

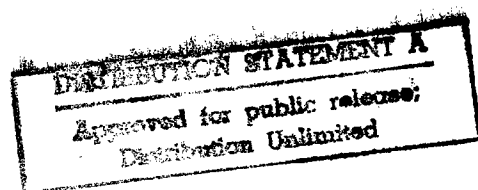
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Latin America Report

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14 March 1984

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ARGENTINA PLANS GAS PIPELINE TO CHILE, BRAZIL

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 7 Jan 84 p 10

[Text] Dr Conrado Storani, secretary of energy, has pointed out that "we must soon begin the integration [process] with Chile and build gas pipelines to transport that product; he predicted that this year Argentina will export large amounts of petroleum derivatives of high industrial value and characterized the situation in the sector as "a national economic disaster." He emphasized that "a gas-producing country like Argentina should supply gas to every single Argentine home to reduce consumption of liquid fuel, whether it be liquid gas or kerosene, or other petroleum derivative fuels that cost more and are not suitable for the country."

Storani commented in his exclusive statements to TELAM that "Argentina lags behind in energy development despite having acquired large and burdensome credit commitments abroad which are poorly managed and in violation of the law and policies, the Yacyreta case being the most obvious one."

Martinez de Hoz

Storani specified that "the entire administration of former minister of economy, Dr Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, focused on destroying state companies" and he added that "unfortunately the energy sector will play a major role in Argentina's economic recovery and development."

Exportable Balances

He stressed that during President Raul Alfonsin's administration, especially the second half of his administration, there will be "such large exportable balances that I believe a trade balance of up to \$2-2.5 billion could be attained favorable to the energy sector. Already in 1984," he noted, "we are going to have sizable exportable balances."

The secretary of energy commented that "if the gross product increases 5 percent, demand for energy will be significant and, consequently, we could run the risk of being undersupplied. This is not a prophetic statement but, being realistic, the level of self-sufficiency previously achieved is linked more to the country's industrial and economic recession than to a growing production of energy."

Coal

He said that "from the moment we assumed our duties we also have been trying to increase production in all sectors and coal." In reference to the latter he said: "During the last year of military government coal production dropped 50 percent compared to levels achieved in the constitutional period of 1965-66."

After pointing out that Yacyreta has obtained financing, Storani emphasized that "gas must be transported to Chile" and he noted that "providing electricity between Mendoza and Chile is another immediate necessity which we will also promote wholeheartedly."

He pointed out that "in the case of Bolivia we are currently purchasing \$40 million worth of natural gas a month which we cannot discontinue for geopolitical and strategic reasons," and he added that "an important goal is to join Bolivia's and Argentina's gas basins and be able to give them some common goal."

Gas Pipeline to Sao Paulo

"I am determined," he stated, "to create a petrochemical zone in Misiones on the Argentine-Brazilian border. This facility would make good use of ethane, methane and propane to produce nitrogenous fertilizers and agrochemicals and then transport surplus gas by pipeline to Sao Paulo."

"Gas Revolution"

Santori reiterated that he will "revolutionize gas in such a way that gas pipelines and distribution networks for household and national use throughout the country will be a priority of our government." He announced that "within a few months we will put into operation the first fleets of taxis converted to consume compressed natural gas instead of naphtha, as well as urban and suburban passenger transportation, and later on cargo transportation."

Middle Parana

The secretary of energy commented that "the Middle Parana is still in its drafting stage. Its final phase, the northern shut-off, is not finished, but will be this year, and at that point the national government, having understood it is a priority job, will forge ahead toward its completion." He said that the state water and energy company will continue to manage the Middle Parana and noted that that company, very reduced now, "will play a role in the future in the large national electric company that will coordinate the planning and financing of all works and will manage the national interconnection network." Storani reiterated that "the future of Argentine energy development should be managed by the big national electric company which will be involved in the planning and financing aspects."

12610

CSO: 3348/200

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION FOR 1983--Overall petroleum production during 1983 amounted to 27,866,301 cubic meters compared to 27,919,481 cubic meters in 1982 which represents a drop to 873 compared to 793 in 1982. [Summary] [PY181140 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jan 83 p 16 PY]

CSO: 3448/284

PEMEX SAID TO BE READY TO SUPPLY GAS, OIL AT LOWER RATES

Belize City AMANDALA in English 27 Jan 84 p 8

[Excerpt] COROZAL TOWN--According to an agent of PEMEX (Petroleos Mexicanos) who at this stage prefers to remain anonymous, that industry is ready, willing and able to provide the entire Belize with gases and fuels both domestic and industrial at cheaper rates than those existing.

In an exclusive interview with this agent held in the latter part of December SUPERCREAM learned that one PASOS PENA PENICHE of Yucatan, with the knowledge and consent of the Belize government, and through collaboration with a PUP businessman of Orange Walk, has been ripping off Belizeans with prices for fuels beyond imagination. The agent is confident that if there were a direct business contact between the Belize Government and Pemex the prices for gases and fuels would be reduced by at least 50%. He stated that PEMEX has for the past three years been reviewing requests by the Association Concerned for the Economic Welfare of Belize, whose president is Mr. Edmund Longworth, and whose association is based in Corozal Town but that the Belize government has refused to honour any such requests.

Cross checking the PEMEX agent's story, we learned from Mr. Longworth that indeed there were concessions presented to government for the distribution of PEMEX products to BELIZE but these were met with emphatic NOs. Mr. Longworth also revealed that PEMEX is willing to extend its gas pipeline from Escarsega, Campeche to as far as Santa Elena. All that would be required was a booster pump station to supply Belize with PEMEX's gases and fuels.

CSO: 3298/466

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM IMPORTS CONTINUING--Gaston Acurio Velarde, chairman of the commission investigating the economic-financial situation of PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency], maintained yesterday that Peru is importing petroleum especially for reasons connected with the current economic situation, such as the disasters in the north, and also for reasons of quality. After pointing out that it was impossible to come up with a precise figure as to the quantity imported in 1983, he noted that there is no truth to rumors coming from Populist Deputy Merino Hidalgo to the effect that these imports cost the country more than what it gets through exports. He explained that the difference is due only to the fact that, when you import petroleum, you naturally pay the price posted at Callao, which includes transportation from the place of origin, plus the tax of 66 percent which is paid to the state although this amount is later on returned to the treasury. On the other hand he said that, when you export petroleum, you only collect the per-barrel price posted at Callao which is why, he said, it obviously had to be cheaper than when you import. He said that the figures supplied by Merino Hidalgo come to about \$70 per barrel imported which Peru is paying. That price includes shipment plus the 66 percent tax which is why, he said, if we import petroleum at a price of \$40 per barrel, plus the import tax which means another \$26 and adding the transportation cost, we naturally wind up paying \$70 per barrel. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Feb 84 p A-4] 5058

CSO: 3348/264

TEXACO HEAD CALLS ON OWTU LEADER WEEKES FOR 'UNDERSTANDING'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] MR. LLOYD AUSTIN, General Manager of Texaco Trinidad has issued a call to President General George Weekes of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union for his understanding and support for the successful operations of the company.

Mr. Austin told Mr. Weekes by letter dated February 10, that he had asked him (Mr. Weekes) for his support and understanding on every occasion they had met.

"I ask it again now because I know that it will be an answer to our problem" said Mr. Austin to the OWTU leader.

Mr. Austin acknowledged a letter from Mr. Weekes dated February 9, 1984 concerning the subject they discussed at the opening session of the wage negotiations on behalf of the hourly, weekly-paid workers.

At that opening meeting, according to Mr. Weekes in his February 9 letter, Mr. Austin spoke about Texaco's operation in Trinidad suggesting heavy and prolonged losses resulting, in the main, from the tax policies of the Government whereby the company was not in a position to continue its usual level of operations.

As a Gift

Mr. Weekes told Mr. Austin at that meeting that if Texaco Trinidad was losing money, the parent company (which had swollen considerably through the acquisition of Getty Oil Company for US \$10 billion, the biggest takeover deal in history) should do the practical thing: Cut its losses and win the goodwill of the people which the company had lost many years ago, by making a gift of all its holdings in Trinidad and Tobago to the Government and people.

Mr. Austin, in acknowledging Mr. Weekes's letter, said to the OWTU leader:

"Let me say here that the message you wished me to convey to the parent company was in fact given. Their response was one of dismay and disappointment and their views were similar to those expressed by me at the meeting. I thought then that I had more than answered all of your questions. But apparently not. I shall therefore try again."

"The company has offered the refinery and the related services for sale. This is a fact. I have tried to get you to understand the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the company being viable to continue its operations. Surely, this applies to any owner and a shift in ownership would not cause the problem to disappear."

"I have tried, and I am still trying, to keep all of the union officials aware of the deep-seated problems we have had over the years, particularly the unconventional and unfair tax system. This system drains the company of all its earnings and even then requires us to pay more. There was a time when it reached 140 per cent. This makes it confiscatory."

Disappointing

"This situation must be corrected and I have on many occasions sought to obtain your support which, in the long term, is in the interest of the company, the country, our employees and your union."

"Instead, officers of your union have negatively and publicly urged that no change should be made to the tax system and they have singled us out for a barrage of unpleasant and unwarranted remarks. This is more than disappointing."

"Secondly, I tried to point out that our company is not owned by a single person, but thousands of persons just like you and me who have invested their life savings in a particular investment. To suggest that our very valuable assets which indeed are the property of these thousands of owners be given away is totally unrealistic."

In fact, as President and General Manager of the company, it is my responsibility, almost as a trustee, to protect the company's assets and the security of its employees.

"Again, I believe this can be best achieved by tax relief, including a realistic oil pricing structure, and our entire organisation has sought through representations to the relevant authorities to correct these deficiencies. I am most disappointed that I have not had your support because it is in your interest as well as all of our employees.

"I ask you again, for your understanding and support. I have asked this on every occasion we have met. I ask this again now because I know it will be an answer to our problem."

CSO: 3298/511

ROJAS REJECTS BEAGLE PACT, SUGGESTS CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] The country's former vice president, Admiral Isaac Francisco Rojas, declared his opposition to any negotiation with Chile that would mean handing over the area in dispute without first debating the subject completely; at the same time he said that President Raul Alfonsín "made a gross mistake" when, during his past electoral campaign, he acknowledged to the Chilean press that "Picton, Nueva and Lennox islands are in the Beagle Channel," according to the neighboring country's theory.

The Radical Territorial Affirmation Group also declared its support of a full public debate on the southern dispute with Chile; in a note presented to the Foreign Relations Committee of the National House of Representatives, it called for parliamentary intervention so as to clarify "the current status of the negotiations being held at the Vatican on the misnamed Beagle controversy."

Ample Information

In its note to the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, the Radical Territorial Affirmation Group maintains that "in the announced agreement to be signed, the executive power is senselessly placing itself in a perilous situation and acting in a peremptory manner and behind the people's and the Parliament's backs on an issue that is more than a century old; it is Argentina that is surrendering everything without any compensation from the other party and without preserving the high interests of the nation at all."

It goes on to say that "the signing of an agreement with the papal proposal, ad referendum before National Congress, would, in fact, signify its definitive acceptance without Congress' intervention." The Radical group demands that Foreign Minister Caputo present to the parliamentary committee a complete report on the situation and history of the border dispute.

Serious Mistake

Admiral Rojas maintained that for Argentines, the Picton, Nueva and Lennox islands "are in the Southern Atlantic" and that before turning them over to Chilean sovereignty there should be a full national debate.

In referring to the papal proposal's solution to the conflict in which the islets are granted to Chile, Cape Horn is set as the dividing line, and the Sea of Peace is created, he said it is "a serious mistake, drawn up in diplomatic secrecy which, in this case, is inappropriate."

Rojas proposes that this subject be debated in Congress.

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CSO: 3348/200

BRIEFS

AUTO INDUSTRY UPTURN--According to the Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers [ADEFA] during 1983 Argentina produced 159,175 vehicles which represents an increase of 20.5 percent over 1982 when the country produced 155,654 units. [Summary] [PY181140 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jan 84 p 1 Section III PY]

ARMS SALES REPORTED--Buenos Aires, 26 Jan (NA)--The last issue of the magazine "HUMOR" reports that in mid-1983 the National Savings and Insurance Fund financed the sale of Argentine arms to the Governments of Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, and Ecuador for a total of \$113.6 million. The sales were made at a 7.5 percent annual interest rate with a 21 month grace period. The arms that were sold included 9 mm caliber guns, mortars, hand grenades, explosive devices, and anti-personnel and anti-tanks mines. [Summary] [PY181140 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 26 Jan 84 PY]

DEEP WATER PORT--Rio Gallegos, 19 Jan (DYN)--Today Santa Cruz Province Governor Arturo Puricelli presided over the inauguration of a deep water port in Punta Loyola. The pier of the new port is 600 meters long over a depth of 30 meters. [Summary] [PY181140 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2250 GMT 19 Jan 84 PY]

CSO: 3448/284

PRICE CALLS BY-ELECTION TO FILL DANGRIGA VACANCIES

Election Analysis

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] BELIZE CITY, Fri. Feb. 10--Prime Minister George Price earlier this week ordered bye-elections to be held for two vacant seats on the Dangriga Town Board.

Councillors Mrs. Margaret Guerrero (UDP) and Henry Bowman (PUP) died suddenly, within a week of each other, Mrs. Guerrero on December 26, 1983, and Mr. Bowman on January 1, 1984.

Dangriga Town voters in December, 1981, gave the then Dr. Aranda led United Democratic Party six seats on the Town Board. The late Henry Bowman won the only PUP seat.

The UDP Board members elected were Ted Castillo (now the Mayor), June Garcia (now Deputy Mayor), Alonzo Ogaldez (former Mayor), William Enriquez, Carolyn Jackson, and the late Mrs. Guerrero.

Following Dr. Aranda's resignation as UDP Leader in late 1982 and his formation of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), both William Enriquez and Carolyn Jackson joined the CDP. Miss Jackson and Mr. Ogaldez are both presently in the United States.

With the ruling PUP trying to recover from serious internal and electoral setbacks, observers here see the calling of the bye-elections, which should be held in a few weeks time, as Mr. Price's way of trying to give his party a shot in the arm.

Though UDP leaders expressed confidence and optimism to us this week, the newspaper can't see the P.M. testing the waters in Dangriga just as a matter of routine. He chose this battleground because he believes he can win back some credibility here.

Preparing for the Dangriga bye-elections, Mr. Price named Dangriga's Gadsby Ramos President of the Senate just week before last, and quickly followed that up by appointing Dangriga's Allan Arthurs to a Senate post.

This will be the first election held in Dangriga since Dr. Ted Aranda and the UDP parted ways, and it will be most interesting to see what transpires down south. If the UDP can withstand the splitting of opposition votes between UDP and CDP in Dangriga, and win the bye-elections, we would have to consider it a small and pleasant miracle.

PUP Rationale

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] This week's announcement that the Minister of Local Government, acting on the orders of the Prime Minister, has ordered by elections in Dangriga to fill the Town Board seats vacated by the deaths of Mrs. Margaret Guerrero (UDP) and Mr. Henry Bowman (PUP) comes as no surprise to us.

The Prime Minister needs an electoral victory, no matter how small, and this bye- election is the reason for Dangriga's Gadsby Ramos being named President of the Senate week before last and Dangriga's Allan Arthurs being appointed a Senator a few days later.

We may be wrong, but we have felt that Dangriga Town is the weakest UDP division because of the Dr. Aranda factor. Opposition votes will be split.

CSO: 3298/519

CARICOM BACKS BELIZE CITRUS EXPORTS AGAINST BRAZIL

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 12 Feb 84 p A

[Text] The CARICOM Council of Ministers has taken a firm stand against efforts by Brazil to challenge Belize's position as the principal supplier of orange juice concentrate to the Caribbean. The Council of Ministers met in Georgetown, Guyana, recently. Belize was represented at that meeting by Miss Rhonda Rogers, an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Belize representative informed the Council that, according to reports, Brazil, one of the world's largest producers of citrus products, had been making efforts to supplant Belize as the major orange juice concentrate supplier to CARICOM member states. The reports said Brazil had been offering artificially low prices and extensive credit facilities.

At the meeting Belize called on the principle of promoting the increasing utilization of regional Caribbean resources and urged CARICOM to resist what it described as the "blandishments of Brazil."

Belize's position received wide support, particularly from Antigua and Barbuda, and Jamaica, as well as from Trinidad and Tobago where the private sector had recently invested into the Citrus Company of Belize.

In its final report the Council of Ministers declared that the input of citrus products from Brazil could have a serious effect on the viability of Belize's citrus industry.

The Council urged the CARICOM member states to continue to use Belize as their main source of orange juice concentrate in accordance with their obligation of promoting regional trade.

CSO: 3298/516

UDP HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS TO OPEN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Kickoff in Corozal

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 pp 3, 10

[Text] COROZAL TOWN, Sat. Feb. 4
For all intents and purposes the Corozal branch of the UDP kicked off its election year campaign last Friday night January 27 with a public meeting held at Coronation Park here.
Although interrupted by an electrical blackout, which is widely believed to be intentional but which was later explained to have been caused by a car hitting one of the main power lines, with the ingenuity of party supporters the meeting continued using car and truck batteries as power sources for lighting and the public address system.
Speakers included ladies' group chairlady Mrs. Lupe Longworth, Corozal's deputy Mayor Raly Alpuche, town councillor Mr. Richard Quan, and arriving from Orange Walk Town where another UDP meeting was held earlier Party Leader Sen. Manuel Esquivel, Deputy Leader Hon. Curl Thompson, and recently elected Belize City Council -lor Carlos Castillo.
Chairman for the meeting was Ed Longworth. During the meeting, Mr. Raly Alpuche explained to the gathering (which outnumbered 5 to 1 a public meeting

held by the PUP on the previous Friday) the true situation of the Gabriel Hoare affair. He revealed that because of in-fighting with -in the PUP side of the town board it was intended

that Hoare be ousted as Mayor and replaced by a favourite of former PUP mayor Olga Marin. Under agreement Alpuche nominated Hoare as Mayor who in turn nominated Alpuche as deputy and they were elected by a 4-3 majority. This, Mr. Alpuche explained, was necessary to strengthen the UDP's position in town hall thereby resulting in more positive results for Corozal Town's citizenry. The crowd cheered. The meeting lasted well after 11:00 p.m.

Then on Sunday January 29, at 3:00p.m. the UDP held its annual general meeting. Guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. Joe Marin of Belize City, brother-in-law of the notorious PUP Minister Pancho Pistolas Marin. Mr. Joe Marin spoke in detail of the recent UDP victory in the Belize City Council elections. He stressed the need for the support of the people for

the UDP candidates who would run for the upcoming town board and general elections. He received a standing ovation when he informed that he had been a card carrying member of the PUP but because of their evil ways he had no choice but to switch sides to the UDP.

The two main items dealt with at the convention were the election of an executive committee and political officers. The executive remained the same. Chairman Ed Longworth, Vice-chairman Raly Alpuche, Secretary Arturo Rosado, Treasurer Angel Campos, and councillors Mrs. Lupe Longworth, Mrs. Helen Rosado, Mr. Rogelio Gonzales, Mr. Andres Campos, Mr. Richard Quan, Mr. Holsten Chan and Mr. Jose Chin. Mr. Raley Alpuche and Mr. Richard Quan were also re-elected as political officers for Corozal North.

zal North.

After the elections, members of the executive and the political officers addressed the convention. Also addressing the gathering were Corozal South activists Mr. Concepcion Campos, Mr. Asterio Ortega and Mr. Francisco Pott.

The convention ended shortly after 5:00 p.m.

A UDP party office which is situated on Park Street North and which will be manned by a part-time secretary and volunteers is expected to be inaugurated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday February 11.

During the public meeting and the convention members of the ladies' committee seized the opportunity to raise party funds by selling snacks and soft drinks.

Despite threats from the PUPs, all went well on both occasions.

Toledo Gatherings

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 6

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 16, 12 February 84; no other attribution or identification given]

[Text] Last week-end Belize City Councillors Carlos Castillo and Derek Aikman travelled to Toledo. They were accompanied by Mr. Henry Young who was on Committee of Fortuity business. Due to inclement weather the scheduled public meeting for Punta Gorda was held in the Town Centre. Hon. Charles Wagner, Toledo South Representative, and the City Coun-

-cillors, addressed the meeting on matters of Party and National importance.

The group also travelled to the Toledo North Division where they met with the UDP Committee in that Division. Unfortunately, the Hon. Basilio Ah, Toledo North Representative, could not attend as he had to be in Belize City on a private matter.

Meeting in West

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 pp 6, 7

[Text] Sat. Feb. 4th. UDP Leader Senator Manuel Esquivel and Party Organizer Mr. Santiago Perdomo travelled to Benque Viejo del Carmen to address a public meeting today.

Speakers at the meeting included the Mayor of Benque, Mr. Carlos Leon, Mr. Jorge Guerra-Mena, Mr. Atanacio Quiterio of the San Ignacio Town Board, and Mr. Merejildo Panti of Succotz.

Farmers attending the meeting complained that their stores of corn were in danger of rotting while cheap corn was being imported from Guatemala. It appears that the Ministry of Trade has decided to give import permits for corn to a chosen few while the Belizean farmers are unable to sell their corn to the marketing board.

It was announced at the meeting that the Cayo South Divisional Convention to select a candidate for the area would take place on March 18th. So far, two persons, both of Benque Viejo, have declared interest in running: Mr. Carlos Leon, and Mr. Jorge Guerra-Mena. In other news from the West, it has been announced that the Cayo North Division will hold its convention on March 11th.

Activities in Rural North

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 7

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 16, 12 February 84; no other attribution or identification given]

[Text] Deputy-Treasurer and Political Officer Mr. Sam Rhaburn has been very active in the Belize Rural North Division. On Sunday, Jan. 29th., Mr. Rhaburn travelled to the village of Lemonal with a group of Party workers from the area. The team spent Sunday morning and afternoon in Lemonal visiting the people in their homes and spreading the message of the alternate government. In 1979 the people of Lemonal gave the UDP solid support, and all indications are that they

will turn out in even greater numbers of the UDP in this year's election. The people requested Mr. Rhaburn to arrange a public meeting in their village on his return, and it is expected that this will be done soon.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Mr. Rhaburn travelled to Crooked Tree to continue his political work, and he plans to visit Sand Hill this coming Sunday to talk to the people there. Clearly, the UDP is alive and well and on the move in Belize Rural North.

Meeting With Workers Union

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 6

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 16, 12 February 84; no other attribution or identification given]

[Text] On Saturday, Jan.28th, UDP officers led by the Hon. Curl Thompson met with officials of the United General Workers Union. Hon. Thompson put forward the UDP's policy positions on labour, investment, and economic development. The meeting was at the invitation of the Union, and there was a fruitful exchange of views between the Party and Union officials.

As was done in 1979, the UDP is seeking to hold similar dialogues with all the trade unions in Belize so that

there may be better understanding of the policies and objectives of Party and Unions.

As the alternative government, the UDP considers it an obligation to consult and dialogue with all sectors of the community in order that we might bring into sharper focus the needs and concerns of the electorate. In this connection the Party will also seek to dialogue with the Chamber of Commerce, Professional groups, and young people.

CSO: 3298/518

UDP SLAMS PUP TRUCE OF LEFT, RIGHT FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 7

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 16, 12 February 84; no other attribution or identification given]

[Text] The two hostile wings of the PUP have, we understand, agreed to bury the hatchet for this election year, to stop calling each other communists and racketeers and to combine their efforts to win another five years of power from the electorate.

Under this truce of convenience, communists will campaign for racketeers and racketeers will campaign for communists. The common bond linking these two rival groups is their conviction that the UDP, if victorious, is bound to take steps to rid the political system of both communists and racketeers.

We can understand the desire of these two groups to hold on to power at all costs. That is the nature of the politics of Belize.

But the people of Belize have demonstrated

in very strong terms through recent elections that they reject continued government by a combination of communists and racketeers. This coalition of evil forces has cost the people of Belize too many lost millions of dollars which will never be traced so long as this regime exists. In political terms, PUPISM has come to mean the abuse of power to promote ideology on the one hand, and self-interest on the other.

There is no place in PUPISM for genuine and dedicated service to the people.

PUPISM has deprived thousands of Belizean families of the chance to own a decent home or even a piece of land upon which to build a home. Thousands of our youths will never find decent jobs or any job at all in this country

as long as PUPISM lasts.
The sick will never get
proper medical care;
blackouts will continue,
and victimization of
Belizeans will last so
long as these power-mad
fanatics continue to
control our destiny.

Belizeans want honest
-to-goodness government,
not secret coverups and
deals behind the scenes
by the power greedy in
the interest of the pow
-er greedy.

PUPISM has victimized
our cities and towns,
depriving them of their
rightful share of the
national revenues; it
has kept tight control
of the only radio sta-
tion allowed in the
country; it refuses to
adopt electoral reforms;
it plans to deprive thou-
sands of Belizean born
citizens of their heri-
tage, while encouraging
aliens to seize the
rights of Belizeans.

PUPISM does not offer Belizeans a choice between communism and corruption. It offers them both evils.

Just as the wings of PUPISM have united for the sole purpose of holding on the power so the people must unite to get rid of them.

CSO: 3298/518

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL ALIENS 'STOPPED DEAD IN ITS TRACKS'

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 12 Feb 84 pp 1, 14

[Text]

A POLICE CRACKDOWN on illegal aliens which got underway in Orange Walk this week has been stopped dead in its tracks.

Reliable reports say that a Ministerial directive has frustrated police efforts to clean up the ugly and potentially dangerous areas of rural Orange Walk where alien gunmen and mafia-connected marijuana traders hang out.

Police, under pressure because of the wave of recent murders in Orange Walk, rounded up more than a hundred illegal aliens and hauled them in for questioning. But it wasn't long afterwards that the Police received explicit in-

structions to let the aliens go.

Orange Walk District is known as the great marijuana belt, and because many fertile areas are remote and difficult to reach, they have become a haven for a growing number of aliens who do a thriving business with the illegal drug. With the trading in drugs comes the need for guns, and the combination of guns and marijuana has resulted in scores of killings since the start of the 1980's.

Efforts by the REPORTER to find out exactly who stopped the drive against the illegal aliens have not been successful so far, but these efforts are continuing.

CSO: 3298/516

ECONOMY 'IN BAD SHAPE,' BUT PRICE INDEX UP ONLY MODESTLY

Critical Analysis

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Feb 84 p 7

[Contributed by READ - Research in Economics And Development]

[Text]

RECENT statistics on the performance of the economy show a worsening position and predictions for the immediate future are gloomy. The economy is in bad shape with no signs of improvement in sight. This shows up in an examination of our trade position.

In 1982, food and fuel continued to be the chief items of import with food amounting to 30% of the total bill followed by fuel with 23%. Our import bill exceeded export by some \$30 millions.

Sad to say, domestic exports dropped by the staggering sum of \$30 millions due mainly to the fall in the export price of sugar. Sugar earnings were down by some \$20 millions.

Export earnings from fish, bananas, and garments also fell. Revenue from the garment industry plummeted from \$22m to \$12 million, that is a

drop of \$10m or 43%.

During 1982 food imports were some 30% of total imports for domestic consumption. In value this amounts to \$60 millions. "Food" includes live animals, meat, dairy products, fish, cereals, fruits, vegetables, sugar preparations and others.

High on the list of imports was milk (powdered and liquid) amounting to \$13.7 millions equalling 22% of total food import bill. Cheese imports amounted to \$5.1 millions. Milk and cheese together accounted for 30% of the total value of food imports.

Lard and margarine cost \$6.1 millions.

All of these items can be produced locally. There is therefore no reason why they should be bought. Government seems unable, or unwilling, or both, to remedy a situation obviously in need of a remedy.

The direct consequences

are: Firstly many jobs which Belizeans need are denied them; instead the work of producing those basic food items go to the U.S., U.K. and Danish workers! Secondly the poor Belizeans are paying more than their proportionate share of taxes through the indirect taxation which is the prox-

imate result of buying overseas what we can produce locally.

Unfortunately for the poor the situation will continue as long as those who are mismanaging the economy continue in power. A change of the mismanagers will mean a change in our critical economic situation.

Drop in Inflation Rate

Belize City DISWEEK in English 10 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] A Report by the Central Statistical Office just released by Government on the General Consumer Price Index shows an increase of about 1.2% during the nine month period, February-November 1983. The average national annual increase for 1983 was pegged at 1.6%.

In the Corozal, Belize and Cayo Districts prices of essential commodities actually fell slightly during the period but in the other three districts they increased. The largest increase of around 5.4% was recorded in the Orange Walk District followed by 5.1% in Toledo and 2.1% in the Stann Creek District.

There was hardly any increase in food prices. While the national index of clothing and footwear showed an average increase of 2.1% during the period.

The consumer price survey was based on the cost of an 'average shopping basket' containing 107 items.

The Index also includes household goods, utilities and fuel prices.

It is interesting to note according to the Consumer Price Index for the period 1980 to 1983 that while the national increase from 1980 to 1981 was 12% and from 1981 to 1982 was 11% there was a dramatic fall in the inflation rate for 1983.

This is no doubt attributable to more domestic food production, the recession and the overwhelming fall in the price of consumer goods from the Mexican market.

CSO: 3298/516

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL PROPOSES \$3 MILLION 1984-85 BUDGET

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Feb 84 p 8

[Text]

CITY Commissioner of Finance Philip Goldson, last Tuesday, presented a Three Million Dollars Budget at the Belize City Council monthly meeting.

Mr. Goldson who tabled the budget on behalf of the Board of Finance said that it was structured off the new departmentalised system of administration adopted by Resolution No. 2 on January 10.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year April 1984 to March 1985 are presented under four expenditure heads.

These are:

- Head 1 - Office of the Mayor
- Head 2 - Department of Finance
- Head 3 - Department of Works and Personnel
- Head 4 - Department of

Sanitation, Health and Environment.

A new feature of the City's Budget is a Division of Planning and Development which provides a modest sum for planning expenses of a Planning Unit which will be working on a comprehensive Development Plan for Belize City.

Following a debate on the general merits of the new Budget at Tuesday's meeting it was referred to the Committee of Supply comprised of all councillors for consideration, recommendation and report back to Council by Tuesday, February 28. In the meantime, the draft Budget goes to the Minister of Local Government for submission to the Minister of Finance in accordance with the law.

CSO: 3298/516

QUESTION OF ROLE OF PRESS RAGES; BEACON ASSAILS DISWEEK

Bar Association Position

Belize City DISWEEK in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The Bar Association has strongly condemned statements appearing in the local press and some made by members of the legal profession questioning the judiciary and the courts.

This was prompted by attacks made on the Chief Justice for having rightly imprisoned Cyril Davis, Editor and Publisher of the Labour Beacon after finding him guilty of contempt of court.

A release from the Bar Association states in part:

"The Bar Association views with dismay statements which have recently appeared in various sections of the local press and which in different ways can serve only to bring the judiciary and the courts into disrepute. Derogatory descriptions of members of the legal profession who are officers of the Supreme Court, serve also to attack the courts as an institution.

Respect for our courts and judges must never be allowed to diminish. Any action capable of that result must be opposed and denounced. Continued public confidence in the courts and judges is indispensable to their independence and ability fully to function justly and fairly.

Freedom of expression is one of the important rights protected under the constitution and which the courts exist to preserve. There is therefore no inherent conflict between freedom of expression which encompasses freedom of the press and the need to be ever respectful to our courts. Confrontation need not and must not be the posture adopted towards our courts."

New Suit Against AMANDALA

Belize City AMANDALA in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] BELIZE CITY, Fri. Feb. 10--Barrister Glenn Godfrey, acting for newly appointed Senator Allan Arthurs, a former Minister of Works, has written AMANDALA to demand that the newspaper apologize for printing a letter last

week concerning the Honourable Arthurs and to "pay to our client a proper and suitable sum as damages for the injury to his reputation and for the embarrassment and distress caused to him."

According to the learned Mr. Godfrey, "our client also requires you to make an agreed statement in open Court for which purpose it will be necessary to issue and serve a writ."

It is expected that Mr. Arthurs will sue AMANDALA for libel.

BEACON Reaction

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] THE BEACON has received a Release from the Belize Bar Association (on the Cyril Davis issue) which we have refused to publish.

We recall that the Bar Association did nothing when certain sections of the local press were being harassed. We also recall that the Bar Association took no stand and remained supremely silent, when the rights of certain citizens were being officially abused.

This newspaper will not indorse nor condone this type of selectivity by the Bar Association; nor will it allow itself to be used at the whim of any organisation.

Musa's Motivations

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE personal antipathy of Mr. Said Musa for Mr. Cyril Davis, and the role Mr. Musa played in recent events, have been greatly exercising our minds here at this newspaper.

It was Mr. Musa, writing in Disweek, who first drew the attention of the public to Mr. Davis' offending Labour Beacon articles about the Chief Justice. And no doubt it was Mr. Musa as Attorney General, who first drew the official attention of the D.P.P. to the articles. It was thus Mr. Musa who in one way or another contributed much to the launching of the prosecution which led to the eventual jailing of Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis you see, is a fervent anti-communist who regards Mr. Musa as ideologically dangerous. And Mr. Musa together with his cohort Mr. Assad Shoman, had been the target of several of Mr. Davis' freewheeling criticisms in the Labour Beacon. This obviously nettled Mr. Musa greatly (1984 being an election

year and all), and the legal slip-up on Mr. Davis' part with the articles concerning the Chief Justice, gave Mr. Musa the opportunity to strike.

Now we do not necessarily agree with Cyril Davis' style, the often overdone nature of his publications. But Mr. Davis remains withal a straightforward man whose stand, by his lights, is one of principle and conscience. However misguided some people might think him, he commands respect for the forthrightness of his position.

Mr. Musa on the other hand, is by contrast an equivocator and a fraud.

Consider: It is Said Musa who is a Senior Counsel, former Attorney General, and supposed crusader for the sanctity of our legal system. Yet it is the same Said Musa who is one of the moving forces behind Disweek, a newspaper published for months now without naming its current printer or proprietor, in direct and flagrant contravention of the requirements of the newspaper ordinance.

It is Said Musa who at the time of the 79 elections moved easily on the bases and in the projects, giving clenched fist salutes and swearing that Black was beautiful. Yet it is Said Musa who on election eve circulated a paper to the Hispanic voters of the Fort George constituency, warning them that a vote for Lindo was a vote for a potential Black Prime Minister, and appealing to the solidarity of "La Raza" to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring.

It is Said Musa who claims to be a social and political progressive, and a champion of the masses. Yet it is Said Musa who in government is the biggest lobbyist for, and contact man of, those monopoly capitalists - the Bowen conglomerate.

It is Said Musa who is supposed to be the leading architect of economic nationalism for Belize. Yet it is Said Musa who allows Brother Billy's Brodies Supermarket to spend precious foreign exchange on the importation of the widest range of luxury items and non-essential consumer fripperies, including frozen cassava from Hialeah, Florida.

It is Said Musa who on becoming a politician suddenly rediscovered religious fervour and who is now a regular churchgoer and communicant at St. Mary's. Yet it is Said Musa whose personal lifestyle can hardly withstand any serious moral scrutiny.

Mr. Cyril Davis has never pretended to be other than what he is. A humble man with strong, unwaveringly held beliefs. He can't talk like Said Musa, he can't write like Said Musa, he can't dissemble like Said Musa.

Yet this Cyril Davis, this so-called convict, is a real friend to the workingman, the poor and the oppressed. And that is something that Said Musa, the bourgeois pretender, will never truly be.

Attack on DISWEEK

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

IF no more 'scholarships' can be arranged, someone really ought to start taking up a collection to send the publishers of *Disweek* to Havana.

This would be for a crash course in the Theory and Practice of Propaganda, a subject which the Cubans, following the precept and example of their Russian masters, have elevated to the status of high art. For if the kind of butchery which *Disweek* increasingly seeks to pass off as reportage and analysis is representative of its best efforts at propaganda, then it is clear that the two comrades who publish the newspaper can never hope, without proper instruction, to become good Marxists when they grow up.

The latest in the series of attempts at a hatchet job, comes in relation to the Cyril Davis affair and the supposed reaction of Dean Barrow and the U.D.P. Lawyers.

According to a statement in a front page article of the last issue of *Disweek*, Barrow at a Courthouse Wharf public meeting "was beside himself in unleashing in the strongest possible terms an attack on the Chief Justice;" and according to an implication in the page two editorial of the

same issue, both Barrow and "the UDP lawyers" attributed motives of bias and political partisanship to the C.J.

This is not just a misquote or misinterpretation of what Barrow and "the UDP lawyers" actually said. It is a deliberate invention and a description of what they did not say.

Mr. Barrow, while criticizing the sentence of imprisonment passed on Cyril Davis, scrupulously refrained from any abuse of the Chief Justice; and at no time did he or any other UDP officer impute motives of impropriety to Mr. Moe.

This kind of crude disinformation of which *Disweek* is increasingly guilty, would make Comrade Lenin, skilled polemicist that he was, turn in his grave. And the two local custodians of the revolution do their already quixotic cause a further disservice when they oblige people to view them as not merely misguided but downright dishonest.

Of course, *Disweek* will want to maintain that what it said and implied is accurate. That being the case, the publishers will in conscience be forced to insist that court proceedings be brought against Barrow

and "the UDP lawyers."
For what *Disweek* reported
them to have said amounts
to contempt if true, and
should not be allowed to
go unpunished.

If *Disweek* is serious
about its charges then, a
prosecution will follow.
But if *Disweek* was merely
playing dirty politics,
the whole matter will be
allowed to slide.

The next move is up to
the Comrades, and their
choice is simple. They
must either put up or
shut up.

CSO: 3298/515

BRIEFS

UDP ELECTIONS--SATURDAY, January 28, 1984, was the closing date for the nomination of Party Leader and Deputy Party Leader of the United Democratic Party. Nominations were received from all six districts of the country. In accordance with the Party's constitution, the Party's Standing Committee on the Leadership met on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to examine the nominations. There being only one person nominated for Leader and one person for Deputy Leader, the Standing Committee has declared that Senator Manuel Esquivel has been duly elected Party Leader and the Hon. Curl Thompson has been duly elected Deputy Party Leader: both for the period 1984 to 1986. Later this year the Party will hold its Biennial Conference, at which members of the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee will be elected for the two year period 1984-1986. At this conference the Party Leader and Deputy Leader will formally take the Oath of Office. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 4 Feb 84 p 1]

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS--THE Minister has set the period 1st January to 31st March for Village Council elections. The respective village councils must now set their election dates after consultation with and advice of the Village Associations comprised of all villagers. As expected, villagers must be notified about election dates. Lists of electors must be published and villages have a right of inspection and objection. Qualifications include (a) residence in village for 3 months, or 6 months in the case of aliens (b) 18 years of age, or if cohabiting as man and wife, less than 18. The Social Development Office may enforce registration and elections if a Village Council refuses to do so. Elections are conducted by the Social Development Department. The announcement that these elections should be non-political comes as a surprise as they have always been known to be political. A public service information by the Voter Education & Research Association (VERA). [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 4 Feb 84 p 3]

UNION-UDP TALKS--WED., JAN. 28--AS a part of its educational programme for its National Executive Officers, the United General Workers' Union recently invited the People's United Party and the United Democratic Party to meet with these officers at its headquarters in Belize City. The purpose of these meetings was for an exchange of ideas on labour matters and other areas of concern to workers. Today the National Executive of United General Workers' Union met with a delegation from the United Democratic Party, the only political party that so far had agreed to meet with officers of said Executive as a result of

these invitations. A lucid discussion was held on labour issues and other topics such as health, housing, education, investment and employment, agriculture and trade, national sovereignty and general development. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 4 Feb 84 p 7]

SENATORIAL APPOINTMENT--Mr Allan Arthurs, JP has been appointed to be a Senator in the Belize legislature. Mr Arthurs' appointment, announced last week, was made by Governor General, Dr Minita Gordon, on the advise of Prime Minister, Mr George Price. Mr Arthurs has served as Deputy Speaker of the House from 1964 to 1969. He has also held public office as Minister of Works, Minister of Power and Communications and Minister of Local Government as the People's United Party representative for Dangriga. Mr Arthurs fills the vacancy in the Senate created by the death of former Senate President, Mr Lloyd Coffin. Senator Gadsby Ramos was elected President of the Senate at the end of last month. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 5 Feb 84 p 2]

SYLVESTRE-PUBLIC SERVICE TALKS--The new Minister of Local Government and the Public Service, Mr Louis Sylvestre, last week met with Permanent Secretaries to discuss matters affecting the Belize Public Service. The Minister expressed concern that morale among public servants appeared low and the image of the Public Service needed urgent improvement. Mr Sylvestre also referred to an article which appeared in one of the weekly newspapers suggesting that there would be purges in the senior levels of the service. He assured Permanent Secretaries that he disassociated himself from the sentiments expressed in the article as this is not the policy of the government. Minister Sylvestre also met last week with a delegation of the Public Service Union. He assured the Union that he would practice an open door policy and hoped that the union would be open to continued dialogue. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 5 Feb 84 p 11]

COUNTERFEIT U.S. DOLLARS--City Police have been on the alert since last week after they discovered a small quantity of counterfeit United States dollars in circulation. The dollar bills, police sources say, are in denomination of 20's, 50's and 100's. The \$20 bills all bear the same serial number G44216008C. The fifty dollar bills all carry the same serial number also. It is G24267764A. The Reporter was not able to obtain the serial number for the hundred dollar bills. The dud bills have been turning up in banks, clubs and other business establishments and it is not yet known how extensive the network might be. The public is being asked to be on the alert for any of these bogus bills. Test all U.S. bills by employing the simple method of rubbing its face against a sheet of white paper. If the ink begins to rub off, chances are that the bill is a fake. Copy the serial number immediately and notify the Police, stating how the money was obtained. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 5 Feb 84 p 1]

ARREST OF COUNTERFEITER--Hendrick Panton of Belize City was arrested Thursday in Orange Walk Town after he was found in possession of four \$100(US) counterfeit bills. Police had been investigating reports that the counterfeit currency had been introduced in several business places throughout the country. It is possible that the Police may now have a lead to the source of the phony money. Earlier the public was advised not to accept any US currency other than from the banks which are equipped with the expertise to detect counterfeit currency. Police also said the counterfeit dollars have been in circulation in Belize since mid January. They said also they had confiscated more than \$800(US) counterfeit bills which are reportedly circulating in \$100, \$50, and \$20 denominations. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 12 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/519

DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWEST OF 1983

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--National unemployment reached its lowest recorded level for 1983 in December at 5.63 percent: 691,206 persons out of an economically active population of 12,277,200 workers in the metropolitan areas of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Recife, and Salvador, according to an announcement yesterday by the IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) Foundation. The unemployment rate in Sao Paulo stood at 5.53 percent, representing 289,639 persons, compared to 6.45 percent in November.

In the opinion of Prof Jesse Montello, chairman of the IBGE, the drop in open unemployment among those seeking work for the first time and those employed previously was due mainly to the greater absorption of manpower in December by the trade and service sectors in connection with Christmas and New Year's Day.

On the other hand, the number of self-employed persons not working for any employer and earning less than the minimum wage rose to 7.22 percent of the economically active population in December (886,413 persons), compared to 5.35 percent in November. In Sao Paulo, the number of self-employed persons earning less than the minimum wage jumped from 2.79 percent in November to 4.36 percent in December (228,359 persons), while in Rio de Janeiro, the rate rose from 6.39 percent to 8.33 percent (303,053 persons).

Also up was the percentage of self-employed persons reporting no income at all in December, when they numbered 137,446, or 1.12 percent of the labor force in the chief metropolitan areas.

In December, the average time that people had spent looking for work remained almost stable at around 16 weeks. The December figure for Sao Paulo was 17 weeks, while for Rio de Janeiro it was 16 weeks, and for Recife it was 21 weeks.

Unemployment in December		
Metropolitan area	Economically	Open unemployment
	active population	
Rio de Janeiro	3.638.100	182.632
São Paulo	5.237.600	289.639
Belo Horizonte	1.026.800	77.420
Porto Alegre	974.200	53.775
Recife	776.600	50.013
Salvador	623.900	36.747

Source: IBGE

Average Rate of Open Unemployment in 1983
(persons 15 years of age and older)

Month	Average rate of unemployment (%)		
	Total	First-time job seekers	Employed previously
January	6,30	0,78	5,52
February	6,14	0,72	5,42
March	7,02	0,80	6,22
April	7,17	0,75	6,42
May	7,03	0,68	6,35
June	6,90	0,64	6,26
July	6,82	0,63	6,19
August	7,00	0,67	6,33
September	7,12	0,64	6,48
October	6,75	0,71	6,04
November	6,51	0,60	5,91
December	5,63	0,52	5,11

Rate of Open Unemployment by Metropolitan Area
(persons 15 years of age and older)

Month	Metropolitan areas--1983						Average rate
	Rio de Janeiro	São Paulo	Porto Ale- gre	Belo Hori- zonte	Recife	Salvador	
January	5,83	6,53	5,45	7,58	6,96	5,61	6,30
February	5,41	6,48	5,83	7,13	7,14	5,20	6,14
March	6,71	7,03	6,99	7,97	8,37	5,58	7,02
April	6,59	7,30	7,08	8,13	8,92	5,77	7,17
May	6,27	7,24	7,38	7,84	8,81	5,59	7,03
June	6,54	7,05	6,85	7,71	7,74	5,47	6,90
July	6,16	7,00	7,17	7,57	8,59	5,04	6,82
August	6,55	6,94	7,79	7,69	8,43	5,93	7,00
September	6,66	7,22	7,32	8,09	8,40	5,55	7,12
October	6,20	6,71	7,14	8,13	8,09	5,73	6,75
November	6,16	6,45	6,22	7,83	7,85	5,49	6,51
December	5,02	5,53	5,52	7,54	6,44	5,89	5,63

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CSO: 3342/68

PCDOB, PCB DISRUPTION OF SAO PAULO MEETING DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial: "PCdoB's 'Direct' Elections"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] It is no secret from anyone that the Communists and their "dissidents" here in Brazil--only here?--and especially the so-called PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil], have always been able to extract participatory effectiveness from the small, tiny--or infinitesimal--number of their proselytes and/or militants. In any public demonstration, meeting, or ceremony indoors or out of doors, they succeed in appearing to be disproportionately larger than any other groups, whether attached to political parties or not. To achieve that, they use well-known "technology"--the tested know-how with which we are all familiar. It consists of arriving ahead of all the other groups (sometimes in the early morning hours), occupying the most strategic spots, building veritable red curtains with their hammer-and-sickle flags and banners (or placing them on the tops of poles and trees), and, at the same time, operating the noisiest and most vociferous of cliques. They provoke the shouting of "words of command" as loudly as possible and create the most shoving, the greatest disturbance, and the greatest din, their purpose being to be the group most /seen/ (photographed and filmed) and most /heard/--the ultimate objective being to give the impression that the entire mass of people gathered there is there to back up their threadbare "anti-imperialist," "anticapitalist," and pro-(communist) "world peace" jargon.

That is exactly what happened at the big meeting in favor of direct elections last 25 January, when about 50 red flags (most of them from the PCdoB and the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], along with a few others--but also blood-red--from the PT [Workers Party]) were set up like veritable curtains directly in front of the speakers' platform, where they were able to block out all other colors, especially the green and yellow of the flags representing the "I Want To Vote for the President" campaign and the national flag (the latter represented by two or three small banners submerged in the crowd). The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] coordinators of the meeting tried in vain to "negotiate" with the leaders (of the PCdoB and the "big party") to have the flags taken down. But only the radio announcer was able to get the flags taken down by saying--with full support from the crowd--that they were totally blocking the view of the artists and their shows on the platform.

It was by using that same "effective" form of participation that the PCdoB managed, by making an uproar, to win the right to join the Sao Paulo committee for direct elections during a meeting at the Legislative Assembly last Tuesday. Its members managed to transform that meeting, which was being held to decide on the next stages of the campaign for direct elections, into something very much like a tumultuous student assembly. With shouting, shoving, swearing, and words of command shouted by its members from atop tables and chairs, and even threats of physical assault, the party prevented objective decisions concerning the campaign from being reached to begin with, and eventually it forced through approval of the resolution to accept as members of the committee any entity that wanted to join--including the PCdoB. So thanks to the ruckus created by 30 or 40 militants occupying a substantial portion of an auditorium designed to accommodate 200 people, it achieved "official acquisition of the right to participate."

More surprising is the fact that such behavior can be inflicted on a large--and naive--majority, and more surprising still is the fact that all of this is supposedly in the name of democracy--is it not true, after all, that the coveted direct presidential elections signify a mobilization effort for the full restoration of democracy? Here is a great irony! Those participating--with the greatest prominence--in the organization of the campaign on behalf of direct elections are precisely the defenders of a type of government system which historically, and in every country in the world where it has managed to achieve power, has always demonstrated the most absolute contempt for anything signifying a vote and anything signifying an election, whether direct or indirect! And to top it all off, they succeed in their "acquisition of the right" to participate through methods which in this case are not at all indirect--on the contrary, they are /directly/ fascist.

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CSO: 3342/68

PCB HOLDS SEVENTH CONGRESS, ELECTS NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Seventeen years after its last meeting, the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB), which has been illegal for 37 years, held its seventh congress on 15 January in downtown Sao Paulo. It elected a new Central Committee with 66 members, 70 percent of whom were elected to that body for the first time. Their number includes seven PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] congressmen, among them Deputies Alberto Goldmann, Marcelo Gatto, and Antonio Resk and City Councilman Luiz Tenorio de Lima, all of Sao Paulo. The PCB's National Executive Committee was enlarged from 7 to 12 members, one of whom is Federal Deputy Roberto Freire (PMDB, Pernambuco).

The Central Committee, which was installed on the 28th, now has 46 new members, the others having been reelected. This change reportedly lowers the average age of the PCB's leaders from 65 to 47. The leadership still includes representatives of 18 states plus the Federal District and consists of congressmen, union leaders, workers, reporters, members of the liberal professions, and even one rancher (see the list below).

Alternatives

In a document consisting of 212 typewritten pages and including an introduction by Giocondo Dias, the PCB's secretary general, the Communists present their "Democratic Alternative for the Brazilian Crisis"--a synthesis, according to Giocondo Dias, of the discussions held by the Communists between May 1981 and mid-1982, some of which were published in the newspaper VOZ DA UNIDADE, the official organ of the PCB. The final text was brought up to date at the end of 1983 and approved at the National Meeting of Communists for Legalization of the PCB, which Dias says was held in January. The secretary general of the PCB said: "We did not meet illegally. It was a meeting held within the law."

The text will be published in book form and released in March, when the establishment of the National Committee for Legalization of the PCB will also be announced. The document is divided into five chapters: "Changes in National Political Life," "International Courses of Action," "Social Transformations in Brazil," "Economic Transformations in Brazil," and "The Path to the Brazilian Revolution."

In the final chapter, where the Communists set forth their strategy, the document says: "In the conditions currently existing in Brazil and the world, there exists a real possibility that the Brazilian revolutionary process will achieve its objectives by paths from which armed struggle, insurrection, and civil war will be excluded." Farther along, it says that the "advance of the Brazilian revolutionary process requires the broadest political democracy. Centered around the democratic issue is the struggle against imperialism and internal reaction.... The Communists are fighting to achieve democracy and peace in the world as conditions that will benefit, among other basic aspects of their struggle, the possibility of achieving revolutionary changes by an unarmed path."

In another place, the text of "Alternative" takes up the question of the military in Brazil: "... a very special case and one that the democratic and progressive forces must confront." According to the document, the Communists feel that participation by the military in sociopolitical life is a "positive phenomenon" and that, "within the framework of a democratic society and a renewed country, we propose that the Armed Forces, in addition to their function as defenders of national sovereignty, play a part in the country's process of economic, technical-scientific, political, and social development." According to the text, the "political system to which we aspire must guarantee the Armed Forces an outstanding position in the building of a society where people's sovereignty is in effect. For that very reason, our revolutionary struggle cannot be entangled in opposition to the military: on the contrary, it presupposes their participation, and that, incidentally, is also in keeping with Brazilian tradition."

Giocondo

In a press interview, Giocondo Dias added that the objective of the Communists is a multiparty system, and the Brazil of the future will be "solidary, sovereign, and democratic as it heads for socialism," as he also says in the introduction to "Alternative." In the Communist view, Brazil today is experiencing a "political impasse": those in power want to prevent alternation in power, and the opposition wants a different government, Giocondo says.

The Communists are committed to the struggle for direct election [of the president], says Giocondo, who considers direct election possible provided that there is "mass mobilization and the opposition forces are united." Giocondo believes that if the Dante Oliveira amendment is not approved by Congress, such complete mobilization and unity would give the opposition strength to negotiate, but, he adds, "it must not mean legitimizing this electoral college, which is a fake set up to ensure that the government does not suffer a solution of discontinuity."

Declaring that the Communists "stand behind the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and the international workers movement because we are for world peace and against war," Giocondo says that the way of working for revolution in Brazil is nevertheless "a problem of our own. We strive to be guided by Marxism-Leninism, we are followers of communism, and we strive to be internationalists."

Central Committee

The PCB National Executive Committee consists of Giocondo Dias (secretary general), Hercules Correa, Givaldo Siqueira, Almir Neves, Salomao Malina, and Theodoro Melo, all reelected; plus the following newly elected members: Roberto Freire (federal deputy for Pernambuco), Ivan Pinheiro (leader of the bank employees union in Rio de Janeiro and secretary of CONCLAT [National Conference of the Working Classes]), Jose Paulo Neto (writer), Regis Frati (publisher of the newspaper VOZ DA UNIDADE), Paulo Elisario (Communist leader in Minas Gerais), and Sergio Moraes (engineer and Communist leader in Rio de Janeiro).

The other members of the Central Committee are the following: Alberto Goldman [spelling variation as published] (federal deputy and secretary general of the PMDB Regional Executive Committee), Arnaldo Goncalves (chairman of the Metallurgical Union in Santos and a member of CONCLAT), Hilario Penha (worker and Communist leader in Rio Grande do Sul), Hermano de Paiva Oliveira (state deputy (PMDB) in Rio Grande do Norte), Abelardo Caminha (economist and Communist leader in Pernambuco), Linolfo Silva (former chairman of the Confederation of Agricultural Workers), Francisco Almeida (reporter and Communist leader in Sergipe), Marcelo Gatto (federal deputy (PMDB) for Sao Paulo), Roberto Argolo (university professor and Communist leader in Bahia), Carlos Alberto Muller (university professor and Communist leader in the Federal District), Jose Alves de Brito (worker, member of the PMDB Executive Committee in Rio de Janeiro, and former deputy), Dinarco Reis (former air force officer), Joao Aveline (reporter and editor of the VOZ DA UNIDADE), Antonio Granja (rural worker and Communist leader in Rio de Janeiro), Onofre da Costa (rancher and Communist leader in Mato Grosso do Sul), Geraldo Rodrigues (former leader of the dockworkers and Communist leader in Rio de Janeiro), Luiz Tenorio de Lima (city councilman (PMDB) in Sao Paulo), Raimundo Jinkings (bank employee and leader in Para), Julio Cesar Ramalho (attorney and Communist leader in Paraiba), Takao Amano (student), Alberto Passos Guimaraes (writer in Rio de Janeiro), and Paulo Cavalcanti (attorney and writer, Communist leader in Pernambuco). Rio de Janeiro sports commentator Joao Saldanha and Sao Paulo scientist Mario Schemberg also belong to the PCB Central Committee, as do Luiz Carlos Azedo (reporter in Rio de Janeiro), Fernando Peixoto (playwright and director of the Theater Department of the Sao Paulo Municipal Secretariat of Culture), Luiz Carlos Moura (Sao Paulo economist), Agenor do Nascimento (Rio de Janeiro metallurgical worker), Expedito da Rocha (Parana sculptor), Luciano Pinho (Sao Paulo sociologist), Paulo Vilar (printing worker and Communist leader in Goias), Antonio Resk (Sao Paulo state deputy (PMDB)), Angelo Del Mato (Sao Paulo worker), Armando Sampaio (Rio de Janeiro sociologist), Noe Gertel (reporter), and Isnard Teixeira (Rio de Janeiro physician).

The other members are: Julio Teixeira (attorney in Rio Grande do Sul), Paulo Santana (aeronaut in Rio de Janeiro), Fued Saad (physician in Sao Paulo), Armando Ziller (leader of bank employees in Minas Gerais), Nilsom Miranda (radio announcer in Alagoas), Cloter Mota (state deputy (PMDB) in Rondonia), Marcos Jaimovich (architect living in Paris), Luciano Barreira (reporter in Ceara), Marcio Almeida (state deputy (PMDB) in Parana), Jairo Regis (reporter in Espirito Santo), Adalberto Timoteo (businessman in Minas Gerais), Jorge

Machado (leader of the reporters union and member of the Federation of Journalists for Amazonas), Jose Raimundo da Silva (leader in bank employees union in Rio de Janeiro), and Yukitako Mito (accountant in Sao Paulo). Reliable sources told O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO that Jarbas Holanda Pereira is also a member of the PCB Central Committee.

11798

CSO: 3342/68

BRIEFS

GIOCONDO ON PRESTES EXPULSION--Giocondo Dias, secretary general of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], yesterday denied a press report concerning the expulsion of Luiz Carlos Prestes from the PCB. "Prestes no longer belongs to the communist ranks because he abandoned the party by no longer appearing at its meetings even when invited to do so." According to Giocondo, no punitive steps were taken against the former leader. "He simply was not chosen to be a member of the PCB's National Committee for Legalization of the PCB." Giocondo Dias said: "Prestes abandoned us and began to engage in activity contrary to the course being pursued by us." Prestes "is against the struggle to legalize the PCB," explained the secretary general, adding that on the subject of the party's legalization, Prestes "has an equivocal viewpoint and one quite different from ours." Before this year is over, Giocondo intends to go before the Superior Electoral Court with an application to register the PCB. But Prestes opposes that step and, according to the secretary general, is against the communists who support the PCB. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 84 p 2] 11798

CSO: 3342/68

BRIEFS

DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER--Lawyer Maria Cristina Mejia de Mejia from the Colombian Department of Antioquia has been appointed deputy communications minister. She replaces Maria Teresa Garces. [Summary] [PA230035 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Feb 84 PA]

TRADE DEFICIT--Gustavo Tobon Londono, director of the Foreign Trade Institute has reported that Colombia's balance of trade deficit in 1983 was 27.6 percent lower than in 1982, decreasing from \$3,269,600 in 1982 to \$2,366,400 in 1983. [Summary] [PA242029 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Feb 84 p 2 PA]

CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP--Guillermo Angulo Gomez, senator for the Department of Tolima, has been appointed president of the Conservative National Directorate, replacing Cundinamarca Senator Alberto Casas Santamaria. Manuel Barcha Garces, former governor and current deputy of Choco Department, was appointed vice president. [Summary] [PA242029 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 2 PA]

CSO: 3348/294

CIVIL SERVANTS IN BATTLE WITH GOVERNMENT OVER WAGE INCREASES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica,
Feb 10 (CANA):

Three years after Dominica accepted an International Monetary Fund (IMF) proposal to limit public sector wage increases to 10 per cent annually, Civil Servants are gearing to negotiate a new pay contract with the Government.

The negotiations later this year for the new three-year contract, to take effect at the start of 1985, will take place amid what the Government says has been an improvement in the economy compared with the last time both sides were at the bargaining table.

Because of the declining state of the economy in 1980, the administration of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, shortly after taking office, entered a 37.5 million dollar (one E.C dollar ;37 cents U.S) loan arrangement with the IMF to pull the country out of trouble.

However, despite the reported upturn in the economy, some officials say the government would like the increase to remain close to 10 per cent so as not to disrupt the process of recovery under way.

The Civil Service Association (CSA) has not yet agreed on how big an increase it will seek for its members.

Newly elected General Secretary, Arthur Smith, said this will depend on a number of factors, including inflation, and the salaries of Dominican Civil Servants compared with those of their counterparts in other Eastern Caribbean countries. The Government says the IMF programme has enabled Dominica to make an immediate start in its recovery, but the implications went far beyond Government revenues and expenditure.

The Government complained that the revenue spent on salaries and wages is too high, noting that "without arrears in 1981-82, it will be over 50 percent compared with other comparable economies in the Caribbean.

In her 1983 budget address, Prime Minister Charles said that 35.7 million dollars or 58 percent of the total recurrent Budget constitutes salaries and wages of Civil Servants.

Two years ago, Dominica's economy was in virtual shambles. Large amounts of current debts remained unpaid, substantial commitments

to the Civil Service could not be met and the Central Government's current accounts deficit had reached a record high of 15.4 million E.C dollars.

Unemployment was rife, industrial relations had reached the lowest ebb in many years, and added to this, was the fact that commercial banks had depleted their resources so that no funds were available for private sector investment.

Miss Charles says thanks to the IMF, things are looking brighter for Dominica. "We have new hopes, new expectations of the fulfilment that is to come. Today we can stand confident that what is now before us is the beginning of a new prosperity".

The Government has said that its effort to stabilise wages both in the public and private sector, the latter being met with mixed feelings by trade unions here, has resulted in a reduced rate of inflation, a stabilisation in the real value of wages, and increased viability of private sector investment.

The Administration has also stated that its pruning or running of the public service labour force meant at all times getting value for wages paid and that the "result has been better organisation, reduced wastage and a great deal more productivity".

"What we have done as a responsible nation is to face reality squarely and grapple with the problems that confronted us however distasteful they were" said Miss Charles.

Latest figures issued by the Statistics Department here showed that overall, Dominica's consumer price index has remained stable during the past year, the percentage change from December 1982-1983 being 2.7 per cent up on the previous four per cent recorded in 1981-81.

Labour Minister Brian Alleyne, in an address to a union seminar earlier this month, indicated that in the period 1982-83, Dominica's rate of economic growth slowed to 3.3 per cent.

In the last pay agreement, the CSA was able to receive an average 72 per cent salary hike for public servants here over a six year period after they had used the cost of living figures from 1973-78.

The union has indicated that the negotiations are unlikely to be stormy, given the cooperation the Eugenia Charles Administration has received from the CSA since it came to power in 1980.

"We don't anticipate anything. When one cooperates, one expects that it will be returned," General Secretary Smith said.

COMMENT ON CONSERVATIVE PARTY, OTHER DESIGNS FOR CHANGE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Clement Rohee]

[Text] THERE is a biblical saying that evil breeds evil. Placed in the context of our people's suffering here in Guyana and the recent expose in North America regarding the arrest of eight members of the so-called Conservative Party of Guyana (CPG) for allegedly purchasing arms with the aim of using them to physically eliminate top Guyana government officials, this maxim holds some merit.

What does this imply?

Persistent unemployment and crime, hunger and poverty, mass disillusionment and disenchantment are social evils that breed extremist actions by ultra-rightist as well as ultra-leftist groups. These actions which are usually terroristic in nature can be as ugly and evil as one can imagine.

The plans and actions of the the CPG must not be seen in isolation. It must be placed in a global context where in the wake of the U.S-led invasion of Grenada, extreme right-wing political forces and even governments in one country or another, are becoming more and more emboldened in their actions. The fact that one of the CPG agents admitted that "they thought they were dealing with the C.I.A" implies that with the present mood of the Reagan administration, once you're with the C.I.A and against communism you're bound to get U.S backing.

Unbearable State of Affairs

Here in Guyana there are two fundamental issues on which the overwhelming majority of people are agreed on, these are; (a) that the present state of affairs in the country is unbearable if not sickening and (b) that there is an urgent need for a radical change of the present regime. The character of this change must correspond with the wishes of the majority, and a new set of policies aimed at bringing about an improvement in the living and working conditions of the people must be elaborated and implemented.

It is precisely because of the unhealthy state in the economic life of the country and its attendant social evils that some sections of the Guyanese population are impelled to accept any attempt, even by "the devil himself" to remove the PNC party from power--as something that ought to be welcomed. Moreover, today in Guyana it is to be regretted that there are some hoping and wishing for "saviours" from PNC rule to come from outside of this country's borders.

The emergence of the CPG and the exposure of the objectives which it set itself must be seen as a natural outcome of a situation nurtured by the PNC regime in which corruption, maladministration, poverty and human suffering are the hallmarks of its social fabric. The positive features of the regime continue to be restricted basically to foreign policy and the gap between domestic and foreign policy is a reality which few would fail to recognise.

More Harm and Suffering

Practice has shown that regimes which pursue anti-people policies at home over a prolonged period, by their very nature, create the conditions that lead to actions of the kind in which the CPG was caught red-handed. It must be noted also that in some countries, there have been experiences where actions of both ultra-leftist and ultra-rightist groups, resorting to terroristic methods of struggle, have caused more harm and suffering than an improvement in the well being of the people.

Sadat, one of the most despicable leaders in the Arab world, and several of his top aides were assassinated in 1981 by a group opposed to his military bureaucratic methods of rule. But what benefits did his assassination bring the Egyptian people? None whatsoever, only a change in president, more reprisals and continued suffering. The Red Brigade in Italy assassinates prominent Italian political figures, bomb public civilian utilities, etc; to what end?....Total alienation from the bulk of the population and no improvements for the people.

The actions, planned or executed by these groups--and the CPG is no exception--are elitist in nature, that is, without any involvement of the popular masses, seeing them as passive from which nothing more can be expected and for which one can only be sorry.

Maximum Involvement of Working People

The point must be made in the clearest possible terms: any attempt to effect a change of government in this country must be done with the maximum involvement of the working people, for it is those who live and work here in Guyana that suffer directly from the consequences of PNC misrule. It is the working people themselves together with their mass organisations and political vanguard, who must press on and fight for a National Patriotic Front Government based on democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist orientation. The destiny of the nation lies in the hands of all who are genuinely concerned about its future and are prepared to make a contribution, one way or another to make Guyana a land free from want, hunger and human suffering. Our salvation does

not lie in the actions of a bunch of extremists based overseas who have made anti-communism the essence of their ideological platform.

Taking a resolute stand against the CPG and what it stands for does not in any way mean being apologists for the PNC regime or "saving" it from would-be liberators as some would try to make out.

No Quick-Fix Solutions

Cheddi Jagan, PPP General Secretary in his New Year's message to the nation stressed that insofar as Guyana's problems are concerned, "there are no quick-fix answers. Those who think that the U.S imperialists and those with whom they conspire and secretly finance will provide panaceas for all our ills must think again."

In the early 1960s, many who are still aground ganged up with the same CIA to "save Guyana from the PPP and communism" and provide "free milk and cassava". Look where we are now as a result. Now, it is the CPG and local anti-communist elements who want to save Guyana from "the PNC and communism (Sic!) and provide the people with dholl, flour, milk etc.

The PPP abides by the principle that terrorism and extremism are totally unacceptable ways of resolving social problems. They are counter-productive in the struggle for bread and social justice.

Our social and economic problems must and can be solved within the frame-work of a political solution which must be enforced on the, regime by the popular masses through struggle. It will not come served on a platter. Let us have no illusions about this!

CSO: 3298/490

IMPLICATIONS, CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT DECISION TO DEVALUE

Government-TUC Talks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] THE likely implications and impact of the new rate for the Guyana dollar featured at discussions yesterday between a top-level Government team and representatives of the Trades Union Congress [TUC].

And, according to reports at the end of yesterday's discussions head of the government team, Finance and Planning Minister Carl Greenidge, announced that from early next month arrangements would be finalised for the activation of the State Planning Board and the National Economic and Social Council.

The TUC will be represented on both bodies in keeping with legislation which established the State Planning Commission.

No details of the discussions are readily available, but it is known that the government team explained to the TUC delegation the rationale behind the adjustment of the exchange rate of the Guyana dollar and its linkage to a basket of currencies.

The new exchange rate "as expressed in terms of the US dollar," is 3,75 Guyana dollars to one US dollar. The previous rate was three Guyana dollars to one US dollar.

The decision to activate the State Planning Board and the National Economic and Social Council is, among other things, intended to provide the TUC and other agencies with greater opportunity for active involvement in the formulation of national economic policy.

The State Planning Board will oversee the country's planning policy as well as oversee the operations of the State Planning Secretariat and the principal organs of the State Planning Commission--the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and a technical advisory body.

The NESC comprising representatives from all walks of life, will monitor trends in major socio-economic variables and advise the Minister of Economic Planning and Finance on issues such as Labour, Production, Nutrition and Women's Affairs.

Its membership must include representatives of the Guyana Manufacturers' Association, the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industries, the Guyana Consumers' Association, the Guyana Co-operatives Union and the TUC.

The 18-member TUC delegation at yesterday morning's meeting included President Samuel Walker, General Secretary Joseph Pollydore, and first Vice-President George Daniels.

With Minister Greenidge were Manpower and Co-operatives Minister Kenneth Denny, Governor of the Bank of Guyana Pat Matthews, Chairman of the State Planning Board Haslyn Parris, and Terrence Hunte of the State Planning Secretariat.

Economic Opportunities

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] LOCAL entrepreneurs should take advantage of the recent adjustment of the exchange rate of the Guyana dollar and make greater use of indigenous resources, a three-member panel stressed Thursday night.

Sugar, bauxite, rice and most other products manufactured for export stand to gain from the rate adjustment and if more local inputs are used in the manufacturing process, opportunities for employment would be increased, the panelists agreed.

The panel was discussing the economic implications of government's decision to activate the basket mechanism for determining the external value of the Guyana dollar.

During the half-hour programme broadcast by the GBC, they noted that the adjustment of the exchange rate of the Guyana dollar would result in an increase in the Guyana dollar value of this country's export earnings. They also noted however, that there will be an increase in the cost of imported inputs.

The panellists were Harold Davis, Chairman of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, Bernard Crawford, Chairman of the Bauxite Industry Development Company, and David Yankana Executive Vice-President of the Guyana State Corporation.

The programme was the second in a series being produced by the GBC to explain the implications of the recent decision. The next programme "Face the Nation" will feature Finance and Planning Minister Carl Greenidge.

Guysuco Chairman Harold Davis noted that Guyana can earn some \$77,2 million more than was projected earlier for this year because of the currency adjustment.

This year, sugar production was targeted to yield \$258,6 million (G) from the export of the commodity, but earnings (in Guyana dollars) are now likely to increase to \$335,8 million.

Davis noted also that the cost of capital inputs to increase factory output would move from \$64,7 million to over \$87 million (G).

In one of his interventions, Yankana pointed out that corporations within the Guystac Group will have to pay an additional \$12 million (G) in commercial payment arrears to the Bank of Guyana.

He said that since the trading Corporations will have to pay more for imports, prices to consumers would increase correspondingly. He stressed however, that efforts will be made to minimise the level of price increases.

Cost to Guysuco

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] THE recent 25 per cent devaluation of the Guyana dollar is counter-productive. The government's manoeuvre to gain financial advantages through exports will eventually be detrimental to the economy.

Local costs for imports and loans will increase because of devaluation but the regime seems more concerned at the moment with showing an increase in earnings from overseas to balance its books and to possibly help bridge the gap in this year's budget now in the making.

An example of how devaluation backfires is given by Harold Davis, Chairman of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, in the 1981 Report on the Corporation. Davis, in analysing the financial results of that "most disappointing year" said that "exchange loss on re-alignment of Guyana dollar equals \$20. million." 1981 was the year of the previous devaluation. This present devaluation is again intended to make some more 'paper' money from sugar sold to Europe. The industry will be further destroyed.

The Guyana govt., said it would resist pressures from the International Monetary Fund to devalue the dollar. The IMF/Guyana talks were reported to have been stalemated. However, the action of the government amounts to the same thing. It seems that the regime wants to prove that it is independent. It will not devalue because of IMF pressures. The PNC prefers to do so on its own.

PPP Statement

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] THE People's Progressive Party, in a statement has strongly attacked the most recent devaluation of the dollar which was announced in the Wednesday "Guyana Chronicle" after the statutory Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. Avoiding the use of "devaluation", the Government statement referred to "an adjustment under a basket of currencies", but by whatever name it is called, the devaluation has already hit consumers. Among the first prices to rise were air fares. Soon to be announced will be increased cable rates, overseas telephone and most probably postal rates. The PPP in its statement charged the government with bringing about retrogression and called for an end to extravagance, corruption and racial and political discrimination. The statement follows:

The PNC regime has again devalued the Guyana dollar. Its value has now gone down from a rate of G\$3.03=US\$1 to G\$3.75 = US\$1, nearly 25 percent. This will mean more burdens on the already over-burdened working people.

Since Guyana is a largely underdeveloped country with very little industrialisation, most of our needs--foods, medicinal products, fertilisers, insecticides, raw materials, spare parts, machinery--have to be imported. The devaluation will cause prices, already fantastically high in the official and parallel markets, to go up higher.

The advantage gained by industries such as sugar and bauxite in earning some more Guyana dollars for their exports will be offset by increased costs for imports such as fuel, fertilisers, spare parts, etc. And the gains made by the Treasury from overseas loans will be offset by increased debt charges.

Our burdensome debt and compensation payments will increase. In 1983, they were estimated at G\$456 million out of an expected current revenue of G\$600 million; in other words, 76 cents out of every dollar collected in taxes and fees from the hard-pressed Guyanese people. These payments are largely responsible for the growing and large budget deficits. Since 1978 with the first IMF agreement, the government has been trying without success to keep down the deficits by a combination of methods--wage freeze, cuts in social services and subsidies, increased taxation, retrenchment, high mark-ups in trading--which have caused rapidly declining living standards.

The devaluation will increase the budget deficits and will be accompanied by more burdens on the backs of the people. Already, taxation has been increased in relation to matters pertaining to customs. It has now become a practice to introduce taxation not at budget time, but before and after. This dishonesty is intended to fool the workers by creating impressions of tax-free budgets.

Devaluation is not a cure. It will only compound the problems plaguing the economy and the people. The PPP said so since 1978 when the first IMF agreement was signed.

Guyana does not need retrogression, which devaluation means. It needs progress which can only come from genuine democracy, and an end to extravagance, corruption and racial and political discrimination. Only this way will production and productivity be increased, and more revenue (Guyana dollars) and foreign exchange (foreign dollars) will be earned.

This however, cannot be achieved under the PNC regime with an alienated labour force and low morale. It can be achieved only through a political solution, a broad based National Patriotic Front government, and short and long term measures proposed by the PPP at its 21st Congress. All-round mass struggle--economic, political, theoretical/ideological--must be mounted to bring it about.

TIES WITH CUBA SPOTLIGHTED AT RALLY, IN TEAM TALKS

Cuban Anniversary Gathering

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Jan 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] DESPITE imperialist aggression, Cuba has been able to make remarkable strides in the fields of health, education, culture and sports, Cuban Ambassador to Guyana Senor Lazaro Cabezas Gonzales told a rally Wednesday night.

Speaking on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, Senor Gonzales said that since the Castro Revolution of 1959, the Cuban economy has witnessed an annual growth rate of some four per cent.

The rally which was organised by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, in collaboration with the Cuban Embassy here, was held at the Bishops' High School.

Delivering the main address at the meeting was Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture Cde Sallahuddin who emphasised the lessons to be learnt from the Cuban Revolution.

"It has shown that once a people has the will to survive, even in the face of overwhelming odds, they are bound to survive," the Minister said.

He said the Cuban Revolution points to the need for organic unity within the party and between the masses and the party.

In the absence of such unity, he concluded, the Cuban revolution would have been liquidated.

Earlier, Chairman of the rally Cde Halim Majeed observed that imperialism, at the present time, is even more dangerous than before.

The deployment of cruise missiles on European soil, economic aggression against small states like Guyana and Nicaragua and the illegal invasion of the sovereign state of Grenada are examples of this, Majeed said.

Quoting the great Cuban thinker and revolutionary Jose Marti who once said that revolutions are barren if they are not affirmed by the pen at school and

by the plough in the field, Majeed contended that after 25 years, "the plough of the revolution has dug deeply on the Cuban soil and the pen of the revolution has written indelibly on the pages of Cuban history."

A message from the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress noted that the revolutionary process which began in Cuba 25 years ago and which continues to gain momentum as the people of Cuba strive to consolidate their independence and chart their own destiny continues to be a source of inspiration to the people of Guyana.

In its message, the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, spoke about the close links which exist between the peoples of Cuba and Guyana in their struggle to build Socialism.

"It is noteworthy that at several fora, Guyana and Cuba have worked together in the struggle to maintain the principles from which all states should pattern their behaviour in order to secure and guarantee international peace and stability," the message said.

The Cuban Ambassador to Guyana, in his presentation on the achievements of the Cuban revolution referred to the fact that more than 20 000 scholars from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are studying in Cuba.

Noting that the enemies of Cuba are questioning the achievements of the Cuban people, he said Cuba was helping more than 36 countries in the field of health, education and other areas, with thousands of Cuban workers in some countries.

"With those facts, we can demonstrate that our people are living in the most advanced social system..." the Ambassador said.

He said Cuba has never vacillated in confronting the new imperialist aggression of the US administration.

Co-Op Delegation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Jan 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] TWO members of Cuba's Foreign Affairs Ministry left Georgetown yesterday, after holding "constructive" discussions over the last week with senior government officials.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry said the discussions were a prelude to the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission meeting to be held in Havana from January 21-28.

Minister of Health and Public Welfare Richard Van West Charles will lead a six-member Guyana delegation to the upcoming meeting, the ninth since the signing of a co-operation agreement between Guyana and Cuba in 1975. Last year's meeting was held in Guyana in March.

The Cubans--Director of the Latin American Division Nicolas Rodriguez, and Head of the Caribbean Department Nelson Restano--were under a memorandum of co-operation between the foreign ministries of Guyana and Cuba.

While in Georgetown, they met with Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson, with whom they discussed international situations, including that in Central America and the Caribbean.

The Cubans also spoke with Health Minister Richard Van West Charles, Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation Winston Murray, Chief Political Adviser to the President Elvin McDavid and PNC Executive Secretary for International Relations, Malcolm Parris.

CSO: 3298/490

FORMER OFFICIAL VOWS FREEDOM FROM BURNHAM RULE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 5

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN,
January 5, (CANA):

A former Deputy Premier of Guyana said here today he believed Guyanese would inevitably free themselves from what he called the oppression of the Forbes Burnham Government.

Brindley Benn, Secretary General of the small opposition Peoples Vanguard Party, said in an interview: "Wherever there is oppression there will be resistance and at some state, sometime, somehow, the people will find a way of liberating themselves from this oppression."

Benn was deputy to left wing Premier Dr. Cheddi Jagan during the Peoples Progressive Party's (PPP) administration between 1961 and 1964.

He said the Burnham Government was "overwhelmingly disliked" by Guyanese but remained in power by military force and practised a deformed state of capitalism whereby only a small elite in the public and private sectors benefited.

Benn said demonstrations against food shortages over the years and protests in the bauxite and sugar industries and "turmoil" in the trade union movement were examples of Guyanese resistance to the Burnham administration.

The opposition politician said protest positions were being put forward in Guyana, but "they don't seem loud and clear because of the threat of military and police repression."

Benn claimed there was massive unemployment with 35 per cent or more of the labour force out of work and several factories closed because of the country's severe foreign exchange shortage.

The politician, a businessman, is on a private visit to Trinidad.

CSO: 3298/490

PNC ACCUSED OF USING GRENADA SITUATION FOR ATTACKING WPA

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 3 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The ruling party, the PNC, in its weekly organ New Nation and on state radio has now accused the WPA of "helping to coordinate the invasion of sovereign Grenada". This ugly lie exposes the PNC as having no real interest in the suffering people of Grenada and in getting at the truth, but merely in making cheap propaganda against its own enemies, namely the WPA.

The WPA has now to be prepared to be accused of any crime, provided it is dirty enough to suit the PNC's purposes. While invader Seaga is accusing Burnham of tipping off Grenada, no crime in itself, Burnham is accusing a phantom WPA member of grave treachery, that is, obtaining and passing NJM's minutes to the US.

All this has one explanation. The PNC hates and fears the WPA and is stepping up its programme to get progressive parties abroad not to have any contact with the WPA. Earlier in 1983, a high-powered presidential delegation headed by Elvin McDavid visited the London headquarters of the Socialist International in order to smear and slander the WPA, a member party of that organisation.

The most recent PNC slander even admitted the assassination of Walter Rodney when it said that "some time ago" the government "recognised the imperialist role of the WPA" and the Guyanese people "carried out a campaign to stamp out imperialism". This is the double talk of executioners.

According to the PNC, it was after the alleged people's campaign that the WPA "moved to Grenada, another socialist country". There the NJM made the mistake of allowing them to join its ranks. They obtained minutes and passed them to the US, according to the investigations of the PNC, which has so many unsolved crimes on hand here in Guyana.

The PNC did once identify two "agents of imperialism" who surfaced, they said, during the bauxite strike of mid 1983. The PNC even named them. But when responsible citizens demanded their immediate expulsion, the PNC failed to honour that demand for respect for Guyana's sovereignty.

The WPA calls on the PNC to name just one single member of the WPA who went to Grenada and joined the NJM and to name such a person as responsible for handing over documents of any kind to the US.

Will the PNC government also care to explain why it declared no day or days of mourning in respect of the death of Maurice Bishop and his colleagues and paid no formal tribute to their memory, in these respects behaving no better than the governments of the CARICOM countries which supported the US invasion?

[Editor's Note: The 25 December issue of the PNC organ NEW NATION, in English, page 1, had carried the following report under the heading "WPA--Agents of Imperialism":]

THE Working People's Alliance, more aptly known as the Worst Possible Alternative, has been identified as agents of imperialism.

Recent reports coming out of Grenada identified the WPA as the group that helped co-ordinate the invasion of sovereign Grenada. One report charged the WPA with providing the United States with minutes of important meetings of the New Jewel Movement.

After the PNC government some time ago recognised the imperialist role of the WPA and the people of this country carried out a campaign to stamp out imperialism, the group moved to Grenada, another Socialist country.

The New Jewel Movement made the mistake of taking in those members of the WPA thereby making it easy for them to infiltrate the Party hierarchy.

The documents of the NJM meetings exhibited by the United States after the invasion of Grenada were provided by the WPA.

CSO: 3298/490

PNC, U.S. ASSAILED FOR FOOD SHORTAGES, OTHER ILLS

MIRROR Editorial

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] THE steady rise in the cost of living compounded by the inability of the PNC regime to distribute available commodities fairly and the ever-present spectre of shortages of basic goods have, altogether, created gigantic hardships for the Guyanese working people. The inability of the working people to cope with the rising living expenses is exacerbated by frozen wages, unemployment, seasonal unemployment and job insecurity.

IT is a national disgrace that essential goods produced locally are distributed in a manner in which the lower income groups very rarely obtain any, except on the blackmarket. Why is it that soap, margarine, matches, toothpaste, soap powder, cooking oil, to name a few locally produced goods, and which the government exercises control in distribution, end up at the country's markets at, sometimes, ten times the original price? Why is it that the government can distribute these scarce goods to some employees at their offices or workplaces, but not to all workers?

SUGAR workers, for example, who constitute one of the important sources of foreign exchange by producing sugar, rum and molasses, are not taken into account when such distribution goes on.

THE government spends a lot of energy tracking down traders of flour and split peas, but seems disinterested in the rackets that go on as regards locally produced essentials. The prices which poor people are obliged to pay for soap, margarine and oil are criminal.

DISTRIBUTION is in a mess and it all began when the government took over controls in order to pass on scarce goods to its own political family, the KSI and the WRSM in particular. These processes have fomented unbelievable hardships among the people and have led to greater and greater charges of discrimination. We saw recently the disgusting display at the PNC Market Day of scarce goods being sold at normal prices as an inducement for a crowd at a PNC rally. Without the goods, scarcely anyone would have been there to hear Mr. Burnham speak.

THE PNC's grave mistakes at numerous levels have led to sharp declines in production. There have been drops in the production of milk, poultry, pork and in other basic foods. The drop in pork production, for example, has caused the price to rise to \$9 per pound, whereas, before, pork had been a relatively cheap food.

THE cost of poultry and eggs have risen starkly and this has to do, as in pork production, with supplies of stock feed--poor quality, low quantity and high price. The same applies to mil. Milk is now a luxury which only the high-salaried can afford, at \$1.50 to \$1.80 per pint and frequently watered down. The imported product, which enters Guyana at a reasonable price, reaches the market place at an exorbitant price, totally out of the reach of the lower income group. The distribution of the imported variety is so poorly handled that it reaches, mainly, the upper income group at the normal price and only to expectant mothers and children attending clinics. But even the latter attempt to reach the masses has its defects and there have been frequent charges of discrimination. Besides, children above the age limit served by the clinics need milk up to and through adolescence. But few, except in well-to-do households consume milk on any regular basis. It is far too expensive.

PEOPLE, on the whole are happy that a parallel market exists, even though the prices are crazily high. Without the parallel market there would probably be food riots and this may be one of the reasons that the PNC turns a 'Nelson' eye to its existence.

ONE thing is certain and that is the PNC government has shown its total inability to handle the distribution system without discrimination or corruption.

U.S. Role

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Sase Parasnath]

[Text] ALTHOUGH the United States has tried its utmost to stagnate the further development of Guyana's agriculture, it cannot deter this country from continuing along the socialist path of development.

Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Cde M. Sallahuddin, yesterday said Guyana would continue to relentlessly pursue its food drive, to feed this nation from its own resources.

At the formal opening of a million-dollar access road at Mon Repos, East Demerara, Cde. Salahuddin spoke about the United States manipulating food prices, of that country paying its farmers nearly \$40 billion last year not to produce food and of President Reagan introducing a Bill recently to pay dairy farmers not to produce milk this year.

The Minister told the gathering that Guyanese must seek to plant their yards and farms with abundant crops.

He said that the road will facilitate hundreds of farmers in the area to transport their produce to market.

He urged residents to cultivate fruit trees along the road. This will help to beautify the surroundings and at the same time provide food.

But he warned: "Keep your surroundings clean and free from weeds. You're guardians of this community and must always care what belongs to you."

Regional Chairman Ivan Remington, in his remarks, said the road will serve a useful purpose in the community. Cde Walter Bipat of the Regional Democratic Council chaired the proceedings.

Radmini Ramsahoye, student of Mon Repos Primary School, cut the ribbon to officially open the road.

CSO: 3298/491

NEW REGULATIONS SEEK TO CURB PROBLEMS IN GOLD INDUSTRY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] NEW regulations intended to further streamline the gold industry with a view to curbing irregularities will come into effect early this year, Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid said yesterday.

Cde. Rashid also spoke of action to be taken early in 1984 to give the courts additional powers to impose harsher penalties on persons found breaching these new regulations.

In September last year, the National Assembly approved a Bill empowering the Minister of Energy and Mines to make regulations governing mining claims and the registration and licensing of dredges in Guyana's six mining districts.

The Bill, also makes provision for the forfeiture of any aircraft, ship, carriage, dredge and specified machinery used for any act or purpose prohibited under the Mining Act.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Congress of the People Wednesday approved a resolution calling on government to "increase the penalties, including mandatory prison terms, for offences that deprive the nation of its natural resources."

Noting that there was "a substantial leakage" of mineral resources to the detriment of national recovery efforts, the resolution also calls for a strengthened monitoring mechanism to effectively police the country's mineral and forestry resources.

The resolution states that government should take the necessary initiatives to ensure that any monitoring mechanism is manned by "competent and reliable officials who would execute their function without fear or favour."

Cde. Rashid said that while there has been "a substantial improvement" in the sale of gold to the Gold Board since higher prices and special incentives for miners were introduced last September, much work remains to be done to ensure that a greater percentage of gold is channelled to the Board.

Since September 1983, the Guyana Gold Board has been paying miners 4,9 times the United States dollar price for gold.

The new measures announced by the Energy and Mines Ministry last year, also provide for the granting of credit to the mining industry by the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, and the creation of a foreign exchange account with the Bank of Guyana.

Miners should be able to acquire imported spares through this account, based on the level of their sales of gold to the Gold Board.

CSO: 3298/494

MIRROR SAYS 'DISASTROUS SITUATION' AFFECTS RICE INDUSTRY

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Regional Council No. 6 (East Berbice-Corentyne) was told recently that a disastrous situation is developing in the rice industry, despite the government's much-touted agricultural drive, PPP member Budhram Mahadeo, (who is also the President of the Rice Producers' Association) said that "out of an area of about 22,000 acres in Block 3 Scheme, only 8,000 acres are now being irrigated by the Mannerabisi pumps" in addition to which there is not enough water available. The farmers are therefore using private pumps for which service they pay a very high fee.

Mr. Mahadeo explained that in this way "these farmers pay twice for water to irrigate their fields....once to the Drainage and Irrigation Board through the local authority and then again to private owners for their pumps." He urged the Regional authorities to irrigate all the farmers' lands, or in default to, refrain from imposing rates on them for services not being rendered.

Mr. Mahadeo further told the Council that because of a bag shortage throughout the country "16,000 acres of rice were left in the fields in the entire country during the last crop" therefore "the Region must try to secure enough empty bags from now on to avoid a recurrence of that great loss." He reiterated the demand of the Rice Producers' Association (a statutory body) for import licences to be given the organisation, so that it can import enough empty bags for the nation's farmers.

Mr. Mahadeo also raised an issue pertaining to a farmer named Anjanie Singh of Cumberland Canje. This woman has a sad experience with the GRB and the PPP Councillor urged the Council to take up her case.

According to Mr. Mahadeo, Ms. Singh paid \$285 to the GRB in 1980 for preparation of her rice lands. The taks was not performed, and onto now the fee has not been refunded. The same woman paid \$875 in 1982 to the GRB for reaping her rice crop. In this latter instance she was told by officials to "wait" a little, and her rice would be reaped. The rice was not reaped. Left in the fields, it was eaten by cows. Despite the fact that she pays rates and taxes to the local authority, when she requested the impounding of the cattle eating her rice, nothing was done either. Mr. Mahadeo therefore urged the RDC to take up Ms. Singh's case to see that her money is refunded.

PROBLEMS WITH EQUIPMENT, FUNDS SLOW REGION 2 DEVELOPMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] ANNA REGINA, [GNA]--The lack of excavation equipment, financial constraints, and predial larceny were identified as major problems which hindered the work of the administration of Region Two during the last quarter of 1983.

As a result of those problems, the Regional Administration was forced to postpone some of the major projects which were planned for last year. These will now be undertaken during 1984.

According to reports from Regional councillors at a recent Accountability Meeting, the programme of the construction and maintenance section as well as the work planned by the Drainage and Irrigation Department was severely hampered by the lack of equipment and financial problems.

The councillors noted that these factors together with low rainfall towards the end of the year resulted in heavy losses in the agricultural sector especially to the rice farmers.

Essequibo residents claim that much of the damage was done to their agricultural produce as a result of poor water control. They are contending that there was little or no attempt by the Regional Administration to provide adequate drainage and irrigation facilities.

However, the councillors noted that pumps were put into operation and are still working overtime to assist rice farmers who will be reaping their paddy during this month.

It is estimated that a total of 4 050 hectares of land are under rice cultivation at the moment and another 9 725 hectares are being prepared for the first crop of this year.

The councillors reported that while the lack of excavation equipment had led to the use of more manual labour, there were still many people who were unwilling to become engaged in manual labour.

During the latter part of the year, farmers, especially those who farm far from home, lost much of their crops to thieves.

The Police Department has instituted regular patrols and the magistrate attached to the Region has handed down severe penalties to persons found guilty of stealing.

Regional Chairman Kenneth Hopkinson in addressing the meeting said that he was satisfied with the quality of work of his officers and congratulated the workers for resourcefulness in using indigenous materials to prevent further damage to the foreshore.

He said that, despite all the problems experienced by the farmers, the Region was able to surpass the targets set for each crop and he praised the farmers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

CSO: 3298/494

BURNHAM ADDRESSES CONGRESS; OTHER PNC ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Burnham at Special Congress

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

LEADER of the People's National Congress, Cde. Forbes Burnham, told delegates to the Special Congress of the Party last weekend, that Guyanese are showing amazing resilience and understanding in these dark days. It shows that we still have tremendous support as a Party, he said.

There is no alternative to the PNC, the Party which led Guyana through the dark days prior to independence ... the days of soothsayers and false prophets, Cde. Burnham said.

Contrary to the expectations of many, our country has not only remained united but has prospered, he added.

He said when we made a reality of public ownership and control of the heights of the economy and put a stranglehold on the trans-nationals, we set an example for Third World countries to follow.

Today we are not completely self-sufficient. But the People's National Congress has provided the people of Guyana with food to the extent that no Guyanese can imagine a riot for food in this country, Cde. Burnham said.

He added that the PNC wants to make every kind of food available to every Guyanese "in our time."

The successful completion of a number of developmental projects in 1984 is dependent on the efforts of us Guyanese. But this will necessitate much harder work, Cde. Burnham said.

Among the works targeted for next year are the glass factory which should be productive by 1985, the Agriculture Research Institute, the President's College and the second phase of the Congress Place Complex, he said.

"There is no turning back. In our lifetime Guyana will turn the corner. The clouds will disappear and the sun will come through. But it is going to be a struggle," he said.

He called on the people of Guyana to drive themselves like slaves since they are paying the price for being independent. The price is economic pressure, the possibility of military pressure and opposition. "If we do not pay the price, the reward will be temporary", Cde. Burnham noted.

"Let us drive ourselves like slaves. It is better to die young seeking achievement than to die old and be despised. Let us do away with time that will be spent idly," Cde. Burnham charged.

Warning on Factionalism

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] FACTIONALISM can be fatal and anyone within the People's National Congress found encouraging this type of behaviour will be removed ruthlessly, Leader of the Party, Cde. Forbes Burnham, told delegates to the Special Congress of the Party.

He said factionalism within the New Jewel Movement of Grenada was the invitation to the invasion of that sovereign state.

And to ensure the defence of Guyana from any act of military aggression Cde. Burnham called on all Guyanese to be members of the Guyana People's Militia, a part of this country's defence capability.

"As a leader, I call on you to make further sacrifices; sacrifices in the form of training in the Guyana People's Militia," Cde Burnham said.

He said the people of Guyana have to cope with the greatest imperialist attitude in this part of the world. The juggernaut of imperialism does not regard friendship. What is called friendship is actually control, he added.

With a reference to the behaviour of those who consider themselves friends of the United States, Cde. Burnham said they are in fact tools of the United States and with time they will find out.

He added that the imperialists are prepared to break the very laws they implement if they choose to make an example of any country that behaves in a manner considered inimical to the interests of the imperialist forces.

Grenada is the most recent example of aggressive imperialist behaviour.

Central Executive Committee

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

IN what has been described as an historic move, the Special Congress elected the majority of the members to the Central Executive Committee when a Special Congress was convened last weekend.

Prior to the elections the Party Secretariat invited the groups, through their districts, to submit their nominations. They nominated 148 persons, 98 of whom immediately declined the nomination.

On the day of the elections, the campaign was

hectic and a further 20 declined.

Former Party Treasurer, Cde Hyacinth Godett, polled the most votes, 640 of a possible 651. Other persons to poll in excess of 600 votes were WRSM Chairman, Cde Viola Burnham, Cde Hamilton Green, Cde Robert Corbin and Cde Robert Williams.

The 15 elected members are Cde Hyacinth Godett, Cde Viola Burnham, Cde Robert Corbin, Cde Hamilton Green, Cde Richard Van West, Charles,

Cde Desmond Hoyte, Cde Cammie Ramsaroop, Cde Mohamed Shahabuddeen, Cde Ranji Chandisingh, Cde Robert Williams, Cde Seeram Prashad, Cde Sallahuddin, Cde Malcolm Parris, Cde Gowkarran Sharma and Cde Harun Rashid.

Of these, many had served as members of the Central Committee under the old constitution. Cde Viola Burnham, Cde Gowkarran Sharma and Cde Malcolm Parris were members by virtue of their offices.

Cde Richard Van West Charles, Cde Harun Rashid and Cde Seeram Prashad are the new members to the

committee.

Two members were also appointed to the Central Committee in keeping with the constitution which has vested Party Leader, Cde. Forbes Burnham, with the power to appoint additional members.

Cde Ptolemy Reid has been appointed Deputy Leader and General Secretary of the Party while Cde Urmia Johnson has been appointed Deputy General Secretary.

Cde Burnham has indicated that there may be further appointments after consultation with the Central Committee at the first meeting scheduled for early next year.

Role of 'Counter-Trade'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] GUYANESE have been called on, by Cde. Forbes Burnham, to produce more to satisfy this country's counter-trade commitments.

Leader of the People's National Congress, Cde. Forbes Burnham, in a discourse with delegates to the Special Congress of the Party last weekend, said while counter-trade is not designed to replace formal trade, it is a system that enables a country to obtain important goods without the exchange of hard currency.

As part of Guyana's counter-trade arrangements, this country hopes to supply rice and timber to Bulgaria. We should also be supplying timber to the Soviet Union.

In his discourse Cde. Burnham said when Guyana supplies a good as part of its counter-trade commitment, production of that good must be in addition to the quantities supplied to the markets we have.

Through counter-trade, Guyana has been able to get a quantity of capital goods necessary to this nation's development and this in the face of a crippling economic crisis.

But in addition to counter-trade arrangements, Guyana has been able to get capital goods from some friendly countries. From the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, this country is to get 100 tractors, a similar number of ploughs and harrows and a quantity of spares and accessories.

This equipment will boost Guyana's agricultural drive, and as Cde. Burnham noted, all too often "we blame the weather." What was primarily responsible

for us not reaching some of our targets was the fact that we did not have equipment to make use of the conditions, he added.

He said the DPRK has also offered us a line of credit on concessionary terms.

Region 6 Situation

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] PEOPLE'S National Congress members and supporters in Region Six have disclosed that 1983 was not a bad year for the Party. But many felt much more could have been done to get old stalwarts back in line and to resuscitate groups that have lapsed.

They all praised the dynamic leadership of the Party and hoped the new year would bring about a better understanding among Party members and that each member would work assiduously to foster better relationship with members of the public, and at the same time expose, wrong-doings within the Party structure.

Cde. Dudley McLean, Public Health Inspector and Chairman of the Fyrish Local Authority, said that he will try to work on defaulting stalwarts who fell off for some reason or other from the Party.

He also promises to resuscitate groups that are not functioning.

He said in the new year, residents of his District will be encouraged to go into large-scale farming. Fyrish, he pointed out, has over the years been a farming community in which most people make a living out of what they produce. Cde. McLean, is also PNC District Secretary for the Fyrish/Harmony area.

Party supporter, Cde. Dennis Roysammy, said that 1983 saw the 'Mirror' criticising government's food policy and hoped that they try to educate the people on the food situation in the new year.

The opposition, he said should call on its members to assist government in its food production drive since it is only through agriculture can Guyana get out of the present economic crisis.

Cde. Roysammy, a labourer added that the PNC made great strides in development over the years, and declared that Berbice has had its fair share from government.

And Cde. Janet Grant, a Party worker, said that 1983 was a fairly good year despite the economic situation and that the folks of the Ancient County make do with what they have.

She said 1983 saw the 37th batch of Guyana Developers doing their one-week live-in exercise in Berbice and the participation of many government Ministers and top Party functionaries in what has become a massive mobilisation exercise.

Cde. Grant would like to see more unity and co-operation among Party members. "Too many of us are doing the things we ought not to have done and no one is trying to correct the fault", she said.

Executive Committee Officers

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] THE first meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress, following the amendments to the Party constitution, saw Cde. Hyacinth Godett being appointed Treasurer of the Party, Cde. Elvin McDavid, Chief Political Adviser to the President was also appointed to the Central Committee.

The amended constitution stipulates that the Leader of the Party, in consultation with the elected members of the Central Committee, may appoint additional members to the Central Committee.

The constitution also stipulates that the Comrade Leader assigns office to members of the committee.

At the December Special Congress of the Party, Cde. Ptolemy Reid, was appointed Deputy Leader and General Secretary by the Comrade Leader. Cde. Urmia Johson was appointed Assistant General Secretary at that forum.

The Central Committee now boasts three appointed members.

General Council Meeting

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The first General Council meeting of the People's National Congress is scheduled for next weekend from January 20 and it is anticipated that the holding of conferences of the People's Co-operative Committee will feature prominently on the agenda.

General Council is the highest forum of the Party between congresses and with the Fifth Biennial Congress and last month's Special Congress charting the direction for national development and economic recovery delegates to next week's General Council will also review the achievements of the Party and government since the last general assembly of the Party.

This meeting is also the first General Council since the ratification of the amendments to the Party constitution. In the past the first General Council meeting after congress would see the election of members to the Central Executive Committee of the Party.

There will be no such elections this time since congress now elects all the members to the Central Committee.

The Leader of the Party in collaboration with the elected members appoints the others.

Party Discipline

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] The Regional Committee of Region Six, in an effort to maintain a high level of discipline within the Party, has decided to take serious action against Party comrades who display acts of indiscipline.

In keeping with this policy last week's monthly Regional Committee meeting at Manchester, Corentyne, took the decision to refer to the disciplinary committee, a matter involving a group of Councillors who allegedly acted in an indiscipline manner recently, and as such it was felt they ought to face the Committee when it meets later this month.

CSO: 3298/494

REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS TO GET TAXATION AUTHORITY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Jan 84 p 5

[Text]

ANNA Regina: --
Legislation is expected to be introduced in Parliament shortly to enable Regional Democratic Councils to become rating entities.

This measure is likely to ensure that agencies within the region pay rates to the region to assist them in providing services from which they will benefit.

This disclosure was made by Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development Harold Singh while discussing the establishment of the new people's co-operatives council.

Speaking to Regional Officers and Party Officials at a meeting at the Anna Regina Community High School on Sunday, Cde Singh said that the new system is designed to assist the people to become self-reliant and to reap economic benefits through their own efforts.

He said that among the many benefits which will be derived from the establishment of the council are that

persons will be given improved services at no extra cost to their pockets, and the administration will be able to get rid of unnecessary expenses utilised for maintenance work.

Cde Singh told the leaders in the community that they must play a pivotal role in mobilising persons to participate in their respective communities.

The people's co-operative councils in Region Two will be made up of 59 subdivisions which include ten Amerindian Missions.

Minister in the office of the Prime Minister Urmia Johnson also spoke to the gathering on the procedure for holding the presidents conference to elect representatives to the council.

Following a workshop session at the meeting, a recommendation was made that the regional administration should erect sign boards at the beginning and ending of each council area.

PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE COMMITTEES GET BROAD PUSH FROM PNC

Role of Cooperative

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

The People's Co-operative, a body sanctioned by the People's New Constitution is now coming on stream and with it is the opportunity for every member of the Guyanese society to play an active part in the development of the nation.

People's Co-operatives exist in every Region and they are the principal organisation within a legally defined area — every district has been divided into People's Co-operatives. Some districts have a single co-operative unit because of the population density.

The aim of this organisation is to ensure that people in a given geographical area accept responsibility for projects to be undertaken within that area.

Next month every

People's Co-operative will meet in its location for a conference at which the people will identify those best capable to lead and they will plan their programme, for the future.

One of the architects of the idea behind the formation of People's Co-operatives, Central Committee member Cde Desmond Hoyte, in offering a simple explanation of the system said that the leaders may decide that every residence in the community be properly fenced.

This will necessitate getting the people together, discussing the problems of finance and material, and finally, in a co-operative manner undertaking the project.

The People's Co-operative will ensure total involvement of all the people

and at the same time it will help identify those who hide their poor performance in mass organisations.

Already one People's Co-operative has decided to take responsibility for Merriman's Mall which was intended for the benefit of young children and which is now being used by vagrants.

On the question of sanctions if an individual does not honour his responsibilities within the co-operative, Cde Hoyte explained that there are draft legislations to the effect.

But he added society places its own pressures on deviants. Since no one wishes to be an outcast the mere fact that one's neighbours are performing can force and individual to conform.

PNC Briefing Sessions

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

The People's National Congress is going into all the Regions to establish the People's Co-operative and this week-end will see leading Party functionaries going into most of the Regions to brief the communities on the role and functions of the People's Co-operatives.

In Region Four the briefing sessions begin today at the Sophia auditorium with Central Committee member and Vice-President, Production, Cde Desmond Hoyte, speaking on the role and functions of the People's Co-operatives and their relationship to the Local

Democratic Organs. This session begins at 9:30 hours.

Similar exercises are being held simultaneously in all the other Regions except Region Eight and Region Nine.

In Region Two, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Cde Donald Ainsworth will be spearheading the discussions. Cde Oscar Clarke, Executive Chairman of Guyana Rice Board, will be in Region Three; Cde Kenneth Denny will be in Region Five.

For the briefing session in Region Six, Central Committee members, Cde Sallahuddin and Cde Malcolm Parris, will be the persons spearheading the discussions. Another Central Committee member, Cde

Robert Williams, will be in Region Seven, and Cde Robert Corbin, Central Committee member, will be in Region Ten.

Like any major organisation, the People's Co-operatives are requested to hold conferences at which they will give account of their activities. These conferences are scheduled for next month.

The briefing sessions organised by the Party will therefore work out plans for holding such conferences and decide on the format.

Commenting on this week-end exercises, Executive Secretary for Education and Research, Cde Norma Younge stated, "this exercise is of tremendous importance and therefore requires a lot of work."

Region 6 Activity

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Jan 84 p 5

[Text]

EAST Berbice: —
Officers of Region Six —
East Berbice-Corentyne —
have begun consulting people from various districts and communities for the establishment of People's Co-operative Committees.

These committees, which will involve people from various strata of society are expected to come in stream in April.

More than 100 People's Co-operative Units are expected to be set up in the region to help accelerate the decision-making process of the regional administration.

This disclosure was made Sunday at the one-day seminar held at the Winifred Gaskin Memorial Secondary School, Corentyne.

Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Sallahuddin,

who was the main speaker at the meeting explained in detail the role and function of the People's Co-operative.

He said this sector, which is sanctioned by the People's New Constitution is the second to be introduced in the country so far. The other sectors which are to be established later are the sub-regional, district, community and neighbourhood committees.

Cde. Sallahuddin explained the mechanism and importance of the new system.

He said that these co-operative units would assist in executing programmes for community development and identifying community problems and needs, and at the same time, provide solutions to the problems.

Committee Responsibilities

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

OVER the next two months, the People's National Congress will be concentrating on the establishment of People's Co-operative Committees in keeping with the entrenched clauses of the Guyana Constitution promulgated in 1980.

The People's Co-operative is the smallest sub-division of the new Regional system and of the Local Democratic Organs. This unit will be operating at two levels, the levels of the Party and the state thereby providing greater opportunity for participation in the national development process by the greatest number of people.

At the political level the Unit, which will be the People's Co-operative Committee, will have the responsibility for supervising all Party groups and for all political activities that are either economic or social.

At the level of the state the People's Co-operative unit will be the People's Co-operative Council and it will have the responsibility for initiating all micro state activities, in keeping with

Article 13 of the Constitution which indicates that the principal objective is to extend Socialism by providing increasing opportunities for the participation of citizens in the decision-making processes of the state.

As Central Committee member and Vice-President, Production, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, noted, Local Government arrangements put in place under the colonial era were inadequate since they did not encourage the involvement of the people and they had very small boundaries in an absurd way.

Local Government was mainly concerned with levy and collecting rates and taxes to maintain existing infrastructure. Local Government followed development rather than initiating it.

The establishment of People's Co-operative Units, will see a reversal of this trend. The people in each Unit will initiate development in those areas they deem critical to their welfare.

Benefit to Party

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Central Committee member and Minister of Agriculture, Cde Sallahuddin, has disclosed that the People's Co-operative Committee is not intended to replace Party groups, but rather to strengthen the Party.

Speaking at a meeting to inform people of the role and functions of the People's Co-operative Sunday at the Winifred Gaskin Memorial Secondary School, Manchester, Corentyne, Cde Sallahuddin said that the Party groups will remain as the base unit and the fundamental cell of the Party.

He added that some other aspects of the People's Co-operative Unit will include popular participation in the consolidation and reallocation of land holdings, and identifying land holdings to facilitate the establishment of economically viable land units.

The new system, he said will also promote a collective approach to development as a pervasive method for dealing with problems generally and for undertaking activities aimed at beautifying and developing the community.

The People's Co-operative, a body sanctioned by the People's new Constitution will be established in every district in all the Regions of the country so as to give people responsibility in the decision-making process of their Regions.

Committee Conferences

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Text]

Conferences of the People's Co-operative Committee are scheduled for some time between February and early March and already the People's National Congress has set out a number of guidelines for the holding of these conferences.

Following a series of briefing sessions last weekend the Party has stipulated that all PNC group members with valid Party cards be allowed to attend as delegates and to vote.

With the recent amendments to the Party Constitution, all membership of the Party ends May 31. However, in the past membership of the Party expired one calendar year after renewal thereby creating the situation in which membership was expiring all the time.

To facilitate the transition Party members whose membership has lapsed may now apply for membership

to May 31 paying the proportion of the membership fee. They may also apply for membership to May 31, 1985 paying one year's fee plus the proportion of the membership to May 31 next.

The Party has also made allowance for those whose membership had lapsed but who had applied for renewal to attend the conferences as delegates.

Regional Chairmen have been tasked with putting together an organising committee for the conferences and this committee would be supported by officials from the Party Secretariat.

During this period leading up to the conferences Party activists and PNC group Chairmen must also concentrate on organising the conferences and help plan the agenda which should include formulation of the constitution of the People's Co-operative Committee.

CSO: 3298/493

BRIEFS

GROUNDING PLANES--OF the five GDF Islander planes of its Airwing, two are out of order and the other three, though airworthy, are not flying, as certain parts, according to regulations, are due for renewal. Under-carriages are said to be needed, costing US\$30,000 each. Of the two Sky Vans, one crashed at Kaikan on the Western border last August, was patched up and brought to the coast, but needs US\$100,000 for repairs. The other Sky Van has been down for repairs off and on. Of the private charter services, Air Services Ltd. was grounded last Nov. by the Air Transport Advisory Board, which had been set up last August to regulate among other things, charges being made for charter flights. Government, nevertheless, still employs the firm's planes for its charter flights, and allow them to fly for Cogema, the French firm engaged in looking for uranium. Reports have come in that hucksters have been chartering Brazilian planes from Boa Vista to bring in their goods. It is said that about three flights a week were being made with planes the size of GAC's Avro 748. [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 15 Jan 84 p 4]

CALL FOR PAY INCREASES--GENERAL Secretary of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees, N. K. Gopaul, has called upon the Guyana Sugar Corporation to pay annual merit increments for 1984 to workers represented by his union. In a release to the press, Gopaul said the failure of Guysuco to award the increments "is a breach of the Collective Labour Agreement" and asked that the increments be paid without delay "so that the increases would be incorporated in their January salaries." In another matter, the General Secretary, wrote Police Commissioner, Lloyd Barker, complaining of no action being taken on a report to the Ruimveldt police concerning physical assault on a union member who was allegedly assaulted by a top management official. The General Secretary said that other such incidents were reported to the police. He urged the Commissioner to take "immediate action" failing which the worker will institute private legal action. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Jan 84 p 1]

LAND FOR RICE CULTIVATION--Under the government re-allocation bill recently passed in Parliament, land abandoned in many areas are now being handed over to co-operative societies and agricultural groups for useful cultivation. Last week, some 3000 hectares of land at Port Mourant, left abandoned for more than five years, was released for the cultivation of rice. With assistance from the Guyana Rice Board, and the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs, the Regional Administration of Region Six has been able to negotiate

for the release of the land. The societies to benefit are the Port Mourant follow-up-scheme and the United Society. Meanwhile, the GRB plans to assist farmers in acquiring necessary machinery and equipment for the rice cultivation operations. They also promise to supply pest control insecticides and containers for carrying rice, including paddy bags. Farmers however complained about the deplorable drainage and irrigation system and the cattle nuisance. The Regional Administration in collaboration with the Guyana Rice Board plans to monitor the complaints, and assures possible assistance. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Jan 84 p 2]

PALM OIL PRODUCTION--Crude palm oil production will be doubled during this year considering the additional equipment to be installed by the Guyana Sugar Corporation according to the recent edition of 'Sugar News', a Guysuco publication. Sugar News reported that factory constraints have considerably restricted extraction efficiency. At Wauna the factory facilities are unable to cope with the field output. But this situation will change with the acquisition of an edible oil pressing plant from Holland. Figures showed that for the first half of 1983 22 500 litres (5,000 gallons) of palm oil were extracted at Wauna. Output for the remainder of the year was estimated at 1400 litres (315 gallons) per week. The San Jan operations with 74 hectares, produced 13 500 litres (3,000 gallons) of palm oil. With the new press in operation production over a 15-week period is expected to be 49 500 litres. General Manager of the Other Crops Division of Guysuco, Cde Ronald Fraser, speaking of the need for skilled labour, additional finance and further infrastructural works explained that an additional 400 hectares should have been under cultivation at Wauna last year but planting has been delayed, pending advice from a Surinamese expert. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Jan 84 p 4]

SHIPPING PACT WITH HOLLAND--GUYANA and Holland are currently discussing the setting up of a joint venture in shipbuilding, Vice-President Social Infrastructure Hamilton Green announced yesterday. He was delivering the main address at the ceremony to mark the handing over of a \$12,2 million suction dredge by the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC) to the Transport and Harbours Department. The dredge, the "Steve-N," which is said to be the largest in the Commonwealth Caribbean and the third of its kind in South America, was built by GNEC for the T&HD with technical assistance from Damen Shipyards of Holland. "It is hoped that requests from other agencies for new ships can form the basis of this closer co-operation between Damen Shipyards and the GNEC", Vice-President Green said when referring to the "joint venture" discussions. The "Steve-N," the 122nd vessel built by GNEC and regarded as that company's largest and most ambitious project to date, will be used to facilitate water transport in the country. [Excerpt] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 15 Jan 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/495

MATERIAL ON PEOPLE'S FORUM, OTHER PNP ACTIVITIES

Forum Slate

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

The first PNP "People's Forum" will take place at the National Arena in Kingston today, at 3.00 p.m. and not at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston. The venue will be the same for future sessions.

The PNP's R. Carl Rattray Q.C., Forum chairman, said in a statement that there had been heightened interest in the Forum and the new venue would accommodate more people than would have been possible at the Jamaica Pegasus. The party, he said, had booked with the Pegasus for the initial sitting, but changed the venue when the additional space required could not be obtained.

Mr. Seymour Mullings, the Party's spokesman on Finance and Planning will speak on the Economy at today's meeting. Party leader Michael Manley will speak on relevant topi-

cal issues at this and future forums planned to be monthly.

Mr. Terry Gillette, constituency representative for East Central, St. Mary, has been appointed Co-ordinator of "The People's Forum".

Through the forum, the P.N.P. says, it will offer constructive criticisms of the general policies and special activities of the Government and its various Ministries. The Party will also use the forum to unfold the alternative policies which it will offer to the country. It will also provide an opportunity for other individuals and institutions in the country to make their own contributions to and comments on national issues and to air the needs and even the political concerns and grievances of different sectors of the society.

Praise for Election Postponement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY's General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson told the party's first 'People's Forum' at the National Arena yesterday that the decision by the Government to postpone the Local Government elections, which were constitutionally due next month, showed "good sense".

Dr. Robertson, in giving an 'Electoral Update' at the fo-

rum, said:

"We note the belated but good sense of the Government not to attempt to call a Local Government election on the old lists".

He was referring to a report in yesterday's Gleaner in which Jamaica Labour Party General Secretary and Minister of Construction, the Hon. Bruce Golding, said that the elections would be postponed

to allow the new electoral system to be put in place.

Dr. Robertson also indicated that the PNP's representatives would continue to take part in the deliberations of the Electoral Advisory Committee when he told the forum:

"The Electoral Committee continues to meet and the PNP representatives, who are Miss Postia Simpson and my-

self, continue to attend regularly. Our current 18-month term ends in April.

"The People's National Party is of the view that while the committee, all of us included, have made mistakes and should have been stronger on some issues, the system is basically sound. We continue to repose a basic but watchful faith in its integrity".

Stand on Election Violence

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] The P.N.P. General Secretary has said that the reduction in the number of people registered in Southern St. Andrew from 20,000 in 1980 to just over 12,000 in 1983 was due to violence in the constituency, as the constituency "has been specially marked for violent action by gunmen and thugs who seek to force people out of the constituency".

The P.N.P. General Secretary said in a statement that the party was reacting to the statement of Mr. Bruce Golding, Minister responsible for Election in Parliament on January 24. According to the NP, Mr. Golding has "sought to convey the impression of something untoward" in the drop in registration.

Resolution Assailing JLP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Feb 84 p 15

[Text] The People's National Party's People's Forum at the National Arena on Thursday passed a resolution condemning the JLP Government, but pledging support for activities and programmes "conducive to the unity of the Jamaican people".

The resolution, which was moved by the leader of the party, Mr. Michael Manley, and seconded by its spokesman on Finance and Planning, Mr. Seymour Mullings, read:

"Whereas the JLP Administration has since its inception pursued a disastrous range of policies that have had cumulative adverse effects on the people of Jamaica and the economy; and

Whereas it is accepted that nation-building will require sacrifices, but the present Government policies spread the burdens unfairly and without good purpose; and

Whereas these policies have created widespread hardships on the working people through lay-offs and the spiralling cost of living; and

Whereas there has been severe dislocation in the agricultural areas due to misguided import and pricing policies which have worked to the detriment of the farmers and rural communities; and

Whereas confusing and erratic decisions on import licensing and deregulation have hindered manufacturers, exporters, traders and small businessmen alike; and

Whereas the economy has suffered rapid deterioration and continues to decline in the absence of any rational

economic plan; and

Whereas Jamaica has been the recipient of enormous loan financing which has created a vast escalation of the nation's debt burden without increasing its productivity; and

Whereas the Seaga Administration has consistently refused to speak truthfully to the country about the state of the country's finances, the I.M.F. negotiations and other matters directly affecting the economic welfare of the country; and

Whereas it is acknowledged that world economic conditions have for a long time affected countries like Jamaica, which can only be changed through the concerted action of all Governments spurred by vigorous leadership from the Third World which recognise the need for a New International Economic Order; and

Whereas Jamaica has managed to isolate itself in general international fora from the majority position of the Third World, thereby reducing the respect and prestige it enjoys as a sovereign nation; and

Whereas meaningful programmes of the last PNP Administration in such areas as social reform, labour legislation, rural development, land distribution, low-income housing have been discontinued; and

Whereas the entire fabric of our educational

system faces imminent collapse and threatens to destroy the gains in the fields of literacy, free education and university training; and

Whereas the cost of housing and rentals has now soared beyond the wages of all persons besides those of wealthy means, and the Government has abdicated its responsibility to ensure shelter for the poor; and

Whereas the transport system is in total disarray, leaving commuters bewildered and stranded, facing excessive costs, has created particular difficulties for the student population, the aged and the handicapped as well as delays and hardships for the workers in factories, farms and fields, thus further hindering the nation's productive efforts; and

Whereas urgent repairs to the streets of the Corporate Area are outstanding, and rural roads remain neglected and abandoned; and

Whereas the hospitals and clinics are being forced to operate in the absence of adequate drugs and other resources; and

Whereas the JLP has acted in a manner demoralizing to our best native sons and daughters in the Civil Service and other areas of endeavour, by ignoring them in favour of foreign advisers and experts; and

Whereas the JLP in its desperation to main-

tain power called a fraudulent election in breach of solemn undertakings over electoral reform, thereby securing a result contrary to the wishes of the majority of a true electorate; and

Whereas there has been demoralization and disunity in the country caused by the deeds and actions of the JLP Government which threaten the stability of the nation by the current situation.

Be it resolved that this People's Forum condemns the JLP Government which has now completely lost the confidence of the masses of the country and persons of all walks of life, and calls upon the JLP Government to dissolve its bogus Parliament and hold genuine elections so soon as the new Voters List and the agreed aspects of the electoral reform are put in place, in order to ensure the election of a Government that can once more enjoy legitimacy and seek to develop the country in accordance with the overall interest of its people; and

Be it further resolved that the People's Forum hereby pledges to regard as paramount all such activities and programmes as are entirely conducive to the unity of the Jamaican people and enhance the welfare of the nation as a whole.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Speaking at the People's National Party's People's Forum last Thursday in the National Arena, the chairman of the forum, Mr. Carl Rattray, said that the party did not regard as appropriate the remark of the Governor-General that the country having arrived at the new state of political affairs would have to "sweat it out."

Mr Rattray was referring to a remark made by the Governor-General, the Most Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole, in January, at the annual banquet of Jamaica Gasolene Retailers Association.

"We would have expected that every person who really believes in the democratic process as the expression of the will of the people, would demand that the people's will be exercised so soon as the appropriate machinery which permits its exercise be put in place," Mr. Rattray said.

"Moreso, we would expect it from the occupant of this particular office. It is the will of the people that new elections be called as soon as possible. We coerce or beguile no one or no government. What we insist is that the will of the people be respected."

Mr. Rattray said that morality and convention would demand that the exercise of the Constitutional right of the Prime Minister to call an election must take place in the context of the right of the people and the ability of the people to exercise their franchise when the election is called.

"It is the people, and not Prime Ministers, who are important and crucial to the democratic process," he said.

Although the laws laid down no particular period of time between electoral lists, the movement of persons between constituencies and out of the country in a system based on geographical constituency elections, could completely distort the electoral results.

Mr. Rattray said that since the PNP was not in Parliament, the People's Forum would offer the opportunity for discussion and debate

of the issues which would have been debated and discussed in Parliament. He said that the party proposed to conduct the forum with propriety and decorum within strict requirements, "not only of the law, but within good and civilised taste".

He said that the PNP would campaign relentlessly for the calling of national elections as soon as the new electoral lists were ready and the agreed procedures were in place.

PNP spokesman on finance, Mr. Seymour Mullings, also addressed the forum. He dealt with various areas of the economy and accused the Government of not telling the public how serious the situation was.

Speaking on the import policy, Mr. Mullings said that at no time could any one be certain as to what was the current import policy, since it changed so often.

He said that reports concerning tourism were extremely discouraging and that certain developments within the industry did not "smell good".

Mr. Mullings said that with visitor arrivals running below the projected levels, the question arose as to whether a number of hotels would be able to pay the proposed 12% tax on gross revenue and remain open.

"Consequent on the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and the recent sharp increases in the price of fuel, electricity, goods and services, the operational and maintenance costs of the hotels will rise significantly," Mr. Mullings said.

"One wonders whether the windfall profits of the hotels that we have been hearing about should not be used to upgrade hotel plants, refurbish the rooms, improve the furnishings and so on: that is, if we are really serious about the future of the one sector that has been showing so much promise."

Mr. Mullings said that the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar would not benefit the industry, if prices continued to be quoted in U.S. dollars and spiral upwards when converted to Jamaican dollars.

He said that the recent episode surrounding the resignation of the Director of Tourism and certain other developments would indicate "the strong stench of corruption in the

Jamaica Tourist Board."

Mr. Mullings said that the Government was not telling the people how grave the situation was concerning debts. He said that in June, 1983 the total foreign exchange debt was roughly U.S.\$3 billion and that the World Bank publications had indicated that debt repayments in 1984 would amount to U.S.\$243 million.

Mr. Mullings said there was no Budget and he questioned how could the economy proceed when the major actor, the Government, had no plan?

He said that there was uncertainty concerning the promised International

Monetary Fund agreement and the new import policy, as well as funding for the import budget.

Mr. Mullings said in Jamaica today there was much confusion and burdens were so heavy it was natural for people to want immediate answers. They were asking what were the PNP's alternatives.

He said that the ability of the country to move forward demanded that everyone understood fully the main reasons why the economy was in the mess it was; and, more importantly, that the country should understand that there were no instant solutions and no magical solutions.

Statement on Parish Councils

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

The PNP says it reject charges that the PNP Government attempted to either downgrade or replace Parish Councils with partisan Community Councils, but that it supported calls for provision for Local Government in the Constitution.

In a statement issued by former PNP Minister of Local Government, Mr. Ralph Brown, the PNP said it noted charges made by Mr. Cecil Charlton, Mayor of Mandeville and the Secretary of the Association of Local Govern-

ment Authorities, Mr. George Lewars at ALGA's 55th Annual Conference and luncheon on Tuesday, January 24, 1984.

Mr. Brown said that during the 70's the People's National Party did perhaps more than any other Government to lift the status and effectiveness of Parish Councils. He said that it was under the PNP that the whole matter of Local Government Reform was seriously tackled, when an Implementing Committee headed by Mr. Basil Daniels, former Town Clerk, was set up to make recommendation for greater autonomy, efficiency and viability for Local

Government.

It was the PNP administration he said, which introduced the election of Mayors for the life of the Council in order to provide more effective management of the affairs of Local Government.

It was under the PNP that MP's were removed from the Councils, that emoluments for both Mayors and Councillors were significantly upgraded. It was under the PNP that city status was accorded to Montego Bay.

Mr. Brown said that community councils ensured participation of Councillors and MPs in the Councils.

Concern for Civil Service

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 84 p 30

[Text]

The People's National Party has alleged that there is a rapid rate of deterioration in the Civil Service.

In a statement issued by UWI Lecturer, Dr.

Edwin Jones, the PNP's spokesman on the Public Service, the party said it was alarmed at what it termed the rapid deterioration.

The statement accus-

ed the Government of undermining the morale of the Civil Service, and of assaulting their professionalism and integrity.

The statement alleges that what it calls a 'parallel bureaucracy' of expatriates has been created, and that they are paid partially in scarce foreign exchange.

The statement alleges that these expatriates are replacing able and qualified Jamaicans.

Statement on Security Force Shootings

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] The People's National Party said that Mr. Barrington Dennis, the Chairman of the Seaview Gardens Citizens Association, and Mr. Donovan Wright, were killed by members of the Security Forces on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Dennis was the President of the Waterhouse Youth Club, the Chairman of the PNP Youth Organisation's Western St. Andrew Executive and a member of the PNP constituency Executive of Western St. Andrew, a P.N.P. statement said.

Both were employed as watchmen to the security firm of Security and Crime Prevention Ltd., contracted by the Ministry of Construction, to guard sites in Seaview Gardens where they both also lived.

According to the Party "there was no shootout. Both men were on the job at the time of their deaths, were unarmed, and were wearing identification badges issued by their employers"

CSO: 3298/524

PRICE INCREASES SET FOR SUGAR GROWERS, MANUFACTURERS

Criticism of Seaga Policy

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Morris Cargill]

[Text]

When the Prime Minister announced the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar he also mentioned that, as one result, a sum of \$53 million additional revenue would accrue from sugar sales.

The Prime Minister also stated that this money would be used to offset losses sustained by the National Sugar Company. This seemed to me a gross injustice to the growers, and indeed to the whole private sector of the sugar industry. So in December I wrote a column sharply criticizing the decision, which seemed beyond the pale of reason.

After this column appeared the Minister of Agriculture announced at the Annual General Meeting of the All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers, and at a meeting in Chapelton, that the farmers would indeed receive shortly, a part of this bonanza in the form of increased prices for their cane.

This they sorely need. In spite of the crawling peg devaluations, and the constant inflation, cane farmers have had no increase in price for three years. Since the last devaluation the cost of truckage has increased 30%, the cost of fuel 50% and the cost of fertilizers and chemicals, needed now for next year's crop, by 50%. Without an increase in price the cane farmers will go broke; and

some large cane farmers are already thinking of putting bulldozers through their cane. The irony is all the greater when one considers that the price per ton of cane, when delivered to a government-owned factory is \$18 a ton less than the price paid by privately owned factories; and this is entirely due to the inefficiency of the government factories.

Unjust

Subsequent to the announcement by the Minister of Agriculture mentioned above, the Minister of Agriculture and two junior Ministers had numerous meetings with the heads of the Cane Farmers Association, the National Sugar Company, and the private sector factories. Everyone was clearly told that the entire surplus money from devaluation, which now turns out to be \$73 million and not \$53 million as the Prime Minister said, would be passed out to the entire industry with each sector receiving its correct share. The Ministry of Agriculture repeatedly assured everyone that this money belonged to the entire industry and that the Government now had no intention of using it, or any portion of it, as a special subsidy towards Government losses.

I hate to say this, but I have discovered that these assurances of fair play

are worth nothing. The Prime Minister at a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and the National Sugar Company (to which the private sector and the farmers were not invited) simply overruled his Minister of Agriculture, and has again decreed that the whole sum must go to the National Sugar Company.

This decision is high-handed and unjust. It is also most unfortunate for the Minister of Agriculture, who was

trying to do the right thing. I cannot imagine what unwise and wayward advice has directed the Prime Minister on to this unfortunate path; but it should be known that if it is finally travelled, the responsibility must be solely that of the Prime Minister.

I believe, however, that better counsel might yet prevail. In the interest of justice and the future of the sugar industry, I hope it does.

Seaga Announcement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Price increases to producers and manufacturers of sugar as a result of the recent devaluation will be announced in two weeks' time, while increases have been granted to banana, coffee, cocoa, and pimento growers, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday.

He said that the increases would be given to the growers of cane and the manufacturers of sugar to assist them to continue with their programme "while we continue to restructure that sick industry".

Speaking at the public session of the annual conference of the Jamaica Labour Party at the National Arena, Mr. Seaga said some "tough decisions" would have to be made this year in the Government's effort to ensure that that industry did not continue to be a sick child any longer but to allow it to become a healthy agricultural crop once again.

He said that the banana industry was undergoing restructuring, too. There would be a price increase to growers. The present price was 25.54 cents per pound which consisted of a 12 cent basic allowance, a quality bonus of 3 cents, and a boxing allowance of 10.14 cents.

The new price will move to 16 cents for boxing allowance, 4 cents for quality bonus, boxing allowance to 16 cents; and there will be another 6 cents added for Leafspot control which banana growers were going to be required to bear as an expense.

Mr. Seaga said that the entire price would move from 25 cents to 42 cents, with six cents for the growers to bear.

The price for the 1983/84 lowland coffee crop will move from \$22 to \$27 per box; Blue Mountain Coffee, from \$80 to \$85 per box; while the October 1983 cocoa crop price will move from \$17.50 per box to \$20 per box. The pimento price increase had not yet been worked out yet, he said.

Canefield Fires

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Feb 84 p 15

[Text]

The All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association has received an urgent appeal from the Vere Cane Farmers' Association requesting that representation be made to the authorities seeking added security to stem the increasing illicit fires in Vere.

Since the beginning of the 1983/84 sugar crop in Clarendon, several illicit fires have been taking place on cane farms, especially those of the disbanded Sugar Workers Co-op., and now under the custody of the Clarendon Sugar Company and farms owned by Waterwell

Engineering Limited, Arrow Farms and Robinson Bros. Limited, according to a press release.

"The subversive element is bent on destroying the industry by frustrating cane farmers' efforts in boosting the production of cane because of the management's effort to protect the sugar cane from the destruction of their livestock," the release said.

"Cane fields consisting of 7,000 tons of canes were set on fire but, fortunately, because of the wet condition of the fields only 3,000 tons were burnt.

CSO: 3298/522

HOUSE LEADER REPLIES TO PHIPPS' PARLIAMENTARY COMPLAINTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

The Hon. J.A.G. Smith, Leader of the House of Representatives, and Minister of Labour, has replied to a letter sent to him by Mr. Frank Phipps, Q.C., expressing opposition to the new parliamentary procedures involving participation by the public, and requesting a review.

Mr. Phipps had stated that he had sent a letter to the Government requesting a review of the new procedures, when he criticised them during an address to Jaycees in Mandeville, a week ago.

Mr. Smith wrote:

"At the time of writing, I have not yet received the original letter which I am informed was signed for at Gordon House in the latter part of January, 1984. Nevertheless, I have today secured a copy of your letter.

"I wish to assure you that the decision taken by the Government is to allow participation by representatives of organisations and members of the public in parliamentary proceedings when the House has resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House. The Standing Orders already allow for participation by invitation of Select Committees of the House.

"The recently-constituted Standing Orders Committee has not yet met to make the facilitating amendments to the Standing Orders, and as a consequence at the last sitting of

the House on Tuesday, February 7th, I sought and obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, immediately preceding debate and Second Reading of the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, to have the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House in order to receive the contribution of Rev. Alston Henry of the Jamaica Evangelical Association.

"I am aware of the potential danger of allowing non-elected persons to participate in the proceedings when the House is in session, but there can be nothing un-constitutional in a Committee of the whole House hearing the views of the public on a Bill which is of national importance, and the House embarking upon a debate thereafter, while keeping in mind, the views of the public.

"Precedence exists whereby Select Committees have summoned persons, not only as witnesses but to give their views on specific matters.

"Erskine May in the 19th edition of **Parliamentary Practice** states that while questions of public policy of a Public Bill can be discussed only by members, where 'protection is sought for the rights and interests of public bodies or others, the parties have been permitted to represent their claims, either in person or by counsel'. This would support the view, therefore, that even on policy matters, persons may seek to protect their rights and interests".

REPORT ON JLP 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA, GOALS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The Jamaica Labour Party's 38th annual general conference will begin this week-end at the Adventure Inn, St. Catherine, with workshop sessions involving some 1,200 delegates across the island.

Party Leader the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, Prime Minister, will address the business and public sessions on February 11 and 12 at the National Arena.

Deputy Leader and Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, will not be able to attend this year's conference for the first time in many years as he will be off the island.

Making these announcements yesterday at a news conference at the JLP headquarters in Kingston, the General-Secretary, Mr. Bruce Golding, said that unlike previous years, nomination of Party officers would definitely close Friday this week. He said also that a proposal would be put before the conference that, commencing next year, voting for officers of the Party would be done on a regional level through Area councils.

This new feature could not be instituted this year as it would require constitutional amendment, he said.

The workshop sessions would be focussing primarily on the current political situation, the new Parliamentary order, because of the implications it had for Members of Parliament, and "the need to try to make some further progress to have the M.P. seen and perceived to be the representative of the entire constituency," according to Mr. Golding.

Delegates in the workshop will be examining a draft constituency work programme for discussion and refinement, in order to ensure that all the constituencies understood what the Party expected of them for the ensuing political year, Mr. Golding said.

"We are seeking to involve the Party more positively in the constituency activities and it is for that reason that we are preparing a constituency work programme which has to do with things like representation and the sort of relationship that we expect the M.P. will maintain with various organisations and civic groups," Mr. Golding said.

Members of Parliament will also be required to put together a development programme to tackle the problems of their constituencies which is to be submitted to the Government for consideration.

Once the work programme has been finalised, the Party would be putting in place machinery to monitor the performance of constituencies against the work programme — to measure the extent to which they were complying to the measures required, he said.

"This is something that we have placed a lot of emphasis on and began working on even before the General Elections, because we recognise that it is not enough for the Party to put up candidates, win an election and leave it up entirely to the M.P.s to carry the activities at the constituency level," he added.

Mr. Golding said that the workshops would also be looking at the Parish Council whose role has never really been properly defined, as there was some amount of ambiguity

as to whether the Council was an independently elected official or whether his purpose was to serve as an assistant to the M.P.

"This is something that the Councillors have complained to us about: that they are not quite sure what their functions are. In some constituencies you find that they are totally dominated and intimidated by the M.P.," he said.

At the business session of the Party on Saturday, February 11, annual reports, resolutions and election of officers would be dealt with.

The main feature of the public session on the following Sunday will be the keynote speech by Mr. Seaga which will deal with party matters as well as national issues.

This was the first year that the J.L.P. had been able to keep up to the time-table set for conference, Mr. Golding said. A decision was taken three years ago that the date of conference should be changed to early in the year from the usual November date, but difficulties had been experienced in the last two years which affected the proposed time-table.

"This year we have been able to keep it on schedule and, hopefully, we'll be able to keep it at that, because it is intended that our conference will be held in the month of February," he said.

CSO: 3298/523

DOMESTIC, FOREIGN-AID MEASURES ADDRESS ECONOMIC ISSUES

Seaga on Budget Deficit

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT is moving to reduce the fiscal budget deficit and to make gains on the balance of payments situation which should lead to reduced emphasis being placed on growth this year, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga said yesterday morning.

The country has no alternative but to come to grips with the deficit in the fiscal budget and its negative balance of payments situation, if it is to be viable and benefit from programmes in place which are already showing tangible results, Mr. Seaga said.

Opening a two-day seminar on "1984, The Year Ahead", at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston, Mr. Seaga said the country must face up to the reality of adjustments which were necessary and would create hardship. Discipline was required, he said.

Management Advisory Services Ltd. are the organisers of the seminar which is targeted at top-level and senior-level executives from the business community, with the aim of generating positive action within the private sector to assist the country's economic recovery.

Mr. Seaga referred to devaluation, liberalisation of the bureaucratic system surrounding production, and the recent new monetary measures — among other Government policies — which were designed to increase production and exports.

Answering a question at the end of his speech, Mr. Seaga indicated that growth this year should be moderate, whether positive or negative.

Answering another question as to

the state of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Seaga said that the Government and the Fund were assessing issues on which there were different views, adding that the Government had submitted its Letter of Intent to the Fund.

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Seaga in reporting that the I.M.F. discussions were continuing, said he believed that silence should be observed while the discussions were going on. He announced that he would be making as full a statement as possible on the economy next Thursday.

Mr. Seaga reviewed the Government's economic recovery programme, stating that the Government had reversed the eight years of negative growth averaging minus 2.3

percent in the 70s to an average growth rate of 1.7 percent over the past three years.

The Government, he said, had not been successful in the areas of reducing the deficit in the fiscal budget and the balance of payments accounts, as against growth in other sectoral areas of the economy.

The downturn in the bauxite/alumina industry, the need to service debts incurred from the 1970s, and the scarcity of foreign exchange, all had aggravated the fiscal budget deficit and balance of payments problems as well as set back the programme of inflation reduction. They had also affected investment, he said.

Reviewing Government strategies to address the problem of "meaningfully" reducing the fiscal budget gap and improving the balance of payment situation, Mr. Seaga said the problem should be better dealt with between this year and next year, but to do so would require reduced emphasis on growth this year.

Mr. Seaga noted that market demand for bauxite and alumina was improving this year. If the levy negotiations were concluded on a satisfac-

tory basis, then the industry would be in a position to benefit from the increased market demand and rising prices which were taking place.

In moving towards a surplus in the balance of payments accounts, Mr. Seaga said it was important for earnings from the tourism sector to reach the banking sector.

Referring to the necessity for adjustments in the economy which were being tackled by the Government, Mr. Seaga at this point stated that the country had to face up to the reality of the adjustments which would mean hardship but would require discipline.

He added that the country had no alternative but to come to grips with the problems which he had identified, so as to be viable and obtain the benefits from programmes in place which were already showing tangible results.

He endorsed the seminar and wished it well.

Mr. Anthony Griffiths, managing director of Management Advisory Services Ltd., who presided, introduced Mr. Seaga. Economist Mr. Mark Ricketts said thanks.

EDF Evaluation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Development aid provided under the European Development Fund was seen to be "compatible" with aid offered under the Caribbean Basin Initiative by a spokesman for the 23-man team from the EDF, who visited the island, touring EDF-assisted projects, towards the end of last week.

The one condition which the Fund would insist on, said the spokesman, was that there be no overlapping in the assistance being offered.

At a press conference which members of the visiting team gave at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel shortly before their departure on Saturday evening, Mr. Brendan Scannell, who spoke on behalf of the group, said that so far as aid from other organisations was concerned, the only concern of the Fund was that the scarce resources should be used as wisely as possible, without any duplication of functions.

There was room for compatibility, he said.

The visitors toured on Friday the EDF-assisted banana plantation set up by the Banana Board in eastern St. Thomas; and Mr. Scannell said that 40

percent of the Fund's programme was devoted to agriculture.

In the case of bananas, the major aim was to "get the island back on its feet," so that production might increase, and so that the country could meet its commitments for export. For this reason, he said, members of the team welcomed the new technology, tissue culture, being utilized there.

In its tour of banana cultivations not only in Jamaica but in four other Commonwealth Caribbean territories, the EDF team found that much emphasis was being laid on increased production.

Mr. Scannell said a major reason for their visit was to "see whether the projects which have been built into the aid programme are in fact being implemented or are in process of implementation. Also, the visit was to make a check so as to ensure that the funds allocated to such projects were spent wisely.

Speaking about projects in process of being implemented and others which were still in the proposal stage, Mr. Scannell said that Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) had submitted a proposal to secure aid to purchase additional aircraft.

This was an application for 16 million ECU's (European Currency Unit) of aid from the European Development Fund, and 10 million ECU's as a loan from the European Investment Bank. The proposals to the EDF would be discussed at its meeting on February 14, while those made to the

EIB would be discussed on February 17 when the Committee of the Bank, met in Luxembourg.

Asked about trading in bananas, Mr. Scannell said that Jamaican bananas retained the preferential position which they have traditionally enjoyed in the British market.

During the team's visit, its members called on the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer; visited the banana cultivation in St. Thomas as well as a school there; and saw micro-dams in Clarendon.

On Saturday, they held discussions with the Chief Executive of the Jamaica National Export Corporation, Mr. Peter King, and with the head of the National Planning Agency, Dr. Headley Brown. During the forenoon, they toured the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, where they looked at buildings and equipment funded under the EDF regional aid programme.

Before coming to Jamaica, the EDF team visited Guyana, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica and Antigua on a similar mission, touring and assessing projects funded by the EDF.

From here, they left for London on the way home.

Taking part in the press conference were the EEC Delegate to Jamaica, Mr. Roger Booth; and Mr. John Tipping, a member of the EEC Delegation to Jamaica.

EDF Aid Under ACP-EEC

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Funding for two new projects totalling J\$16.6 million has been announced by Mr. Roger Booth, Delegate of the Commission of the European Communities in Jamaica. The financing is to be drawn from the total allocation of European Development Fund (E.D.F.) resources for Jamaica amounting to J\$72.0 million under the ACP-EEC Lome Convention.

The Citrus Development Project, for which J\$9.5 million is being provided, was drawn up between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Citrus Growers Association. The project will make available loan funds to farmers with up to 25 acres of citrus, more particularly oranges and ortaniques. The credits will be channelled through the Agricultural Credit Bank and the People's Co-operative Banks.

The purpose of the loans will be to enable citrus farmers to rehabilitate their orchards, bringing the groves back into peak production. The funds are expected to be sufficient for up to 300 farmers with a total area of 4,000 acres of citrus. National production of citrus fruits are expected to increase by up to 36,000 tonnes annually, for both local and export markets, as a result of the credit programme and increased extension activity.

The project, which is to run for five years up to 1989, is a part of the AGRO 21 drive to redevelop Jamaica's agriculture.

Rural Electrification

The second project, which is funded at J\$7.1 million, was designed by The Rural Electrification Programme Ltd. of the Ministry of Public services. The programme aims to improve living standards in the rural areas, to increase productivity in the agricultural sector and indirectly to help stem the migration from rural areas to the urban centres.

The project will involve the design, supply of electrical materials and construction of:--

- A) 154 extensions to the distribution system of a total length of 160 miles.
- B) 2,800 connections to new users.
- C) 2,500 house-wiring schemes.

The extensions are to be carried out in 13 of the 14 parishes of Jamaica.

The programme is co-financed with the Jamaican Government. The EDF funding is to meet the cost of the procurement of all equipment, while the Jamaican Government is financing the works contracts--also at a cost of approximately J\$7.0 million.

Financing decisions on these two new projects means that a total of J\$41.6 million has now been approved for Jamaica under the Lome II Convention.

Three other substantial projects are already under implementation: namely, a five-year training programme costed at J\$13.1 million; support for Veterinary Services development (J\$3.0 million); and a third project with the Board of Revenue consisting of a grant of J\$8.9 million for the introduction of electronic data processing facilities for the board and two of the revenue departments.

Bank-Black Market Conflict

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The traditional role of the commercial banks as allocators of foreign exchange has been usurped by the local black market and the banks have become literal onlookers of a market exchange in which they are playing little part, a prominent banker told the Gleaner yesterday.

The Banker said that since the introduction of the new regime in which the foreign exchange rates had

been unified and which was recently adjusted to work under a system of auctions amongst bankers, the foreign exchange intake into the banks has decreased dramatically.

He said that since August last year the intake of foreign exchange into the commercial banks had dropped in some instances by as much as 50 percent, and despite the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar in November "little has happened to restore flows."

The current system of fixing buying and selling rates for foreign ex-

change through auctions, the Banker said, is not itself bad though, he said, "attempts by some to keep prices down by artificial means is having an adverse effect in the marketplace." This sort of behaviour he said "amounts to a decision that the banking system will not allocate foreign exchange but that the 'Real Market' - the Black Market - will." Bankers set rates daily within a specified band established by a parity order signed by the Minister of Finance.

On Friday, January 20, in what commercial bankers described as a move to bring exchange rates down to "realistic levels" the rate of exchange of the Jamaican dollar against the U.S. dollar improved, moving from J\$3.38 (buying) and J\$3.40 (selling) per U.S. dollar to J\$3.25 (buying) and J\$3.30 (selling).

The bankers said then that the move to bring the rate down was agreed among themselves in an at-

tempt to stem a situation that was getting out of hand in which the exchange rate would get so high that only non-essential but essential goods would become unbearably uncomfortable and expensive.

But, said our banking source "We can all agonise that the foreign exchange rates are climbing too high thus making some goods too expensive for some people. It's not a reality any of us are happy with. But it is a reality, and we have to live with it. We can do whatever we want... suppress the rates...but in the final analysis we don't even count. Because the people that matter... the people that have foreign exchange to sell and those that want to buy foreign exchange, are ignoring us (the commercial banks) completely. We don't count at all, and if we take the rate down below what the market forces demand then we can't expect but to be disregarded."

"The commercial banks can fix foreign exchange at the lowest end of the scale. If we feel that the true worth of the US dollar is \$3.25 and we set the rate at that, we are simply taking a pipe dream to its logical conclusion; but it does not ensure us any foreign exchange. The man in the street knows he can get in the region of J\$3.80 to J\$4.10 per U.S. dollar and naturally, he would sell on the black market at the higher rate rather than accept a much lower rate from the bank."

"Any way you cut it, if foreign exchange is being brought and sold, and our information is that significantly more trade is taking place outside than in the officially sanctioned system, the banks do not have the wherewithal to attract foreign exchange, as long as rates are being kept down artificially."

The Banker has advocated what he calls "a truly market-based system" where market forces determine levels of exchange would allow for a more rational orderly and equitable distribution of foreign exchange. He said that the situation as it now stands, is in effect telling the legitimate businessman that the commercial banks can not satisfy his need for foreign exchange to keep production going, or to keep his doors open and so "he must resort to illegality - get his funds elsewhere."

The Banker said, that in his opinion, there are two ways only to allocate scarce resources - the market-based approach in which price arbitrates, and allocation by means of controls such as licence and quota restrictions, which latter have proved unsuccessful, he said.

Describing the current situation as "chaotic", the banker said that the current system of foreign exchange distribution which does not have the commercial banks at its centre, is most undesirable if one is to preserve any semblance of order. He said that rates set by the banks must be "realistic,

reflecting what is happening the marketplace. We must listen to the market forces out there...they must determine the correct rates at which trading must occur."

"We can make bold statements, and have the noblest of intentions but despite the latest bold stand by commercial bankers in pushing the exchange rate down to J\$3.25 to U.S.\$1 because they saw this as the 'real value' of the money, the street price has not dropped. The black market is not demanding one cent less for its dollars. If the banks were allowed to operate a free market system, perhaps the rates would rise thus pushing up prices for certain goods. But this could not go on indefinitely. Jamaicans would ultimately decide what they would or would not buy, and traders could not keep marking-up the prices of goods, or they would be left with them on their hands.

"Jamaicans are not fundamentally different from any other people given an orderly, rational set of economic standards and processes, Jamaicans are willing I'm sure, to put their shoulders to the wheel, and try to make their fortunes here if the opportunities are perceived to be here. Capital flows to perceived opportunity - wherever it is located, and money, like water, finds it's own level," the Banker said.

Stone Slap at 'Optimism'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Feb 84 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] Optimism they say is good medicine in times of crisis. But like everything else too much of it is damaging. Our Prime Minister has been a supreme optimist about the likely prospects for the economy to a level where I wonder sometimes if he believes in miracles.

However, the deepening crisis in the economy seems to be forcing him to face some hard realities. But that realism might have arrived just a bit too late.

In his flight on the wings of optimism (far removed from reality) Mr. Seaga thought that it was possible to achieve rapid growth in the economy, an adequate and increased flow of consumer goods (to satisfy voters) while at the same time satisfying IMF priorities for economic stabilisation. These objectives were inherently contradictory in the short run. The measures necessary to maximise stabilisation require policies that cut consumption flows, reduce imports drastically, tighten money supply and credit and put growth objectives on the back-burner hoping that after stabilisation is achieved those other objectives can thereafter be pursued.

What has happened simply is that the growth and "consumption increase" objectives were fueled by massive borrowing and the effect has thrown the objective of balancing the current account on visible trade and payments through the window.

Now the IMF has made it clear time and time again that its principal policy objective is adjusting imbalances in balance of payments and trade. The Fund's Chief Executive recently commented on improvements in Third World economies, citing reductions in balance of payments deficits as the key indicator of this.

In the October 25th (1982) review of economic performance of developing countries under IMF loan support, the Fund makes the issue quite explicit by stating in that report that "the major external objective of fund adjustment programmes is to achieve a sustainable balance of payments position."

It is part of the politics of how the IMF operates that our government (favoured as it has been by strong political support from Washington) has been able to pursue policies which have massively increased the negative balance on visible trade without the IMF taking a hard line much earlier.

The fact that the inflation rate dropped due to the large increase in consumer goods supply permitted a plausible case to be made that stabilisation objectives were being pursued, but while that was happening the trade deficit was growing to mammoth proportions. Genuine efforts were also made to control the budget deficit.

Now that the Seaga management mystique has begun to rub off and even voices in Washington have started to question how the economy is being run, the IMF technocrats are now insisting on stabilisation and balance of payments adjustments being placed as a number one policy priority.

The following are the published figures on the trade deficit over the years. What these figures show is the gap between export earnings and imports.

	Negative balance on visible trade	negative balance on visible trade
years		
1972		193 million \$
1973		261 million \$
1974		198 million \$
1975		281 million \$
1976		254 million \$
1977		74 million \$
1978		177 million \$
1979		309 million \$
1980		380 million \$
1981		898 million \$
1982		1,105 million \$

Under IMF pressure the PNP government was forced to cut the trade deficit over the 1977-78 period but things got out of hand between 1978 and 1980. But since the JLP came to power the deficit has multiplied at an unprecedented rate and it is only now that IMF pressure is being applied. These trade deficits have aggravated our balance of payments position.

As government spokesmen have admitted, the situation has further deteriorated by a substantial outflow of capital caused partly by currency speculations (induced by our unstable and upward climbing rate of exchange) and by declining confidence in the government, its policies and the economy by the Jamaican private sector.

The drastic adjustments now to be applied are going to put a sharp break on the momentum of activity in the economy. Imports are to be slashed, credit has been tightened, the budget deficit has to be slashed, the supply of consumer goods is going to go back to a level close to 1980 when the JLP came to power and the seeds of optimism are going to deliver a harvest of disillusionment. These painful adjustments should have come in 1981-82 and not in 1984.

Now that the IMF technocrats are going to have their way, we can be sure that the stabilisation objectives are going to be vigorously pursued. Living standards are going to fall drastically. Malnutrition, unemployment and a related host of social problems will multiply. The big issue is whether the stabilisation measures and adjustments will be followed by positive investment activity by the private sector.

The flight of capital leaving the country is reminiscent of a similar trek of dollars overseas while Manley and the PNP were in power. It is the surest sign of a total lack of confidence in an economy. To the extent that private business has lost confidence in a government and its policies, by what process or mechanism is stabilisation going to usher in a return to growth and upbeat levels of economic activity?

The government constantly cites foreign investment and the opening up of new investment projects as an indicator of business confidence. But this positive sign or indicator has been overtaken by contrary trends which threaten to take us fully back to where we were when we tossed out the PNP government. Indeed, some businessmen are arguing that we are not only back there already but that for many of them the prospects for business now are worse than there were when the PNP was in power.

The government's financial policies have been confused, ill-conceived and partly responsible for the panic that now engulfs private sector motivations.

The new set of financial measures being introduced and the painful adjustments necessary to restore the IMF stabilisation objective might help us balance the books in an accounting sense but the prospect of economic recovery now seems more and more to be as distant and as remote as it was in the latter years of the Manley government.

An excess of optimism is clearly not necessarily good medicine.

When the Prime Minister promised to deliver 97,000 jobs and declared how bauxite earnings were going to be a major boost to the expected upturn in the economy I took him to task for practising "Alice in Wonderland" economics. At the time my JLP friends accused me of promoting anti-JLP propaganda. It is not just that there was an excess of optimism but rather that it inspired

confused policies, poor timing in the sequencing of policy priorities, policy inconsistencies that have had to be corrected by constant changes on policy direction and a seeming lack of a clear grasp of the levers of policy making that has rapidly eroded the fund of confidence Mr. Seaga started with in 1980.

We hope for the country's sake that the pieces can be put back together again.

Venezuelan Bauxite Purchase

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] AN ARRANGEMENT has been concluded with the Venezuelan State Alumina Company (VENALUM) under which it will pay in advance for the entirety of its contracted 1984 alumina supply by the Bauxite and Alumina Trading Company (BATCO), amounting to 210,000 metric tonnes, thereby guaranteeing the sale.

This has been announced by the Hon. Hugh Hart, Minister of Mining and Energy, who returned from Venezuela over the weekend. Mr. Hart was leader of Jamaica's delegation to the inauguration on Thursday, February 2, in Caracas, of the new Venezuelan President, Dr. Jaime Lusinchi.

The arrangement with VENALUM is part of an existing contract, through Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited and BATCO, under which Jamaica has been supplying Venezuela with alumina for a number of years.

Venezuela has agreed to continue taking Jamaica's alumina notwithstanding the recent installation of its own alumina refinery, Interalumina.

Mr. Hart also started that the new President of Venezuela, to whom he conveyed a personal congratulations from Prime Minister Seaga, and the good wishes of the Jamaican people, had expressed his desire for a continuation of the close relationship between the two countries, and his admiration for Jamaica's Prime Minister.

While in Caracas, Mr. Hart had a number of meetings with trading and other relations. Among these was a meeting with Dr. Jerman Luis Soriano, President of the Venezuelan Investment Fund.

Mr. Hart was also a special guest at a luncheon hosted by Dr. Umberto Calderon Berti, President of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., at which he was able to meet with officials from the Venezuelan oil company with which Jamaica primarily deals with respect to crude supplies from that country, as well as with a number of Oil Ministries from other O.P.E.C. countries.

Mr. Hart had a brief informal discussion with President Bellisario Bentancur, of Colombia, who re-affirmed that he was looking forward to receiving Jamaica's proposals for regional co-operation.

At a meeting between President Betancur and Jamaica's Prime Minister in Quito earlier this year, the possibility of Colombia supplying coal to Jamaica linked with the supply of Jamaican alumina to a proposed aluminium smelter in Colombia was discussed.

Mr. Hart is to visit Colombia shortly to pursue these discussions with his Colombian counterpart, Sr. Carlos Martinez.

Included in Jamaica's delegation to the Presidential inauguration were the Hon. Dr. Neville Gallimore, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Reginald Philips, Jamaica's Ambassador to Venezuela.

Mr. Hart was accompanied by his wife.

JMA Concern

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 84 p 15

[Text]

Concern at the Government's new monetary policies and the resulting negative effects on production and exports has been expressed by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association.

A statement issued following its regular meeting on Tuesday, at which the JMA Executive considered the implications of the measures outlined in Ministry Paper No. 5 of January 24, said:

"The 12 percent ceiling on credit is most devastating when one considers that total loans and advances in 1982 were 31 percent higher than in 1981 and up to September 1983 (the latest date for which figures are available) the increment, when compared to a similar period in the previous year, was 27.7 percent.

"In the case of the manufacturing sector, the increase in loans and advances as at September 1983 was \$94.1 million or 31.3 percent over the comparable period in 1983.

"The new guidelines will mean an incremental allocation to the manufacturing sector significantly less than even the nine-month figures for 1983.

"In spite of all the difficulties our sector recorded positive growth in 1983. We have been gearing up to take advantage of the CBI and other opportunities. While we are sure this could not be the intention, the new measures will result in rearing away some of the foundations we are trying to build.

"The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association is of the view that these measures will squeeze the economy to such an extent that production and exports.

"We are therefore strongly requesting Government to re-consider the new measures in light of the severe hardship they will inflict on the economy in terms of business closures, reduction of jobs and negative effects on production and export earnings."

Seaga on New Budget Assessment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA said last night that new areas of adjustment in the economy, including a review of the Recurrent Budget and its cost to ensure surpluses to finance capital expenditure for urgent areas of need, will be detailed to the nation next week when negotiations with the International Monetary Fund are completed.

Mr. Seaga was giving a large gathering of representatives of the private and public sectors, diplomats and other members of the public a three-year update on the state of the economy, at the Bank of Jamaica auditorium in Kingston. He said that the meeting signalled the beginning of a series in which he would be taking the Government's case to the public where "it can be reasoned by us with the people we represent, not by propagandist."

The Prime Minister told the meeting:

"We must now begin a process of developing new levels of resources instead of borrowing to close the gaps in the budgetary (or fiscal account) and balance of payment accounts, failing which we will not be able to structure the economy on a self-sustaining basis, and what has been re-built will be gravely prejudiced in the near future.

"This will mean a review of the Recurrent Budget and its costs, to ensure that we develop once again the surpluses we lost in the 1970s in order to help finance capital expenditure for urgent areas of need such as roads and water supplies.

"This compression of costs, together with increased revenues, will put the economy back on track with major steps to reduce the (budget) deficits towards a sustainable level.

"I will develop the details on these areas of adjustments as soon as I complete negotiations with the I.M.F. which are scheduled to take place between the managing director and myself in Washington on Monday, after which the package will go to Cabinet for final approval."

Mr. Seaga said that there was a compelling need to bring the Budget deficit down without heavy reliance on the bauxite levy to do so.

"This is a compelling need and this year's programme will set a course to be followed to enable us to do so and to continue to do so, until the deficit is in the range of 5% of GDP, at which level we will have restored the Budget to a level of sustainable financing without excessive borrowings," he said.

Mr. Seaga said that the programme of structural adjustment was now past its halfway mark and was being implemented smoothly and effectively. Of the 35 undertakings under the adjustment programme, 10 had already been fully implemented, eleven were on target to achieve full implementation, and 14 were partially implemented.

He said that the problems which the country faced were not to be laid at the door of "master strategies" and policies being pursued by the Government, but had their genesis in the single factor of reduced foreign-exchange earnings occasioned by a dramatic fall in bauxite production due to the international recession.

Mr. Seaga said that the reduced flow of bauxite earnings had generated shortfalls both in the foreign exchange and revenue flows, since the bauxite levy was a principal source of revenue to finance the Budget; and, accordingly, the shortfall had left the budgetary gaps in foreign exchange and revenue which were the

source of the grave problems the country faced.

"The end result is that there remains to be closed budgetary gaps which are at levels which prejudice the survival of the economy.

"Until a better strategy appears, if it does, let us therefore give the course of action we have plotted to effect both economic recovery and economic adjustment the continued support which has so far enabled these strategies to achieve marked levels of success in turning the negative direction of the 1970s into a positive, and in building new foreign-exchange earning sectors to reduce the influence of bauxite."

Devaluation Denial

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

Fears of a further devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and increases in the prices of petrol, which were rumoured to be the reasons for Prime Minister Edward Seaga calling a meeting with the private sector in the Bank of Jamaica's auditorium yesterday, were laid to rest by Mr. Seaga himself during his speech to the large gathering.

Mr. Seaga, who was obviously acquainted with the rumours which spread like a wild fire through the city yesterday and could even be heard above the chatter and clinking of cocktail glasses prior to his arrival, told the meeting:

"This gathering was not assembled, as many of you expected, to announce a new gas price or new devaluation, but to create a better understanding of where we are coming from and where we are going to, the turn-around that we have effected, the adjustment we have made, with success that is belittled and often over-looked, and the remaining ground to cover where success has eluded us".

When Mr. Seaga ended his speech, he made himself available to answer any questions which might have arisen, but a clearly surprised audience sat silently until he left the auditorium.

Exchange Control Amendment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] A Bill seeking to amend the Exchange Control Act to empower the Minister of Finance to issue directions to persons engaged in any trade or business whereby foreign currency or gold is earned, was tabled by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, in the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

The Bill aims at amending the Exchange Control Act in order to empower the Minister to issue directions to persons engaged in any trade or business whereby foreign currency or gold is earned, in order to ensure that such foreign currency is remitted to Jamaica and offered for sale in the manner specified by the Minister in the directions.

Persons who fail to comply with any directions of the Minister shall be liable under the amendment to

(a) on conviction in a Resident's Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both fine and imprisonment; and

(b) on conviction before a Circuit Court to a fine not exceeding three times the value of the gold or foreign currency or \$100,000, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or to both fine and imprisonment.

Provision is also made whereby a director, general manager, secretary or other similar officer of a body corporate shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence without his consent or connivance and that he was diligent in preventing the commission of the offence.

CSO: 3298/522

TOTAL LOCAL RICE REQUIREMENT TO BE MILLED HERE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga has announced the conclusion of negotiations of a major project under Agro-21 to mill Jamaica's full requirements of rice annually.

Essential element of the proposal for the project, a Jamaica House news release said, is that a joint venture company will be established in Jamaica between the Taylor/Cross Group of the U.S.A., the Jamaica National Investment Company (JNIC), and the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company (JCTC), with the JNIC/JCTC holding 51% of the equity split.

Mr. Seaga said the joint venture company would undertake the establishment of a rice mill facility capable of producing 40,000 tons of finished white rice. This mill would process brown rice--that is, de-hulled paddy rice--imported by the JCTC from the United States or from other sources in the initial stages.

The cost of the mill has been estimated at approximately U.S.\$2 million, including site works and the installation of equipment but excluding buildings.

The company will also undertake, with the Ministry of Agriculture, the development of 1,000 acres of land over the next two years, in Westmoreland, for the cultivation of rice; and will also assist and guide small farmers in the development of efficient capabilities for the farming of rice to be milled by the joint venture company.

The mill is to be located in the Montego Bay Freeport area of St. James.

At the present time, Jamaica imports 60,000 tons of rice per annum and the intention, the Prime Minister said, is to supply the maximum amount of rice from local production. This, he said, is now the subject of a separate project being developed to identify suitable lands and farmers.

CSO: 3298/524

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, SET FOR MARCH, POSTPONED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Local Government elections due Constitutionally for March this year will be postponed to allow for the new electoral system to be put in place, according to the General Secretary of the Jamaica Labour Party, Mr. Bruce Golding.

Mr. Golding said yesterday that in view of the fact that "I don't have the authority to either call Local Government elections or postpone them, I'm just indicating to you my understanding of the intentions of the Government."

Speaking at a news conference called to announce plans for the JLP's annual general conference this year, he said that he could not give any specific time as to when the elections would be called.

"The law says that the elections must be held no later than June of the year in which the three years that Councillors held office has expired," he said.

Mr. Golding added that the processing of the identification cards and the registration documents for the new Voters List was now proceeding. However, there were some problems.

The machine which printed from a processed negative information for the ID card had been malfunctioning but the suppliers had quickly responded to a call to fix it. Technicians had been sent from England to correct the fault and the machine was back in service, but he did not know whether a similar situation would arise.

"I couldn't give an indication at this stage as to how soon the process will be through. We're still looking towards the middle of the year in terms of completing the system," he said.

Once the system was in place, the Government would have to address the question of the date of Parish Council elections, Mr. Golding said.

On the question of the Electoral Advisory Committee and the JLP's position after the term of office of its members expired in March, he said that the Party had taken the position--and had so advised the Committee--that the

J.L.P. would not want to have a situation where it had representatives on the Committee if the PNP did not have representatives there either.

"We would not want to in any way injure or do violence to the balance that has prevailed on that Committee," he said, adding that the Committee had indicated to the Party that it would be somewhat disturbed if both sides were not on the Committee.

Mr. Golding said that he was advised that the P.N.P. representatives had resumed attending meeting.

In March, he said, the appointment of nominated members of the Committee would expire; and the law provided that the members were appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister and of the Leader of the Opposition.

What the J.L.P. wished to do to ensure that "the manifestation of the integrity" was maintained was to consult with the P.N.P., because under the law the Prime Minister exercised the functions of the Leader of the Opposition in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition.

The P.N.P. would be consulted to find out who were the representatives they would like to have on the Committee and to have this formalised through the legal process--the same legal process that was used in the appointment of the Opposition Senators, he said.

The new situation also raised the question of the appointment of scrutineers, Mr. Golding said. The law stated that in order for a political party to have the right to appoint scrutineers it must have a minimum of five Elected Members in the House of Representatives.

The question as to how the P.N.P. could protect its own interest in an enumeration would have to be addressed, he said. This could be done on the basis of allowing the P.N.P. to have observers, except that these would not be legally recognised as scrutineers.

"One of the things we are not prepared to do is to violate the law because of any whimsical decision of any political party," he said.

Mr. Golding said that the J.L.P. was not seeking to exploit or take advantage of the political situation, but was prepared for discussion, and it was hoped that "in those discussions we don't run into any sort of arrogance, as we are not proposing to display anything of that sort."

CSO: 3298/523

BRIEFS

DRIVE AGAINST PRAEDIAL LARCENY--A SEVEN-MAN committee, with Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. R. K. Ebanks, as Chairman, to monitor and advise on all aspects of the function, deployment and activities of Agricultural Wardens has been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick. The Committee will be comprised of the Chairman, who is in charge of wardens under the responsibility given to the Commissioner of Police; and a representative from each of the following organisations: the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the All-Island Banana Growers Association, the Jamaica Livestock Association, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Agriculture. The Agricultural Wardens will also be represented on the Committee. The appointment of the Committee is based on complaints about the effectiveness of the Agricultural Wardens, Dr. Broderick said yesterday, adding that the establishment of the wardens' force was only one component of the Government's approach in the attempt to deal with the problem of praedial larceny. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Feb 84 p 1]

RISE IN CHICKEN PRICES--CHICKEN MEAT goes up in price to \$2.75 per lb. retail and \$2.39 per lb. wholesale from tomorrow. The new prices reflect increases of 33¢ per lb. retail and 28¢ per lb. wholesale. The increases were announced yesterday by Carrick Foil Ltd., Jamaica Broilers Ltd., Caribbean Broilers Ltd., and Jamaica Poultry and Agricultural Company Ltd. A joint statement issued by the four companies said: "Effective Monday, February 6, 1984, the price of broiler meat will be as follows--wholesale \$2.39 per lb., retail \$2.75 per lb. The broiler companies regret that this has become necessary due to increases in the cost of production. The public is asked to note that the retail price of \$2.75 per lb. will be subject to monitoring by the Prices Commission". The previous increase was in September last year when the prices went up to \$2.11 per lb. wholesale and \$2.42 per lb. retail. A spokesman for the companies said yesterday that the increases were due to the following factors: --The foreign-exchange rate resulting from the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar which affects such inputs as hatching eggs, medication, packing, capital equipment, and spare parts. --Increases in the prices of gasoline and electricity. --Increased rates to contract farmers and wages to workers. The spokesman added that the industry absorbed all the increased rates for the month of January. Costings by the companies were submitted to the Prices Commission and, following investigation by the Commission, the new prices were agreed on. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Feb 84 p 1]

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION--The Consulate of the Dominican Republic in Jamaica has been upgraded to an Embassy and Rafael Ludovino Fernandez who has held the post of Consulate General since August 1982 has been appointed Charge d'Affaires ad hoc and Minister Counsellor. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 12 Feb 84 pp 13, 24]

CSO: 3298/525

BRIEFS

CREDENTIALS OF THREE NEW AMBASSADORS--Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today received copies of credential letters from the new ambassadors to Mexico from Cyprus, Boliva and Finland. A communique from the Mexican press reported that the new ambassadors are: from Cyprus, Christoforo U. Charlambos; Boliva, Mario V. Guzman; and Finland, Pentti Talvitie. Within the next few days, the original letters will be presented to President Miguel de la Madrid, according to the Foreign Secretariat. [Text] [FL111320 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0206 GMT 10 Feb 84]

CSO: 3248/450

PARTY LEADERS DEBATE NEW BUDGET; RADIO CHIDED

Bramble, Osborne Exchange

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English Christmas 83 Supplement unpagged

[Text]

The Leader of the Opposition Progressive Democratic Party, Mr. P. Austin Bramble (Plymouth) and his colleague, Mr. E. A. Dyer, (Central), charged Mr. John Osborne's Administration for leading the island into the present economic recession during the debate on the 1983 budget last Monday.

Mr. Bramble, a former Chief Minister, described Mr. Osborne's budget as "a mixture of falsehoods and deceptions which no right-thinking person can take seriously."

Pointing out that the budget came five years after Mr. Osborne's People's Liberation Movement took office, Mr. Bramble claimed that "the Government is still unable to produce a single workable new idea for economic development."

He cited the Customs Service Tax on imports -

including food, medicines and building materials, the tax on money coming into the island and the low profile of the DFMC as evidence of Government's failure.

The opposition leader said the Government had demoralized the civil service and failed to increase public assistance payments since it took office.

He wondered how Government Ministers could enjoy their own increased salaries while neglecting the less fortunate members of the community.

Mr. Dyer, a former Minister for Communication and Works, supported Mr. Bramble's charges of Government's failure.

In his reply, Mr. Osborne cited the increases granted to civil servants by his Govern-

ment to refute the charge of demoralizing the civil servants.

"Mr. Bramble never gave them an increase in five years," he declared.

The Chief Minister vehemently denied charges of corruption against his government. "None of my Ministers are corrupt, one man did something wrong and I dismissed him," he said.

It was Mr. Osborne's Government that introduced a levy on foreign money coming into the island, but stung by opposition criticisms, he claimed that his govern-

ment had inherited the unpopular levy.

Despite unprecedented steep increases in Government's tractor rates, the lack of effective marketing services and the rising quantity of agricultural imports. Mr. Osborne claimed that his Government had done much to encourage and develop agriculture.

It is Mr. Bramble's Government, he said, which had destroyed the Development Finance and Marketing Corporation by giving loans to persons who could not repay.

Radio Boycott of Opposition

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English Christmas 83 Supplement unpagged

[Text] The government-owned Radio station, ZJB, totally blocked the Opposition from its report on the 1983 Budget debate on Monday, December 19th.

Sources highly placed quoted the Chief Minister's Permanent Secretary, Dr. Joseph Weekes as saying that it was against official policy to allow the Radio Station to include live inserts from any of the two Opposition members, Mr. P. Austin Bramble (Plymouth) and Mr. Eustace A. Dyer (Central). And the civil servants at Radio Montserrat obeyed their instructions.

"And now let us pick up the debate on the 1983 Budget from Chief Minister John Osborne's reply Opposition Leader Austin Bramble's criticisms," a ZJB newscaster said at 7.15 p.m. last Monday night. From then the Radio station broadcast over thirty minutes of the Chief Minister's defence of his government and occasional attacks on the Opposition.

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English Christmas 83 p 4

[Article by A. Howson]

[Text]

We are in league with St. Kitts in the December Budget business this year '83. Trinidad, which normally has the budget in either November or December will postpone their budget until early in 1984. Montserrat will also be the only CARICOM country to have two annual budgets and a budget review during the same year.

Although there are many advantages in the decision to have a budget at the end of the year for the following year, Montserrat cannot benefit adequately at this time because the country has lost track of inflation.

Montserrat can no longer predict inflation and growth without excessive guesswork and therefore the December 1983 budget can be described as no more than an exercise in economic arithmetic.

The public will therefore be put under strain for four quarters while the administration experiments with the budget process. A Caribbean country tried to put the people under strain for four straight days recently and the result was chaos.

If rent which reflects what the population spends on housing could be the lowest measure of importance in Montserrat's cost-of-living index, it means that the cost-of-living index is out-moded.

This also means that Montserratians are displaying a behaviour pattern unknown to the entire Caribbean.

Inflation was therefore not predicted properly this year and the result is now history. It could be corrected if March or April next year is used as budget time. The reason being that the cost-of-living index used prior to 1983 has March as its base month, or point of reference.

If inflation and growth cannot be predicted with proper data, it means that taxation cannot be corrected with any professionalism either. This December budget is therefore subject to too many errors. For those persons who wonder what errors can do with the budget, we can look at a simple example of misplaced zeroes. It causes a prediction of \$1,000,000 to end up to be \$000,000.1. And really 99.9% less than predicted is a large margin of error.

Now that the year has ended we can look back and see that the one million dollars surplus was not realized. Infact no sooner than we heard that there was a budget speech, a one million dollar deficit was forecasted which caused huge taxation measures to be implemented with immediate effect.

This means that if the first budget was to be graded it would get a mark of zero

percent. There has been no significant improvement in the grade of the second budget of 14th December 1983.

I think that a small developing country like Montserrat should be aiming for at least a 'B' grade average at this stage of our development or the country may never graduate.

Exchange Controls

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English Christmas 83 p 1

[Text] Montserrat's Ministry of Finance has so far failed to react to reports which suggest that a rigid Exchange Control Regime will be enforced here early in the New Year.

According to the reports, the Ministry of Finance may reduce the amount of United States dollars which Commercial Banks will be able to sell to any one customer and approval for foreign exchange purchases will be more difficult to obtain.

The Ministry of Finance is known to be very cooperative with the business community and private individuals in foreign exchange matters.

But the reported tightening up is linked to Montserrat's participation in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

Times investigators learnt that certain businessmen are seeking a meeting with the Government but details were not available.

It is generally felt that a rigid Exchange Control Regime will result in considerable inconvenience to businessmen and consumers.

We sincerely hope that the Central Bank thinks this matter over.

CSO: 3298/507

GOVERNMENT MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR INDEPENDENCE

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Chief Minister John Osborne's ruling People's Liberation Movement is pushing full speed ahead with its drive to make this 39-1/2 square mile island of 12,000 people the world's newest mini-state. And it is government's intention to make independence the issue in a general election or Referendum later this year, according to sources highly placed.

Sources claimed that Chief Minister John Osborne and the Hon. Noel "Dadda" Tuitt, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing are the leaders of the pro-independence movement within the Government and the ruling party.

"Benjie and Annie are not fond of the idea but neither of the two is strong enough to oppose the Chief Minister," sources said of the Hon. J. Benjamin Chalmers, Minister of Communications and Works and the Hon. Margaret Dyer, Minister of Education, Health and Community Services.

Mr. Osborne has consistently told the people of Montserrat that his Government will not seek political independence until it achieves "economic independence".

"He has now abandoned that idea and is convinced that independence will enable him to seek aid from all nations," sources said.

Independence Campaign

Around the middle of last year, the Chief Minister's Office instructed Radio Montserrat to mount a pro-independence promotional campaign. But Government subsequently denied any intention to break ties with Britain and the radio promotion ended after less than one week.

However, when Chief Minister Osborne went to St. Kitts for independence celebrations, he told the American News Agency, Associated Press that his Government was moving full speed towards independence.

In the interview which was widely published, Mr. Osborne noted that Britain's remaining Caribbean colonies were reluctant to move on to independence. "Montserrat will lead these colonies to independence," he pledge.

Shortly afterwards it was reported that Governor David Dale had briefed his two Senior Security Officers about Government's plans to break ties with Britain.

The Government is expected to brief the population before the end of this month.

CSO: 3298/507

WORLD BANK QUESTIONS TOURIST PROJECT; CDB AID URGED

Bank's Reservations

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English Christmas 83 p 1

[Text] The World Bank, in its latest report on Montserrat, expressed grave doubts about the advisability of the Little Bay Project and in particular, the inclusion of a Casino.

According to sources, the World Bank report says on Page 9, Cap. 35: Cap. 35:

"As to the Little Bay proposal, it is advised that this be approached cautiously and only after careful study."

"There are legitimate fears in the existing tourism industry that such a development could detract from the existing market."

"Certainly, it would seem unlikely that a Casino should be included, for this would clearly clash with the existing tourism style."

"However, if the overall tourist package is improved, efforts are made to increase July-September visitors, if air services become more reliable, and if the proposal is designed in such a way as to be compatible with the present industry, then such a development, based around a marina which has natural advantages, could be viable and a major boost to the economy."

However, Government should continually bear in mind the importance of the existing industry and its overall contribution to the economy should not be underestimated."

The World Bank's thing on Little Bay has been revealed one week after Finance Minister, Mr. John Osborne, outlined Government's positive hopes for the project in his 1983 Budget Speech.

Plymouth THE MONTserrat TIMES in English Christmas 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The Little Bay resort project, as envisaged, explained and promoted by the Government of Montserrat, offers tremendous scope for physical development in the Northern part of the island and great hope for the economic advancement of the entire island. But the good people of Montserrat are now experiencing the most financially painful Christmas season of the past forty years and they need a little indication that Government's plans for Little Bay will become reality - at least before the end of this century.

Government bought Little Bay from the Montserrat Company Limited over four years ago. A considerable amount of planning has been done. A significant amount of money has been spent on pre-feasibility studies. Generous aid promises have been announced. Two companies are fighting each other in an American court over a Little Bay deal which has not been explained to the people of Montserrat. But not even a little work has been done at Little Bay.

Flight Transport Corporation flew into Montserrat and claimed it was willing, able and ready to turn Little Bay into a tourists paradise. In the process, that company even promised to provide the people of Montserrat with a multi-million dollar Runway capable of accommodating commercial jet aircraft. The appropriately named company flew away and faded out of the picture without making any real attempt to assist government's efforts to develop Little Bay.

On the heels of the Flight Transport Corporation crew came Arabs and Koreans, some of whom we have been told, easily satisfied the collateral demands of our local commercial banks. But they have not yet seen fit to put their money to work at Little Bay, only their mouths.

According to the Chief Minister, the

extended talking stage has not dampened the enthusiasm of friendly aid donors and the Caribbean Development Bank is substantially in the loan promising business in respect of Little Bay.

As an institution dedicated to the promotion of regional development, the Caribbean Development Bank should provide the Chief Minister with the technical advice and guidance he needs for the Little Bay project. It cannot take CDB analysts more than one week to determine whether the Little Bay project, if funded, will blossom forth into a big booming business or a big little fool's paradise.

The CDB should carry out its own independent study and make the report available to the government and people of Montserrat. Delay in this regard indicates indifference. Indifference cannot be permitted at a time when little islands like Montserrat are in dire need of positive assistance.

Something will be radically wrong if the Chief Minister cannot announce during his next Budget address that more than one hundred persons have found employment at Little Bay.

CSO: 3298/508

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL--Montserrat now has its third English-born Attorney General, but Government House spokesmen say a West Indian will be recruited for the post eventually. The Government-owned Radio, ZJB, reported this week that Governor David Dale announced the appointment of Mr. R. W. Lucie-Smith as this island's Attorney General. He comes here from the British Caribbean Colony of Anguilla. According to ZJB Radio, Mr. Lucie-Smith will hold the post for about four months "pending the recruitment of a West Indian as the substantive Attorney General here." Mr. John Wilson who is now working in Hong Kong, was Montserrat's first English Attorney General. Mr. Ian Pritchard-Witts, another Englishman was appointed Acting Attorney General following his departure. [Text] [Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 2 Dec 83 p 3]

SALARY OFFER TO PUBLIC SERVANTS--The Civil Service Association and other service organisations have rejected Government's offer of a 4% salary increase. A highly placed source said Government told the public servants it had only \$600,000 at its disposal for increased salaries and allowances and therefore cannot offer more than 4%. [Text] [Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 2 Dec 83 p 10]

CSO: 3298/508

JOINT FORCES TO COOPERATE IN ROADBUILDING PROJECT

PA172158 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Brigadier General (Robert Hugh Jones), commander of the 81st U.S. Army Reserves Command and responsible for the 361st Company, with headquarters in Atlantic City, visited Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega at the National Defense Forces headquarters at 1400 today. The Panamanian military chief greeted General Jones in his office. General Jones was accompanied by Col (James D. McCargle), commander 361st Civilian Affairs Brigade [as heard]; Col (Charles D. Stone), chief of the Military Liaison Office with the Panamanian National Defense Forces; and Col (Ralph Bennon), 361 Civilian Affairs Brigade.

Following the greeting the illustrious visitor was taken to the G-3 conference room where he was greeted by Lt Col Julian Melo, Lt Col Elias Castillo, Maj Augusto Villalaz, and Maj (Luis Valdes).

Major Villalaz explained the project to be developed by the joint tactical groups of the U.S. and Panamanian Armies as part of the road project to be developed between Llano de Mariato and Arenas del Quebro. The project involves 57 km of which the armed forces will build 42 km. The first 15 km have been put up for bid by the government.

The phase to be developed this year as part of the objectives of the joint tactical groups--a disposition included in the Torrijos-Carter treaties--includes 18 km of road between Llano de Mariato and Malena. This work will be done between 25 February and 18 May 1984. It is estimated that this road will be ready for use in May 1985.

Three hundred and twenty five men--75 percent U.S. personnel and 25 percent Panamanian Defense Force personnel--will participate in this work. U.S. personnel will be brought in from military installations in Florida, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico.

The program will benefit more than 5,000 residents of the area, which is now accessible only by air or sea and which is a great agricultural and cattle area.

The joint forces that will carry out this program include medical, logistics, and maintenance experts who during their stay in the area will offer help to the residents.

In concluding the visit Lieutenant Colonel (Stone) said that the joint action demonstrates that the two armies not only combine forces for military exercises but also for civic projects.

CSO: 3248/430

UNITED LEFT POSITION ON SENDERIST VIOLENCE QUESTIONED

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Under the headline "The Race to War in Peru," the daily of IU [United Left], which is printed in Peru under the protection and with the guarantees of the country's laws, in its main editorial issued very precise and objective instructions on the tactics and steps that are most necessary and convenient in facing and defeating Peru's army.

"Through some highly Central American mechanisms," it says, "the Salvadoran comrades were able to get some heavy weapons. The Sendero comrades on the other hand have had to be satisfied with working with air-injected dynamite and throwing rocks. This is not enough in order effectively to cope with the tremendous difference in the balance of technical and military forces and implements of war."

It also goes into great detail regarding the techniques of organization and orderly retreat of the Salvadoran guerrillas--taken here as a paradigm--and it is even suggested to Sendero that it say that it "completed the first phase."

The "highly Central American" mechanisms for obtaining heavy weapons we already know. What the IU organ seems to lament is that Sendero so far has not been able to get that type of weapons. Likewise, Sendero has been forced to "confine itself to working with air-injected dynamite and throwing rocks"; in other words, it was confined to killing only 860 persons.

If somebody tells a criminal how to use his weapons, how to withdraw, the direction in which to fire, the specific targets and the tactics he must use to cause the most damage, is that exercising his right to express his opinion or does this mean that he is aiding and abetting the crime and even inciting to it?

The Newspapermen's Association first and foremost must address itself to this case because this is not a matter of journalism such as we journalists understand it, nor does it involve freedom of the press and of opinion which is spelled out in our laws. This involves inciting to crime, something which is provided for and punished in the Criminal Code.

What is the purpose of the election statements of the IU candidates who reject terrorism and Senderist cruelty if their news organ not only encourages this but even prints instructions as to how to achieve maximum effectiveness in causing damage and destruction?

If, as it had to admit repeatedly, the Left gathered in this grouping, as part of its ideological concepts, proposes its participation in the partisan struggle in the context of the rules of the game contained in the country's Political Constitution, then it is high time that it clear up this double game.

It is not morally justifiable for IU to go into the elections by offering the voters a picture of calm and security in rejecting the Senderist methods--which the Peruvian people reject overwhelmingly--and, in the next line, in its news organ, to present not only an apologia for subversion but also to print instructions as to the best and most effective way to carry it out.

But this is what they have been doing.

5058

CSO: 3348/264

RUSSIAN SHIPS NOT COMPLYING WITH FISHING REGULATIONS

Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 4 Feb 84 p 15

[Text] Minutes before the end of the questioning session, Minister Quesada once again "put his foot in it" as he began to criticize the EPSEP [Public Enterprise for Fishing Services] with the Russian trawler fleet which he himself had signed.

The dailies exploited the minister's stupidity and a new public debate now began on the advisability or inadvisability of the operations of that fleet.

What was not said on that occasion was that, in the agreements signed with the Bahia SA [Incorporated], Piscis SA, and Mochica enterprises, there is authorization for the arrival of 17 vessels whereas only five came in and only two of them were really operating until the month of July. That month marked the beginning of the operations of the Russian fleet which has as its agent the Pacific Fishing Enterprise that is owned by the "champion of competitive bidding" (as he was called on that occasion by Deputy Augustin Haya of IU [United Left]), that is, Carlos Tizon Pacheco. The inconvenience of these operations is not due to the fact that they are the main predators of the sea, nor has this anything to do with the imaginary increase in its annual output which is on the order of \$40 million, as Minister Quesada had told the press.

The problem resides in the fact that the regulations governing the operations of factory trawlers, that is, DS 006-81-PE and its amendments, was drafted for hake fishing and for national-flag vessels, thus creating a nationalization process. When this species shrank extremely and when foreign-flag vessels were used, this regulation lost its meaning.

Only 9.35 Percent Turned over to EPSEP per Month

According to the provisions of DS 023-76-PE, vessels applying for exemption from registration and licensing fees must be involved in domestic trade and must turn over at least 20 percent of their output.

Each of the five vessels of the Russian trawler fleet has a net storage capacity of 800 tons which can be filled in 3 or 4 days. According to the supply agreement between the Pacific Fishing Enterprise and EPSEP (DS 20-83-PE), each of the vessels is obligated to turn over only the quantity of

75 tons of fish per month. If the Russian fleet works 30 days per month and 24 hours per day, one cannot then deduce from this that, in just one month, they would achieve an output of 800 metric tons, that is to say, they would fill their hold only once a month but, instead, they fill it between four and seven times.

But let us concentrate on the agreement now. Let us for the moment overlook reality. If a vessel fills its hold once a month, in other words, if it has a monthly output of 800 tons, then, turning over 75 tons per month would give us a figure of 9.37 percent. In other words, it is openly violating the provisions of DS 023-76-PE which establishes a minimum of 20 percent for domestic consumption.

But, on the other hand, the Russian fleet does not have a single Peruvian fisherman although the agreement establishes a minimum of 15 percent Peruvian workers and that is in open violation of the provisions of DL [Decree-Law] 22452 which calls for a minimum of 20 percent; the Russian fleet does not meet, nor is it concerned with meeting even the minimum fixed in Clause 10.3 of the agreement between the Pacific Enterprise and EPSEP. That is no minor thing; anybody who does not believe this should ask to be shown Official Letter No. 262-83-GG-GC from EPSEP to the Pacific Fishing Enterprise, Incorporated, dated 30 October 1983, or he should ask the Union of Trawler Fishermen and he will then be convinced.

5058

CSO: 3348/264

TALE OF TURMOIL, 'TAKEOVER' BY U.S. TROOPS TERMED UNTRUE

Trinidad CHALLENGE Article

Castries CRUSADER in English 4 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] THE warning by Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers against inviting the United States to invade Grenada "because when the Yankees take over, it is a difficult task to get them to leave" is coming to pass in no uncertain manner.

For reliable reports from St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Vincent are that while President Reagan ordered the withdrawal of invading troops from Grenada, he also took advantage of the small print which he wrote into the agreement when asked by the OECS to invade Grenada--and that was that the United States would be allowed to place occupying forces in the islands which called for his help.

According to latest reports reaching the CHALLENGE, most of the troops and military personnel which were withdrawn from Grenada after the invasion have now been installed in St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Vincent.

In a telephone conversation from St. Lucia on Wednesday night, a senior Government Minister informed the CHALLENGE that St. Lucians were shocked at the takeover of their country by American troops.

"In one night, three shiploads of troops, armoured cars and the most sophisticated weapons were brought into St. Lucia and when the morning broke we suddenly realised that the Americans were in charge of our little country", he stated.

"The U.S. troops literally took over control of St. Lucia and they set up roadblocks, searched our people and without any previous warning we realised that the Americans are now in full control of St. Lucia", cried the Minister.

He went on to explain that Prime Minister John Compton never revealed to either his Cabinet or the people of St. Lucia that the price of intervention in Grenada was linked with a takeover by the American forces of St. Lucia.

According to the top Government official, St. Lucia is now overloaded with American soldiers, who do not even allow the local police to carry out their duties.

From Dominica came the report, that American troops mysteriously appeared in that country and the Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, obviously very embarrassed by the hostile reaction of citizens made a public statement in which she said that the Americans were there to train the local police.

But the Dominican Chief of Police threatened to resign because he said he knew nothing about American soldiers being invited to "assist" him.

After this statement, Ms. Charles went on to tell the people of Dominica that American troops were merely "stopping over" on their way back to the United States.

But the greatest display of animosity towards the United States "invasion" is currently being seen in St. Lucia, where the Prime Minister John Compton is being called upon to show reasons why the Americans have taken over their country.

Compton has not made any public statement about the presence of the Americans in St. Lucia--but members of his Cabinet have openly expressed shock and dissatisfaction with Compton.

"It has now become clear that President Reagan saw the chance to invade Grenada as a wonderful opportunity, not only to occupy that country but to get a foothold into our country along with Dominica, St. Vincent and Barbados.

"He already had Jamaica under his fingernails and we fell into his trap with open eyes" the senior Minister of the St. Lucian Government told the CHALLENGE.

St. Lucians are now being told that there will be no General Elections in their country until the Reagan administration believes the country is mature enough to elect a responsible Government--which of course means a Government which will toe the line of United States policy.

EXTRACTED FROM THE CHALLENGE

Government Reaction

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 4 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

A curious front page story has appeared in a recent edition of Trinidad newspaper CHALLENGE, which has a reputation similar to that of the ill-fated BOMB, about alleged "political turmoil" in St. Lucia.

The January 25 issue of the paper reports what St. Lucia is "the new political hotbed" in the Caribbean. It says that the "political crisis" came to a head last week (the week before January 25) when what it calls "elite forces" trained

by American marines following the invasion of Grenada, surprisingly stopped off in St. Lucia to train a paramilitary group of St. Lucians much to the surprise of the people.

According to CHALLENGE the situation became "explosive" when the leader of the U.S. trained force, informed Prime Minister John Compton that he now outranked Police Commissioner Cuthbert Phillips and asked that the

Government declares the SSU, which he heads, as superior to the Force.

CHALLENGE said that faced with "civil uprising," Compton had called on Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles for help and guidance and she in turn had guaranteed Compton that she could persuade Trinidad's Prime Minister George Chambers to lend any assistance "(Military or otherwise," says Challenge) if the need arose.

In the meantime, Compton, in an attempt to allay the anger of the St. Lucians over American "interference" in their country had appointed a three-man committee to investigate the demands of the U.S. trained paramilitary force for recognition of authority over the Police Force, the paper said, adding that the committee comprised the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cabinet Secretary and the Commissioner.

CHALLENGE did not stop

there. It claimed that Compton was facing opposition from his own Cabinet on the issue. It goes as far as to quote an unnamed Cabinet Minister as having given an interview to the newspaper.

The report is obviously a pack of lies. There is not a shred of truth in it anywhere. No one in St. Lucia at the moment is aware of any "political turmoil" or "crisis" in the island.

Government officials yesterday expressed the view that the CHALLENGE story was part of a campaign which had been started here in St. Lucia in another section of the press to create confusion in the Police Force.

This view was supported by Commissioner Phillips when he spoke to THE VOICE yesterday. He said: "As far as I am concerned I have no problems with any officers. It would appear that some persons are trying to create dissension in the Force,"

Commissioner Phillips said

that this sort of report by the CHALLENGE could be very damaging for St. Lucia, especially as there is not one bit of truth in the entire article.

He said: "The entire report is a fabrication, and can be very dangerous."

Director of Public Prosecutions Miss Suzie d'Auvergne contacted by THE VOICE reacted similarly. In reference to the CHALLENGE statement that she had been appointed on a Committee to investigate demands by U.S. trained police personnel, Miss d'Auvergne said that all she knew was that she had been appointed to serve on an Advisory Board to be concerned with recruitment and dismissals of policemen and firemen.

No one knows who was responsible for supplying CHALLENGE with this information, but there are strong suspicions that the culprit is someone with political associations who wants to give the country a bad name.

COMPTON DISCUSSES IMPLICATIONS, RESULTS OF ASIA TRIP

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Jan 84 pp 8-9

[Text] PRIME MINISTER John Compton on Tuesday met members of the local press to discuss his recent trip to the Far East at the head of a local delegation of Government officials, trade unionists and private sector representatives.

With the Prime Minister at the press conference was Agriculture Minister Ira d'Auvergne, another member of the mission.

The following is an edited version of that press conference with all questions being answered by Mr. Compton except where otherwise indicates:

Q: Mr. Prime Minister, you've just returned from an extensive tour of the Far East, could you brief us on the success or otherwise of your tour and on whatever decisions might have been taken during that tour.

A: As you know, I went over to three countries. These countries are known now as the Golden Triangle of industrial development. The countries are South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. One thing that has been very noticeable is that the focus on industrial attention has moved or is moving from the North Atlantic into the Far East. They have no natural resources, in the main, only a disciplined and dedicated people. They started the industrial race, in the case of South Korea only 15 years ago, and now Korea has overtaken many of the industrialised countries, ..in things like ship building. They're moving very quickly into the high tech industries, computers, electronics, things like the manufacturing of clothing...I think very soon, they will get out of that because that is labour intensive low technology. They're moving into the high tech field and in something like 15 years, they have become one of the countries challenging the industrialised world.

Now, what is noticeable in Korea is the question of the discipline and the dedication of the people. There's no slackness, there's no idleness. Everybody gets on with the job. And as a result the standard of living in Korea has moved up. It is not a question of a "bowl of rice" economy or sweat labour economy. It is high tech, with good housing, good education, good transportation systems, the things that you would expect in the highly developed countries in the world, and they have done that within 15 years without any major natural resources.

Discussions in South Korea were primarily of a political nature, because Korea has been under a lot of pressure, from North Korea. There was the incident of the shooting down of the Korean airliner 007, then there was the massacre of half of their Cabinet in Rangoon. These questions took up some time. The other matters we took up was the question of the OECS association, or their presence in the Far East, which I think is something we ought to look at very seriously. The OECS should have a presence in the Far East.

We also looked at the manufacturing sectors, the ship building, heavy industries. As I said we have a lot to learn from them and at the next meeting of the OECS I have to make a recommendation that the OECS countries pay attention to what is happening in Korea and the Far East.

Formidable Challenge

Next we moved on to Taiwan which is the Republic of China, a country where something like five or six million people have broken away from the mainland and established themselves as a Republic on the Island of Taiwan and in 20 years, it has moved to a position of formidable challenge. Although they have to spend something like 45 percent of their budget on defence, yet they have been able to move from nothing, from rice fields, from low technology in industry, into high tech, challenging the major industrialised countries of the West.

What really happened there in those years? Again the discipline the training, the dedication to the objective of raising their country. From what I've seen in the Far East of the industrial race...it isn't that we (St. Lucia) are behind, we're not in the race yet. We haven't entered the race. The rules of that race are being written in the East, and unless we can learn the rules and abide by them, we wouldn't make it. I am convinced that we can make it but we have to know the rules, learn the rules and be prepared to abide by those rules.

For instance, let's take the schools. Their children go to school for 40 hours a week, and they start playing around with computers by the time they are eight. We go to school something like 22 hours a week. They go 40 hours. But these are the people with whom we have to compete for industries. We're looking to get into the industrialised field but we've got to accept the discipline that goes along with it. We want the things that industries bring, we want the good life, but a lot of us don't accept the fact that we've got to work for it. They worked for it.

After they work, there is leisure, it is not idleness, it is not liming. It is whether girls go and do flower arranging or music, or the boys go to play tennis or callisthenics. It's something organised. You can do nothing if you want, but you don't find them liming in the streets. You find them doing something constructive, and if we as a people, I'm speaking about the whole Caribbean, we will not be able to take advantage of the CBI unless we accept the discipline of our competitors, and our competition comes from the East.

On the other side of things we had the question of our diplomatic association with Taiwan and to my horror and disbelief there was an announcement on Radio St. Lucia that we had established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. It is amazing that this could come from Radio St. Lucia. Radio St. Lucia is supposed to be a government station and a thing like as vital, as sensitive as our relationship with Taiwan, that is announced by Radio St. Lucia without checking. But we did not establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan because we had no discussions with them before, at least not at an official level. We had no discussions with them. The matter was broached by them, they asked whether we were prepared to do it. We said we were not prepared to do it on that trip. But we were prepared to consider it. I told them when I came back, I would report to my Cabinet on the pros and cons of diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China which is the Communist side and the Republic of China which is Taiwan.

Illogical Positions

We are faced with two countries, and I call it two countries, not one. Both of them have taken very illogical positions. You have Red China with its millions controlling mainland China and having no jurisdiction over the island of Taiwan, and yet it is claiming it. The chance that Taiwan will ever come back to mainland China within several generations is very remote, because the people there do not want it. There are 18 million of them and they are prepared to defend their independence.

On the other side you have the Taiwanese who are a small island claiming to be the Republic of China. It is an illogical situation. But, when we are looking at the situation we have to look at what is in our best interest, who we can gain from. We are a small country, and the value of our diplomatic currency is the way we use. If we throw it away, if we go recognising this and that country, they we are throwing away our diplomatic currency. We have to look at what is in the best interest of St. Lucia. I have my recommendations to make after what I have seen. I will make my recommendations to my Cabinet and we will take a decision. Now if we take a decision in favour of Taiwan there's a lot to be gained. We had discussions with them on financial assistance, and technical assistance in fisheries in agriculture, in the free-zone development etc. and this is a question that we have to give very urgent and active consideration to.

Of the six independent countries in the OECS, there's one with diplomatic relations with Communist China, three with Taiwan and another one, Grenada, I believe that's in limbo, and ourselves, we have not taken a decision. We have to try and coordinate our whole situation.

We moved on to Hong Kong, and there again, it was the same thing. A small island teeming with activity, everybody doing something. Again, it's the industry and the discipline and the dedication to work that has made Hong Kong what it is.....one of the most vibrant industrial centres of the world. It just shows what can be done if people put their minds and the will to it.

We have to take the decision, whether we will take our people and move them into high tech, more them into industry where they can earn a good standard of living or whether we can go on arguing among ourselves. These are the decisions we have to make. We have the opportunity now. We have the United States market open to us. Can we take advantage of it or will the people in the East continue to dominate it. We are very near. We do not have their problems. We don't have to spend 45 percent of our budget on defence. There are a number of advantages that we have, but one that we haven't got yet and that we have to acquire is that of discipline. You look at the place every where is clean, nobody throws plastic bags (in public), everything is disciplined and organised. Here, you look at Jeremie Street and you get shocked. You go there and you see people taking care of the trees, you come here and you see the Public Works chopping down the whole of the Calvary. I believe the others who went on the tour will tell you that it was an enlightening and rewarding experience.

Q: Were there any agreements signed in respect of St. Lucia during the tour.

A: We signed an agreement with Taiwan for financial and technical assistance. The agreement provides for technical assistance in the fields of fisheries, agriculture, horticulture and the financial assistance is a line of credit for two million dollars initially, and to be replenished from time to time, so that we can start off our trade with Taiwan.

We also agreed to consider diplomatic relations with them. Speaking of horticulture, I believe this is one of the areas we have to look at very, very seriously. It's very big business, the growing of flowers. The whole place is a garden and they don't have our climate, and yet they could do it because they take care with everything and they have the discipline to go along with it.

Q. Will there be any follow up mission to St. Lucia.

A: From Taiwan, Tatung, one of the biggest electronics firms perhaps in the world, they want to come here on the 30th of this month, with the President and Vice President in North American to look at the possibilities of starting up industries. I spoke about Taiwan.....we signed an agreement with a garment manufacturing company to set up a factory up in St. Lucia immediately, that is in May, of this year. They will start with 150 employees in a factory to be established in Vieux Fort. In three years, they want to move to the employment of 1500 people.

Another industry that we looked at wants to start up initially with the employment of 200, but they are dealing in very specialised garments and they would need to bring a lot of people in here to train our people so that in three years the factory will be operated completely by St. Lucians. But we did not sign an agreement with them. They are coming here to continue discussions. So the interest in St. Lucia in the Far East is there and is growing, but let me just repeat that those people are serious people. They don't come here to skylark. If we make a success of those who come early, others would follow, because the uncertainty that is hanging over Hong Kong now.....

whether by 1997 when the lease runs out the Chinese Communists will take over, the people are very uncertain and although investment continues, they're looking over their shoulder for other places.

If they are to start the movement towards St. Lucia, the success of the ones that come early would depend on whether others would follow. I must again mention this problem that we had with Milton Bradley. Once Milton Bradley came, we pounced on it and killed it. Milton Bradley has hurt us and is still hurting us. Milton Bradley is a big firm, a worldwide company, and the fact that they came here, tested the waters and pulled away shows that something is wrong. Now we have to show that we have put that one right.

Very Pleased

I am glad to have had on my delegation the president of the National Workers' Union, Mr. Maynard who made a very, very valuable contribution to the whole discussion. In fact, when we met in Hong Kong and we were bombarded with questions, particularly on industrial relations because they are concerned with that, he fielded his questions and answered his question very well, and I was very pleased with the way that he assisted our delegation in giving a very good impression of the industrial climate in St. Lucia.

Q: In relation to the composition of your delegation, I recall that about a year ago you made a statement to the House of Assembly leaving the door open to the possibility of reviving the spirit of the tripartite initiative which you tried to develop here. I notice that you had members of the trade unions on your delegation, as well as members of the business community. Based on the talks which you held on your trip do you see the possibility now of the tripartite idea coming any closer, to being born.

A: Well, the tripartite idea was very present on the delegation. The whole camaraderie was there. The whole rapport was there. Everything was there. I hope that it is not only when we are out of St. Lucia that we can bring it back. We're meeting this afternoon to hold a de-briefing, an assessment of what we've learnt on the trip, then we will take decisions as to where we go from here. As I said, the tripartite door is open and the members who are trade unionists, those of the Chamber of Commerce would see that in places like Taiwan the whole thing is tripartite. Their success is because they do not have any disputes that boil over into industrial action, but before anything happens, it is nipped in the bud by discussions and conciliation.

Q: What kind of relationship can be developed between the OECS and the countries of the Far East? And what was the general tone of the response to the OECS action on Grenada?

A: Let's start from the last question. They were very jubilant that we had taken that action. They supported us, diplomatically. They supported us in the press and they voiced their support for what we've done. The question of what the OECS does, like I said, is something which will have to be discussed. The focus of industrial attention has moved from the North Atlantic, Europe and North American into the Far East. But for us to have a presence there St.

Lucia cannot do it alone; it is too costly. We must do it on OECS basis. That's a recommendation I am going to make to the OECS countries because it is important for us to have a presence there. We cannot sit down home and in these little dots that you can hardly find on the map, and expect that they will come and look for you. You have to go and look for them. You have to make them interested in you. Delegations from all over the world are going into Taiwan and Korea. We have to be there. We have to be present otherwise we're going to be left behind.

Q: What line of assistance is Taiwan offering in the fisheries complex now under construction.

Q: (Mr d'Auvergne) We have signed an agreement with Taiwan for technical co-operation and assistance in fisheries. What we sought there was something relative to inshore fishing firstly, that is, the type of craft which we can move to, and we also discussed the possibility of off shore fishing. They have made a lot of progress in fishing and agriculture, and we took a decision that we would either send a team there in the near future or alternatively, they would send some people here to see what our needs are and to see what kind of assistance they could offer us.

Both the Koreans and the Taiwanese have, in agriculture and fishing done research in areas which are pertinent to their needs. They have sought not to rely on western research as such. They have done their own research and have made tremendous strides.

Q: Mr. Compton, how would you react to Sir Eric Gairy's return to Grenada's political life?

A: With a great deal of disappointment and apprehension. We hope that the Grenadian people have learnt their lesson with Mr. Gairy and Mr. Bishop, because I always said that Gairy's excesses had created Bishop. When Bishop moved against Gairy the Gairy regime was not worth defending. Not a Grenadian threw a stone to defend it. Gairy has come back to his country. I couldn't stop him from coming back to his country but the Grenadian people have to learn from their lessons of the past and I hope that they come back in the mainstream of political life and political thought in the OECS and that the extremes of Gairy and Bishop are no longer part of Grenadian life. As I said, I cannot prevent him from coming back but we didn't take the action in Grenada to restore Mr. Gairy.

Q: There are now more tests being conducted at the Sulphur Springs; what kind of time table are we looking at in the development of the Sulphur Springs?

A: That is one of the things that we offered as a plus for industrial investment in St. Lucia, because the question of energy and the cost of energy is always high up in peoples' consideration. The status of the Sulphur Springs now is that the last Government had signed an agreement with an Italian company called Aquatur to carry out superficial research in Soufriere. But since my Government's return we've got an agreement with Los Alamos Institute, one of the foremost research institutes in the world, and one with the best technology in research into geothermal resources.

Los Alamos has come here and they are very very positive. We met with the scientist in November. They are carrying out the final superficial tests to confirm what they believe is there. The tests should have begun in February, but they have pushed it up and began it in January so that by March we will have the results.

The next step, and we have that tied up already, is that the United Nations Energy Programme will come in and carry out the test drilling. So once it is clear that we have steam there in commercial quantities we move next to the other step to carry out a production well in which the Japanese are involved, as well as to finance the generators so that by 1986 we have every reason to believe that some 40 percent of our electricity needs would be supplied by geothermal energy. Everything looks very positive. We've signed up with the Japanese, as I said, to give us assistance by the way of credit by providing generators to supply up to 10 megawatts of power.

One of the things we spoke about in South Korea was the question of Korean assistance for the construction of the West Coast road. Koreans now operate the foremost construction firms in the Middle East. They've got three thousand Koreans working in the Middle East, because of their efficiency and their competitive edge in costing and their dates of delivery. And that is why their contractors are all over the Middle East. We're trying to get them here to look at the West coast road into Soufriere and to look at development in the Vieux Fort area. These are things that we have put to them. The discussions are still in a very preliminary stage but I am very impressed with their construction techniques, their ability and competence, the economics that they use in delivering their product. It is a most impressive country and so the possibilities are enormous. As I see it now if I can wind up the whole thing, the ball is firmly in our court. We have every chance. We can throw it away. We have opportunities here that few countries our size have, with our port facilities, airport facilities with our highly developed infrastructure our trainable people and I believe that is where we have to concentrate, to get our people trained and get them disciplined to accept training.

CSO: 3298/501

OFFICIALS COMPLAIN ABOUT LOCAL EFFECT OF CDB POLICIES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] ASK most Caribbean leaders for an assessment of the Barbados based Caribbean Development Bank and chances are they would give a very good report indeed.

Within the past 18 months the prime ministers of St. Lucia and St. Kitts/Nevis, the deputy prime ministers of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua as well as key cabinet ministers in Guyana and Dominica have indicated that the CDB was not only an efficiently run institution but that it was playing a key role in social and economic development efforts in the region.

That was so they said, because it was providing a range of loans to individual countries in the Caribbean to meet both basic needs and infrastructural growth.

But that excellent report card should not be interpreted as ironclad proof that the CDB, as some people in the Lower Developed Countries (LDCs) tell it, was without sin.

Some government officials and private sector people in the Windwards and Leewards complain, for instance, that the bank often takes long to disburse loans. Others suggest too that some of the loan applications get mired in what they sometimes describe as the bureaucracy at Wilkey in St Michael.

One country which apparently has a fundamental disagreement with the CDB is St. Lucia and that is so despite the high words of praise which the nation's Prime Minister, Mr. John Compton, showered on the bank in New York last year.

To hear some St. Lucians tell it, the bank in Barbados has placed their country in a Catch-22 position, a situation which is thwarting their plans to expand the base of the industrial sector of the economy.

According to a group of private and public sector officials in St. Lucia, the CDB placed their homeland in a bind when the bank declined to lend the island approximately \$500,000 to build a 20,000 square foot factory shell. The bank reportedly wants a written commitment from a potential investor that he or she had definitely decided to occupy the factory before it would approve the loan.

The trouble with that stipulation, the St. Lucians say, is that in order for the country to compete effectively with its neighbours, be they St. Kitts/Nevis or Barbados, the island must have a reserve amount of factory space ready for immediate occupancy.

"Most of the time there is not enough in reserve and sometimes we lose out to other islands," the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. George Mallet, said in Miami recently.

Mr. Mallet who is also the minister of trade, industry and tourism had a good reason to comment on losses to other Caribbean countries. It is understood, for instance, that St. Lucia failed to capture a plant which PICO, a manufacturer of cable television systems with headquarters in New York, ultimately decided to set up in St. Kitts/Nevis. It is believed that insufficient floor space contributed to St. Lucia's failure.

Small wonder that Mr. Mallet said in Miami that "the principal impediment" to his nation's ability to expand its industrial base is a lack of accommodation for the light manufacturing operations.

And this leads us right back to the CDB and the conditions which it reportedly has set for its loans.

"We are so concerned about the problem that we have taken it up with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)," Mr. Mallet was quoted by Caribbean Business newspapers as having said in Miami. He apparently raised the matter with the USAID because the CDB receives multilateral assistance from the American agency.

Mr. Mallet complained that the "whole situation places St. Lucia at a severe disadvantage."

But while the Deputy Prime Minister seemed circumspect in his complaints about the CDB, the president of the St. Lucia Manufacturers Association, Mr. Primrose Bledman, was blunt in his assessment.

"These cumbersome procedures of the CDB are completely unrealistic," Mr. Bledman declared.

He went on to say that the problem for St. Lucia was that other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America were "offering the same investor space for immediate occupancy."

It is clear that St. Lucia wants this matter aired and resolved in its favour as soon as possible because it wants to cash in on whatever benefits the Caribbean Basin initiative offers the region.

However, the real danger is that in the mad rush to reap maximum benefits from the CBI could end up putting Caribbean states to cut each other's throats. Competition for foreign investment is one thing but it is certainly another thing if we are going to see intra-regional squabbling over where Americans, Englishmen or Canadians should place their small or middle-size factories.

If the latter occurs then the antics of the CBI would have their case substantiated. One fear they have always expressed was that the Reagan administration's plan could be used to play one country off against another.

In the case of St. Lucia, it is obvious that it is looking to the CBI to help in its industrialisation programme. Indeed, the country's Prime Minister, Mr. John Compton, lobbied long and hard for the passage of the CBI legislation last year. Another obvious factor is that St. Lucia is looking over its shoulder at the other islands in the region.

Those two factors featured prominently in an observation made by Mr. Mallet and reported by Caribbean Business.

"If we want to benefit from the CBI, we must improve our infrastructure," he said. "If we don't the bigger and more developed nations in the region will be getting the larger share of the investment."

CSO: 3298/501

MANUFACTURERS, ELECTRICITY UNIT TRADE CHARGES OVER RATES

Manufacturers' Position

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Jan 84 p 7

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

THE EDITOR: The St. Lucia Manufacturers Association wishes to make known the following, concerning comments made by the Public Utilities Commission. These comments appeared in your newspaper of January 7th and were related to recent electricity rate increases awarded by the Commission.

Several months ago our association was informed that St. Lucia Electricity Services was seeking an increase in electricity rates. We approached the Electricity Services and were informed that an overall increase was being applied for. However, we were also informed, that the increase was not to apply to the manufacturing, industrial sector. Our association obtained a copy of the proposed rate structure that was being submitted to the Commission. This schedule confirmed that the proposed rates for 1984 were to remain the same as in 1983 for the manufacturing sector.

Given that the proposed rate for 1984 was to be the same as in 1983 our association saw no value in appearing before the Commission. There was no case to contend, no memorandum to submit. How wrong we were.

The Commission in its wisdom, decided that an increase was necessary for the manufacturing sector where none was sought. The Commission then proceeded to rap our association for not objecting to the Electricity Services proposal. How does one object to a proposed, zero increase?

In the opinion of the Association the increase may or may not have been justified. We feel strongly that we should have been given an opportunity to study an object if necessary to the increase.

We suggest in future that where the Commission decides to give an increase where none was sought, the consumer in question should be notified by the Commission. Such notification would allow the consumer to present its case, for or against the proposed rate adjustment.

GEOFFREY DEVAUX
Vice President
St. Lucia Manufacturers Association.

Utilities Commission Reply

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] THE Public Utilities Commission has issued a stern response to a letter by the St. Lucia Manufacturers' Association [SMA] published in the WEEKEND VOICE of January 21, about the recent application for increased rates to the PUC by St. Lucia Electricity Services.

The Commission, headed by barrister Vernon Cooper, had in its report criticised organisations, including the Manufacturers Association for failing to come forward and object to the Company's application during the hearing.

But the SMA, in a letter to this newspaper, signed by Vice president Mr. Geoffrey Devaux, said that the Company had informed the Association that the increase in rate being sought from the PUC would not have affected the local manufacturing and industrial sector.

As a result, the SMA said, it had seen no reason to appear before the Commission.

Cited

But the PUC this week issued a strong reply warning the public that any "irresponsible or unjustified criticism" of its decisions can render such person to be cited for contempt.

Further, it said: "The Commission wishes to inform the general public that no public utility has the power to determine what sections of electricity consumers will be affected by their decision whether or not application is made for specific categories.

"If it is true that any member of the St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited ventured an opinion to the St. Lucia Manufacturers Association as to the powers, duties and obligations of the Public Utilities Commission, this procedure was improper and irregular.

"The St. Lucia Manufacturers Association as a responsible body and before making any irresponsible or ill advised statements to the press should first have consulted their legal advisors or the Secretary of the Commission who would have given them all the necessary information.

Render

"The Commission wishes to draw the attention of the general public that any irresponsible or unjustified criticism of the Commission's decisions might render the person or persons responsible liable to be cited for contempt and may be summoned to explain their public statements."

CSO: 3298/502

VANDALISM TO WATER MAINS COSTS AUTHORITY OVER \$25,000

Castries THE VOICE in English 11 Jan 84 p 3

[Text]

OFFICIALS of the Central Water Authority (CWA) say that recent acts of vandalism to water mains in the northern part of the island had cost the Authority in excess of \$25,000.

A release issued from the Ministry of Health and Housing, quotes the CWA officials as saying that the figure included loss of sales and management time, alternative arrangements to maintain supplies, trucking water and providing repairs and replacements.

The release said that the acts of vandalism — which took place during prolonged discussions between the CWA and the National Workers' Union on a new collective agreement for the Authority's employees — had resulted in "intolerable hardship to consumers, especially those poor and under privileged persons unable to invest in storage tanks and alternative means of water supply."

The release said that for over a year, wage negotiations between the Authority and the Union representing its employees had been deadlocked. During that period, work stoppages had increased, and a series

of what the CWA has termed "malicious acts of damage" have occurred, including several breaks in the transmission line to Hill 20.

"In October 1983, the Authority reported several deliberate closures of valves in the Cul-de-Sac, La Clery, Vigie, and Morne Fortune areas, and in the month of December serious damages, including sawed-off valves, were discovered in Point Seraphine, Entrepot, Ravine Chabot, Reduit Park and Bonne Terre.

"These occurrences were closely followed by further acts of vandalism in the morne Assor, Talvan and Hill 20 areas making it virtually impossible for the Authority to maintain a steady supply of water from these sources during the period leading up to Christmas," it said.

The release said that additional expenses incurred as a result of transporting water to these areas in an effort to relieve shortages was causing further problems to the Authority's already overstretched finances.

In picture, a damaged pipeline — one of the several acts of vandalism of CWA property in recent weeks.

CSO: 3298/501

BRIEFS

EDF TEAM--A 23-member European Development Fund Committee (EDF) left the island on Tuesday after a two-day visit to review progress made on projects financed by the European Economic Community (EEC) in St. Lucia. The objectives of the visit were to look at achievements and to look into future projects to be undertaken with the co-operation of the St. Lucia Government. While here the team visited the Dennery Farm Company and a number of feeder road projects financed by EDF. They also held discussions with the Government on projects for future financing. According to Mr. Joannes Ter Haar, Delegate for the Eastern Caribbean, who was taken on an extensive tour of the island on the team's arrival last Sunday, they were impressed with what they had seen. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 4 Feb 84 p 10]

PLP ORGANIZING--CASTRIES, Thurs., (AP)--THE rebuilding Saint Lucia Labour Party plans a special conference of delegates February 26 that will solidify the new conservative dominance of the Opposition party. This Caribbean island's oldest party was routed by John Compton's Conservative United Workers' Party in 1982. Compton, who had led the Government in 1964-'79, returned to power with his party controlling 15 of 17 parliamentary seats. Labour Party's three years in power were marked by in-fighting. George Odlum, former deputy Prime Minister, defected in 1981 to form the left-wing Progressive Labour Party, and party power struggles continued between conservative and remaining progressives. The conservative faction took control of the central executive committee at a party convention last August. A central committee-approved party reorganisation will be presented to the February 26 gatherings for discussion and debate, with a view to its adoption as a policy document of the party, a statement said. Party political leader, Neville Cenac, who is also parliamentary Leader of the Opposition, will address the conference, and is expected to deal with some areas of the party's social and economic policy programmes. Theme for the conference is: "We are ready for the fight," which is an indication of the quality of work the party has been quietly involved in during the past year, according to the party statement. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/502

GRENADIANS IN BIG PUSH FOR VISAS TO TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

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

[Article by George Worme]

[Text] ST. GEORGE'S, Mon., (Cana)--CLOSE TO 500 people turned up for the second time within a week seeking visas to visit Trinidad and Tobago. Eyewitnesses expressed horror as Grenadians, many of whom had queued in front of the temporary visa office from as early as 7 a.m., virtually tried climbing over each other to obtain clearance.

Trinidad and Tobago imposed visa restrictions on Grenadians after the army took power in a violent coup last October, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

But it has made no public response to pleas by the Interim Government, appointed after a U.S.-led invasion toppled the army, to relax the immigration requirement because it was causing hardship.

"I was here since 8 o'clock this morning and when I arrived the place was already full with people," John Abraham, an unemployed carpenter, told Cana.

"I came last week to get a visa the first time they opened the office but so much people were already in front of me that by the time the Trinidad and Tobago people decided to close up for the day I was left stranded," he added.

Similar comments were echoed by several others gathered on the ground floor of a St. George's hotel being used by the Trinidad and Tobago immigration officials as a temporary office for their one-day a week visit.

This week, according to Mr. Peter Rambert, the acting Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to Grenada, there were 110 visas approved because of two additional immigration attaches were brought in to join two others to help speed up the process.

Handful Rejected

Mr. Rambert said that most of the Grenadians obtaining visas were people involved in trading with Trinidad and Tobago, persons seeking medical attention or those with strong family ties in the twin-island State.

He told Cana that most of the applications processed were given the green light to travel to Port-of-Spain and "the handful rejected" mainly did not provide all the necessary information needed.

"I am really happy to get through with a visa commented a Grenadian trafficker who has been doing small-scale business in Trinidad for the past five years.

"I have been given a six-month visa and now I can travel to Trinidad eight times on this visa before it expires," she explained in a joyous mood after having waited about six hours before getting into the visa office.

Asked whether Trinidad and Tobago would open a more elaborate office to process the visa applications, Mr. Rambert said he had no idea as to the thinking of Port-of-Spain on the matter.

"The only mandate I have was to establish this office so as to facilitate Grenadian citizens wishing to travel to Trinidad and Tobago to obtain visas," the Barbados-based Trinidad and Tobago diplomat added.

CSO: 3298/512

LABOR MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] RETRENCHMENT is not the only of the first answer to our changed economic circumstances or to a period of falling profits, Labour Minister Errol Mahabir told a gathering of the Employer's Consultative Association (ECA) and other representatives of business organisations at the Trinidad Hilton yesterday morning.

Giving the feature address at the ECA meeting, Mr Mahabir outlined reasons why retrenchment should be avoided, noting that it was neither always good business sense (to retrench workers) nor did it demonstrate sufficient concern of an employer for the welfare of his employees--"the very employees who in good times contributed to the realisation, perhaps, of handsome profits and the success of a business."

The Minister added that if an employer after exploring all the possible alternatives to reducing his work force, found that the retrenchment of a number of his employees was unavoidable, he could at least demonstrate genuine concern for the plight of such workers by having them retrained and equipped with alternative skills.

The Labour Minister said he recognised that a cost factor would be involved in such an exercise but he regarded retraining of retrenched workers an unquestionable obligation of employers and one which he felt was not being adequately met.

According to Mr. Mahabir, while the economic and social dislocation caused to workers by loss of employment may not be entirely ignored by employers, these are made secondary considerations to the question of profit prospects.

"I readily admit that profit making is absolutely essential for the continuing survival of a private business. At the same time, I also believe that this consideration taken to the point of profit maximisation and to the exclusion of other important considerations involving the welfare of workers, is not only short-sighted but also reflects a dereliction of obligation on the part of an employer," said Mr. Mahabir.

Clear Distinction

The Labour Minister added that he saw a clear distinction between declining levels of profit derived from a downturn in business activity in an economy and the long-term unprofitability of a business.

"I do not regard an immediate prospect of falling profits as may be envisaged by some employers in the present circumstances, to be sufficient reason to resort preemptorily to work-force and reduction in order to cut labour costs," he said.

He gave the following reasons for this view:

1. Reduction of labour costs in monetary terms does not necessarily result in increased profits.
2. There may well be scope for reducing total production costs by way of greater production efficiency rather than reducing the labour force.
3. An employer's obligation to his employees, particularly those with long service, goes far beyond the sole consideration of profit.
4. A period of falling profit may only be of short-term duration even if no clear prospect of reversal is in sight at a given point in time and I am of the firm belief that this is the position at the present time in the country.
5. An employer who demonstrates little or no concern about the consequential hardships attendant upon the loss of employment by some of his employees can hardly expect that those who remain in his employment will nevertheless serve him with productive zeal.

CSO: 3298/512

BRIEFS

CONSTRUCTION UNEMPLOYMENT--MORE than 15,000 construction workers in Trinidad and Tobago are now reported to be out of employment. Mr William Rampersad, President General of the Brotherhood of Construction and Industrial Workers Trade Union, has called on Prime Minister George Chambers "to do something about it." And if the Government does not assist in finding work for those workers, then there "is going to be social unrest that this country has never seen", warned Mr Rampersad. He said that more than 75 per cent of the workers in the construction industry were laid off over the past year because there was no work to be offered to them. "And I do not recall seeing or hearing of any new major projects, either by Government or private enterprise, being introduced at the moment or in the near future," he said yesterday. Mr Rampersad said Government had a responsibility to open up new avenues that it was trying to introduce laws to combat assault, rape and robberies. He firmly said that if "idle hands" were kept occupied by way of employment, crime figures could decline. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Feb 84 p 3]

SUPPORT FOR FIRED TV CHIEF--THE JOINT Public Sector Unions and Associations have called for the immediate and unconditional reinstatement of Mr. Roy Watts who was dismissed last week as General Manager of Trinidad and Tobago Television. In a statement, the 16-member group which met at the Transport and Industrial Workers' Union hall on Saturday, said they saw the dismissal "as an act that clearly reflects political interference by certain elements and outside interference of powerful economic forces." Sources close to the TTT board, however, have denied that the dismissal of Mr. Watts was the result of political interference. It stemmed, in fact, from conflicts between the Board and Mr. Watts who, the Board claimed, had been running the station as if it was his own, disregarding the authority of the board. Contacted by the "Guardian," he said his lawyers advised him that he should not make any public statements. He was watching and waiting as the issue developed. Mr. Watts is succeeded by Mr. John Barsotti, former Programme Director, who has seen General Managers come and go. Mr. Watts was dismissed last Friday by the Board following differences which arose including the purchase of a Leroy Clarke painting for \$90,000. Mr. Watts was also accused by the Board of purchasing equipment valued \$150,000 without first referring the matter to the Tenders Committee. Other accusations include: hiring people at large salaries, without the approval of the Board, purchase of a Super Saloon without the approval of the Board, entering into contracts with local artistes including poet Derek Walcott without the approval of the Board. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 84 p 1]

NEW ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL--SENIOR State Counsel Ranjee Dolsingh of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) has been promoted to the position of Assistant Solicitor-General (civil) with effect from January 27. Mr. Dolsingh, who was well respected for the manner in which he conducted criminal matters in the High Court, was recruited by the former Attorney-General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Mr. Selwyn Richardson, and joined the DPP's Department in 1978. After qualifying in England, he read in Common Law Chambers and served on the Inner London Magistrate's Court Committee. Three years after his return to Trinidad he was promoted to Senior State Counsel. He prosecuted in several trials including the Cotton Hill and NYN murder trials. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 84 p 1]

SUBSTITUTE FOR INCE--JOHN Donaldson has been appointed to act in the office of Minister of External Affairs with effect from February 1. The appointment will continue during the absence of Minister of External Affairs, Dr Basil Ince, from Trinidad and Tobago. Donaldson will also discharge his normal duties of Minister of National Security. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Feb 84 p 21]

BAN ON CAMOUFLAGE MATERIAL--PRESIDENT Ellis Clarke has issued a Proclamation prohibiting the importation of camouflage pattern materials into Trinidad and Tobago. The Proclamation does not apply in cases where the Minister of National Security certifies that the importation certifies that the importation of such materials is for the use of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force. The President's Proclamation is made under Section 38 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 32 No. 2. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Feb 84 p 3]

PNM RADIO-TV MEDDLING--OPPOSITION Leader Basdeo Panday has accused Government of "tremendous interference" in the running of the State-owned media (radio and television). Mr. Panday, on behalf of the Alliance, said he intended to write Prime Minister George Chambers calling for an urgent meeting to discuss the matter. Mr. Panday said: "There appears to be a tremendous amount of PNM interference directly and indirectly in the running of the State-owned media." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Feb 84 p 20]

LOAN FROM JAPAN--GOVERNMENT borrowed 6.5 billion Japanese yen (TT \$6.5 million) through the Bank of Tokyo last month to finance general expenditure. This information was contained in a paper laid in the House of Representatives on Friday by the Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Senator Anthony Jacelon. The loan becomes available six months from date of the loan agreement and will be repaid in nine approximately equal semi-annual instalments beginning four years after the date of agreement. The agreement was signed in New York in December following a visit to Japan that month by a team of negotiators. According to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the base rate will be reviewed every six months and interest is payable semi-annually in arrears and calculated on the basis of a year for the actual number of days elapsed. There is also a commitment fee of a half per cent per annum on the daily undrawn portion of the total commitment and a management fee of one per cent flat on the total commitment. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 19 Feb 84 p 1]

BRAZIL AWARD TO ENVOY--TRINIDAD and Tobago's Ambassador to Brazil, Dr. Harrison Major, has been awarded the Grand Cross of the National Order of Cruzeiro do Sul--Brazil's national award--for his efforts in fostering improved relations between Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago. The presentation was made at a farewell luncheon in honour of Dr. Major in Brasilia a fortnight ago. The award was presented by Brazil's Minister of State of External Relations, Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, who praised Dr. Major for his six years of "competent and efficient work" in strengthening relations between the two countries. "The traditional friendship and understanding between Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago are the result, among other factors of the appreciable convergence of opinions that we have on major international policy subjects," said Mr. Guerreiro. He noted that the solidarity between the two countries was deep in the defence of the basic principles of international comity, in efforts for conciliation and for peace. Mr. Guerreiro also recalled his visit to Trinidad in July 1982, and the results of meetings of the Trinidad and Tobago/Brazil Mixed Commission, out of which, he said, "came new possibilities for technical, cultural and commercial cooperation between the two countries." He also noted that in recent years there has been a considerable thrust in bilateral trade, which was proof that prospects in this area were the best, given the potential of both countries and the work already done to increase such exchange. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 19 Feb 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/541

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