan Guarantee Trust, Mr Lindsay.

Manuel Azpurua said that the banks had shown receptiveness toward the execution of the following measures: budget cuts in current spending, the updating of the public sector's interest, payment of the public commercial debt, the initiation of the process of recording the private foreign debt and the prompt activation of the interest on private outstanding debts.

The finance minister commented: "In this connection it is a good idea to point out that, last year, virtually nothing was done with regard to recording the private debt, and hence the national government has a rather large task to carry out; but we have every effort aimed at speeding up this process."

The Interest Rates

Another factor which prompted the trip by the commission which went to the United States, headed by Manuel Azpurua, was the proposal concerning the effect of the increase in the North American banks' interest rates on the increment in the amount of interest on the debt that the Latin American countries will have to pay.

"We expressed to the United States Government authorities the concern with which we view the hike in interest rates, and the repercussions that this represents for the debt of the Latin American countries; because it entails a substantial rise in the debt service." He added: "Therefore, it is a good idea to offer a solution for that problem, for if interest rates continue to rise during the coming months, that will have a strong impact on the debtor countries' commitments."

The High Cost of Living: Previous Government

The finance minister was also asked about the shocking increase in the high cost of living recorded by the Central Bank of Venezuela in the latest bulletin issued by that entity. According to this report, it rose as much as 6.1 percent in a week, corresponding to the increase in the cost of living recorded during the entire year of 1983.

Azpurua remarked: "There will unquestionably be an increase in the business firms' production costs, which will be translated into a rise in sales prices to the public." Azpurua said: "This phenomenon is due to the exchange modification made for the purpose of correcting the overvaluation of our currency, and achieving the recovery of the production system."

"Minister, the Development Ministry has not given sufficient authorization for price hikes to allow for such an increase to be observed in just 1 week. How do you explain this phenomenon?"

"Well, the development minister has already stated this, and the president of the republic confirmed it in the Congress, commenting that the previous government had authorized a heavy volume of price increases, which went into effect immediately after the new government took office."

2909

CSO: 3348/407

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLAN TO CANCEL AGRICULTURAL DEBT

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Apr 84 p D-6

[Text] Within fewer than 3 months, the government will pay its debts to the entire agricultural sector, amounting to 1.2 billion bolivares.

High-ranking officials from both the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Treasury also noted that, starting in the second half of this month of April, and more specifically by after Holy Week, payments would be starting on the order of 400 million bolivares.

Then, the same method of payment would be used during the next 2 months of May and June, totaling the 1.2 billion, which is approximately 80 percent of the payment on the debt that has been cited, amounting to about 1.4 billion bolivares.

This policy change is said to be included in the plan for investment aimed at the rural areas, which the national executive branch is currently completing and which would entail about 3 billion bolivares, in what has been called the first phase of the policy.

The outlay to be made by the government sector will be directed toward paying outstanding obligations that it has to the livestock sector, agricultural, industrial and food producers, and others.

The official sources also explained that, as part of the plan to inject funds into the agricultural-livestock subsector, during this first phase approximately 700 million bolivares would be made available in credit and loans for the immediate development of agriculture in the country and the reactivation of livestock production.

The granting of that sizable amount of money would be accompanied, as an indispensable measure, by technical assistance for the development to be carried out anywhere in the country.

Apparently the government authorities, who made this evident, will place all possible emphasis on the supervision of credit and loans provided in this sector, because experience has shown them that it is not only appropriating money to the rural areas that brings results, but also a well-planned policy.

The investment plan also calls for the provision of another type of resource, namely, agricultural machinery and necessary equipment at cost, and in many instances with ample facilities for payment and an interest rate similar to the one to be charged for the cash loans, which would be on the order of 8.5 percent, as established by the Central Bank of Venezuela in one of its recent decisions.

The government representative from the agricultural area also said that there are already plans to introduce to the National Congress two bills that would lend the sector even more dynamism.

They are the one stipulating the refinancing of the agricultural producers' debts to the financial sector, and the one aimed at consolidating the infra-structural projects, such as: those for drainage, roads, grading and complete development of agroindustrial areas and enterprises.

In addition to this, there has already been approval for the 2 percent increase added to the 20 that existed previously in the bank assets allocated for agricultural and livestock activities, a reduction in the price of fertilizers which entailed a subsidy of about 50 percent, exclusively for the producer, and the rise in certain costs of both input and agricultural-livestock products.

As a final step, it was noted that the government itself has now taken the initiative, by means of the pertinent procedures, to speed up the requirements for exporting surpluses from the agricultural and livestock area.

A specific instance was the one observed with the permits granted to the poultry producers combined in FENAVI [National Federation of Poultry Raisers], who have since last week been attempting to market about 4 million kilograms of chicken which they had stored, because the domestic market for this food product had been completely monopolized.

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CSO: 3348/407

BRIEFS

CTV PLANS STREET DEMONSTRATION--The Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] is ready to send its millions of members into the streets in defense of the Law on Costs, Prices and Wages. Jose Beltran Vallejo, executive secretary of CTV, warned that, "This labor confederation does not accept coercion, because it is a democratic movement, and the Law on Costs, Prices and Wages is a necessity for the country, since the private sector's business owners are suppressing the income of Venezuelans." The labor leader claims that the aforementioned legislative instrument is geared to Article 96 of the Constitution, and that it should provide the necessary devices with which to prevent usury and all those other economic abuses that are being committed. He also said that if CTV's proposals are not carried out, there will be no alternative other than to adopt the direct course of action of a general wage hike, although he admits that the country's overall situation is serious and disturbing. "As for the 10 percent increase ordered for personnel rosters, I do not think that it will affect the business firms, because Venezuela has cut the labor force 50 percent, which means that there is a sophisticated production system." He said that this 10 percent was stipulated for the companies because the previous government left 1.5 million unemployed, and that jobless mass must eat and have the facilities for purchasing its necessary goods and services. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 1-15] 2909

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